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UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Note verbale dated 13 June 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the final report of the Conference of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development, which was held at Baghdad from 6 to 13 May 1979.

The Permanent Representative of Iraq would be grateful if the above report could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 80 of the preliminary list.

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Final report of the Conference of Non-Aligned and
Other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in
Development held at Baghdad from 6 to 13 May 1979

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Agenda

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President of the Conference and of Members of the Bureau of the Presidency
3. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of the work
4. National development policies - actual impact studies of legal reform, employment, education, health and other welfare services and projects on women, for industrial and multipurpose development
5. The evolution of national strategies in order that women may attain equal rights with men and exercise such rights and also have access to equal opportunities and responsibilities
6. Rural development - it is necessary to obtain studies of precedents about the impact of rural development measures on women, like the agrarian reform, the introduction of new knowledge technology, development facilities and welfare services and the strength and weakness of executive agencies
7. The impact of the transfer of technology on the economic and social conditions of women
8. The impact of migration - internal and international - on women and families
9. The economic and social impact of development projects resulting from international economic arrangements
10. The impact of family structure and conditions on the role of women in development and vice versa
11. The role of women's organisations and associations in promoting the participation of women in development
12. Participation of women in the political, social and economic life of their countries, and their contribution to the consolidation of peace
13. Economic independence and collective self-reliance and their relation with the consolidation of the role of women in development; importance of the New International Economic Order
14. Co-operation among non-aligned and other developing countries in promoting the role of women in development:
 - (a) at governmental level
 - (b) within the United Nations
 - (c) in governmental and non-governmental organisations
15. Miscellaneous
16. Adoption of the Conference Report and Resolutions.

FINAL DOCUMENT

PREAMBLE

Upon the invitation of the Iraqi Government, the Conference of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development convened in Baghdad from 6-13 May 1979, in fulfilment of the mandate given by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Governments of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo (1976), the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi (1977) and Havana (1978) and the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade (1978); the following countries participated in the meeting as members:

Afghanistan; Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Benin; Central African Empire; Congo; Cuba; Cyprus; Democratic Yemen; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Ghana; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Islamic Republic of Iran; Jamaica; Jordan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lebanon; Liberia; Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Malaysia; Mauritania; Morocco; Pakistan; Palestine Liberation Organization; Philippines; Romania; Senegal; Somalia; Sri Lanka; Swaziland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Tunisia; United Republic of Tanzania; United Arab Emirates; Viet Nam; Yemen Arab Republic; Yugoslavia; Zambia.

The following countries and organizations attended as observers:

Brazil; Mexico; Venezuela; UN; ICPE; ILO; ECWA; UNDP; UNIDO; WHO.

Sweden attended as a guest.

His Excellency, Saddam Hussein, Vice-President of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Iraqi Republic, addressed the inaugural session of the Conference. He highlighted the role of the Non-Aligned Movement on the international level, and confirmed Iraq's commitment to the course it had set.

He pointed out that the independent national policies of non-aligned countries can only be achieved through the conceptual approaches peculiar to each. Such conceptual approaches show the way for the radical and revolutionary reconstruction of society, away from subordination and ideological patterns, and at all times consciously aware the need for live interaction with the practical and ideological experience of other peoples, through an exchange that ensures equality of mutual respect.

He then proceeded to deal with the dangerous role played by the international capitalist system in threatening the independence of developing countries, and with Iraq's stern opposition to such threats. He then presented Iraq's proposal concerning the establishment of an international fund to assist developing countries in facing the effects of inflation, to which all the industrialised countries should contribute according to the annual amount of inflation they directly export to the developing countries; the oil-exporting countries should also participate in the fund along the same lines.

He concluded his statement by denouncing the treacherous treaty signed by Sadat with the Zionist entity, and pointed out the violent Arab reaction to that treaty as expressed by the Ninth Arab Summit Conference held in Baghdad, and by the resolutions of the Conference of Arab Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Economy.

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The Conference on the Role of Women in Development for Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, and other non-aligned meetings have reaffirmed their full support for the decisions of the World Conference on International Women's Year held in 1975 in Mexico. They declared once again that the comprehensive development of the non-aligned and other developing countries calls for the maximum participation by women, side by side with men, in all fields of national activity. Likewise, they stressed that full-fledged participation by women in the social, political and cultural life of a nation is an important indicator of that nation's dynamic progress and development and also that individual human rights, assuming also the complete equality of women can be achieved only within the framework of development in its totality. In this connection they underscored the objectives set, the strategies charted and the measures taken to promote the social status of women and their role in development, must be a constituent part both of national development plans and of the measures for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The Conference concluded that the actual state of the international economic relations represents a serious obstacle to the more effective use of all human and material resources needed for accelerated development and improvement of a quality of life in the developing countries in order to suppress hunger, mortality, unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance and lagging behind which affects the whole of humanity and women in particular. It is therefore indispensable to establish urgently the New International Economic Order.

However, the world economy has plunged even deeper into crises due largely to adverse economic policies of the major industrialised countries, thereby intensifying obstacles to development and growth of the non-aligned and developing countries. Retrogression in the international economic policies of developed countries had become accentuated, thus adversely affecting the economic prospects of developing countries by creating obstacles to their efforts towards accelerated development. The resolution of international economic problems would significantly contribute to prosperity and international stability and consequently world peace and security. These problems can only be resolved with the full and equitable participation of all countries in the decision-making process concerning world economy and by facilitating the integration of the developing countries in the world economy.

Having in mind all above said, the Conference is aware of the fact that the promotion of the status of women and their role in development represents one of the crucial strategic questions of the struggle for progress, the realisation of human rights and a more humane life, and that it is very closely linked with the efforts exerted for peace and more equitable international economic and political relations in the world, as well as for progressive socio-economic changes in each country.

The roots of women's oppression and unequal position lie deep, within poverty, iniquitous unequal utilisation and distribution of resources and power that characterise the present world order, as well as within oppressive social structures, and obsolete, irrational attitudes, that thrive on inequalities of all types. The goals of development - namely, the elimination of human misery, injustice and oppression, still remain distant to the vast majority of the people, particularly in the developing countries, among whom women constitute a large group. The process of economic transformation and social change resulting from development has benefited some women in these countries, and enabled them to obtain wider opportunities to participate in different fields of social life, and even to attain positions of leadership and eminence. But for the majority, development has meant little more than stagnation, or increasing misery, greater vulnerability to exploitation and sometimes even a decline in opportunities and status in certain sectors. Reasons for this lie in the low priority given to women in the strategies for development, inadequate understanding of the relationship between women's roles and status and the development process itself, and the poverty of resources that characterise the majority of developing countries. The unequal economic and political relationships that obstruct development, affect women even more adversely.

The Conference records its view that expansion and promotion of women's role in development, as beneficiaries and active participants, is essential for the realisation of social justice, and for strengthening and accelerating the process of development. It will also enhance the strength of the Non-Aligned Movement in the pursuit of its goals.

All the facts point out that it is possible to change the status of women in the family and in society at large, only in conditions of accelerated development, with the transformation of the social status of all people, regardless of sex. Partial actions in favour of women, the elimination of various consequences of discrimination remain without lasting effects if they do not constitute an integral part of the development strategy of each country. Therefore, the efforts exerted for the promotion of the status and role of women represent a component part of the efforts for the establishment of the New International Economic Order

Recalling the established stand of the non-aligned countries on the necessity of establishing the New International Economic Order, on the significance of involving women in all sectors and processes of development, and the need to share experiences of the impact of national development strategies to date, from the point of view of the role of women in development, the Conference sought to examine the possibilities of solving the most important problems of the present stage of development which implies the humanisation of the living and working conditions for both sexes, and within this context, the promotion of the status and role of women in development.

Therefore by finding broadly acceptable guidelines, the Conference has recommended to governments and leading social forces to undertake, within their over-all plans for national development, and in accordance with their needs, specific measures and strategies for the accelerated and comprehensive involvement of women in all fields of national activity. The possibilities of eliminating the obstacles - social, structural, institutional and attitudinal - that militate against enhancing the role of women in development, need to be sought primarily within the general development plans of the non-aligned and other developing countries, in order to ensure the fullest participation of women in all sectors of national activity and particularly in the more productive sectors of the national economy. This is of especial significance for the developing countries in which the majority of women have traditionally been engaged in economic activities.

Experiences show that the successful determination and implementation of development policies depends on the degree to which the broadest possible participation of all segments of society has been provided in the process of decision-making and management at all levels.

Within this context, the non-aligned and developing countries have considered and initiated measures for mutual co-operation. As the changing of the status and role of women causes the changing of all other human, living relations of each individual, these changes are the sovereign right of each country and depend on the achieved material and cultural level, with due respects to the national values.

For this reason imposing of the models of life of other countries is unacceptable, as the changing of the status and role of women could be successfully accomplished only if these changes are made in accordance with the national needs and conditions.

The Conference, while declaring its adherence to the humane objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement in achieving peace and the saving of the world from the dangers of war and the strengthening of national independence, recognises that such goals stem from the outstanding role of women in the struggle for independence and liberation. Women together with men have, indeed, effectively contributed to that struggle due to their acute awareness of the significance of national independence, and also of the consciousness of national liberation movements leaders of that role and of the need to harness all these potentialities in every battle for liberation or for the achievement of independence and self-determination.

The review of the current political situation provides ample evidence of the movement's persistence in strengthening its position and objectives.

However, greater efforts are still needed for the total attainment of its goals.

As an independent vital force, the Movement has given its whole-hearted commitment to the struggle against imperialism, expansionism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism including Zionism, exploitation, power politics and all forms of foreign domination and hegemony, in other words the rejection of any form of subjugation, dependence, interference or pressure, be it economic, political or military.

The danger lies in the fact that these forces have started an active campaign to restore their former influence and position and to impede progress achieved by liberation movements, by developing new methods to liquidate the achievement attained.

These condemned practices constitute major obstacles to the developing world as a whole and the greatest threat to world peace and security. Their elimination is therefore a prerequisite for the promotion of development and international economic co-operation.

The countries and peoples subjected to these condemned practices have the right to restoration of their national and human resources and to full compensation for the exploitation, drainage, loss and damage to which their wealth, natural and human resources and economic activities are being exposed. All countries, international organisations, specialised and investment agencies and other institutions should neither recognise nor co-operate in any form in the measures aimed at the exploitation of wealth in the areas subjected to these practices.

The Conference maintains there is a link between the social development of a country and the role played by women in directing the course of events in their community, and the political and economic progress of these communities. The Conference therefore considers that the status of women in any given society is an indication of the level of social, economic and political development of that society.

The Conference considers that this is not only a means of securing narrow benefits for women, but that it is a national as well as a human need.

The Conference invites each developing country to give special attention to social, economic and political changes in order to fulfil their noble human aims, for a human being is a nation's most precious asset, as well as an end and a means for all social, political and economic efforts, on understanding that the development does not mean only economic growth, but integrated process of social, political and economic transformation.

The issue of women's development cannot be a concern of women only. The goals of development cannot be achieved without fullest utilisation of all resources, human and material, for the achievement of growth with social justice; therefore, the responsibility for women's development must be assumed by all sections of society, the State and community, with active participation of women themselves.

The Conference has only made a beginning in the uncovering of relationships that affect both development and the role of women, and hopes that the process of analysis and policy review will be continued through the system of co-operation among the non-aligned nations, and in collaboration with international agencies. The Conference expresses the hope that its recommendations will receive serious consideration by the national governments, and the Non-Aligned Movement as a whole. The Conference expresses its hope that its deliberations will contribute to the success of the forthcoming World Conference on the United Nations Decade of Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and will be an important step forward in the realisation of the aspirations of all women for equality, development and peace, and for preparations of a future plan of action.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. National development policies - actual impact studies of legal reform, employment, education, health and other welfare services and projects on women - for industrial and multi-purpose development

The Conference affirms that the implementation of national development policies enabling women to share in development calls for an improvement in the status of women and equal opportunities for them with men. Moreover, the development requires the full participation of women as active subjects in all national activities, as the aims of comprehensive development cannot be achieved without the full integration of women in all efforts for their realisation. The development of human resources must be one of the main aims of planning.

National policies must be applied throughout the country and advantage taken of international efforts in this field. It is necessary to modify economic, social and institutional structures with the aim of eliminating certain after-effects of historical conditions that prevent women from assuming their full responsibility as citizens with a positive and effective role to play in their country. To achieve this aim, the State first of all, and then its public institutions, political organisations, trade unions, women's organisations, concerned individuals, the media, professional associations and other institutions must support the efforts undertaken. To this end all people working in such institutions and contributing to decision-making, must believe in and be aware of the needs and aims of policies for the integration of women in development. In this way public opinion is formed and helps to rectify women's status, to adapt the requisite national policies and to implement the programmes planned to develop the social and economic condition of woman, by fully integrating her in all development processes.

With this in view, it is necessary:

- (1) To promote intense efforts by governments and non-governmental institutions to implement the World Plan of Action adopted at the 1975 Conference in Mexico, and the regional work programmes drawn up at the said Conference and adopted by all the members of the United Nations that participated in their drafting. They are global programmes on the scope of various aspects of women's contributions to development

- (2) To implement stands adopted by the Non-Aligned countries at their meetings at which they reaffirmed their full support for the decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in 1975 in Mexico and declared that the comprehensive development of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries calls for the maximum participation by women, side by side with men, in all fields of national activity; stressed that fully-fledged participation by women in the social, political and cultural life of a nation is an important indicator of that nation's dynamic progress and development and that individual human rights, assuming also the complete equality of women, can be achieved only within the framework of development in its totality; in this connection they underscored yet again that objectives set, the strategies chartered and the measures taken to promote social status of women and their role in development, must be a constituent part of both national development plans and of the measures for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.
- (3) To convene a meeting of co-ordinating States and the co-ordinating bureau in New York before the 1980 Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women so as to exchange their experience in implementing the World Plan of Action and other documents adopted at the Mexico Conference and to make the necessary preparations for the 1980 Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.
- (4) That the States adopt integrated development policies aimed at achieving social and economic change. These policies will guarantee women their legal, educational, professional and social rights, enabling them to fulfil their multi-role in and outside the home, and in general developing their countries. To enable all women to participate in the process of development not only as beneficiaries but also as participants on equal terms with men, supportive measures are necessary to be taken by the States to strengthen their access to the opportunities provided legally.
- (5) The establishment of an institution in the Government which will act as a co-ordinating body, the main objective of which will be to improve the quality of women with a view to integrating women in the process of development. A similar institution when established will be taken into consideration in the development planning process of the country.
- (6) That States realise the importance of establishing certain standards and indexes to evaluate their development plans and endeavour to achieve increasing rates of female participation in the labour force in accordance with the development programme requirements and indexes adopted by the Mexico work programme.

(7) That States formulate and implement policies and programmes which would guarantee equal opportunities for both sexes to benefit from all services inter alia health, social, cultural and all levels of education in particular the first stages, providing as well equal opportunities in respect to vocational training, with a view to developing women's vocational status, thereby ensuring a definite improvement in women's living conditions.

(8) That States and their executive bodies at various levels adopt the principle of the participation of women in development as an integral part of general national policy within the framework of civilisation and culture characterised by genuine vitality and enriching modernity.

(9) To formulate policies and carry out the necessary measures to improve women's living conditions in all sectors of development, securing equal opportunities for men and women to benefit from education, health, social, cultural and other services, while at the same time endeavouring to narrow the gap between men and women in the field of opportunities.

(10) To promote organisations of women at the grass root level with active support and guidance of organisations and institutions - governmental and non-governmental. To examine the over-all impact of proposed developmental measures on the roles of different groups of women, in order to prevent adverse effects and to provide supportive measures to assist women to adapt to changed situations without undue and tragic dislocation of their lives.

(11) To increase participation of women at decision-making levels in all walks of life.

(12) To carry out research and studies in national planning requirements, particularly in relation to manpower resource planning requirements for both sexes, and in conjunction with this, following up pending studies contributing to the evaluation of the national plan, which also assists in the discernment of which services are really helpful to women or to the appreciation of the obstacles to the achievement of the targets of the plan, and thereby improve subsequent planning work.

(13) To strengthen endeavours to review the conditions enabling women to rise to managerial posts so as to increase the participation of women at the managerial level and to demand the gradual establishment of general conditions enabling more women to reach decision-making positions.

(14) To stress the need for all who have to make and carry out decisions to attend conferences and meetings on the principles of the integration of women in development. Meetings are of importance for development activities and are not limited to the problem of increasing participation by women.

2. The evolution of national strategies in order that women may attain equal rights with men as well as have access to equal opportunities and responsibilities

Promoting women's participation in development demands that efforts, measures and strategies aimed at intensifying integration of women in development should be an integral part of social and general economic progress. Full participation of women in economic, social, political and cultural fields is an important indicator of dynamic progress of peoples and their development. Individual rights can only be exercised in the framework of global development.

In many instances laws should be promoted to ensure that women enjoy full capacity regarding their position and legal rights. There can be no doubt that adequate legislation is an important tool for achieving the desired progress. At the same time it is a tool whose effectiveness depends on checking that the letter and the spirit of the law are observed.

It should be added that greater participation by women in development calls for an evolution in social and cultural values and customs. Such evolution may be promoted by campaigns aimed at a fuller awareness and a deeper knowledge of the requirements of development and progress.

The Conference considers that the international community, through the United Nations and its organs, has made great efforts towards awareness in order to achieve equality for women regarding rights and duties, thanks to the Mexico international work programme and the regional work programmes adopted at the Mexico Conference, and to the conferences of the International Labour Organisation and other organisations of the United Nations system.

The realisation of national strategy and the integration of women in development requires every country to plan, according to its needs, specific traits and possibilities, its development and to undertake measures for the mobilisation of all their material and human resources, along with the collective reliance of the Non-Aligned and developing countries on their own forces and mutual co-operation.

Within the framework of these changes, the pathways of promoting the status of women on the national level particularly comprise: the legal and factual equalisation of both men and women in all spheres of work and life; creating conditions and possibilities for greater employment of women outside the household and their equal position in regard to all

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professions and sectors of work; the equal status of women and men at all levels and degrees of education, including professional training and additional education at work; raising the educational and professional level of women in rural areas and promoting their economic and social position as agricultural producers; the support of progressive changes in the family and family relations (between marriage partners, between parents and children, etc.), including the realisation of the human right to a free choice on number and spacing of children and responsible parenthood; the constant improvement of health care, the care of children, social security, conditions of living, nutrition, etc. Consequently, the Conference recommends the following:

- (1) Ensuring that the fundamental laws and constitutions of States stipulate total equality between men and women as regards rights and duties, and ensuring that these texts are implemented.
- (2) Application by governments of the provisions in the 1969 United Nations declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women and on the ratification of the United Nations charters concerning women's rights by those States which have not yet ratified them.
- (3) Encouraging States which have not yet ratified the charters of the International Labour Organisation relating to working conditions, protection of workers and mothers and children, and the other clauses of these charters, to ratify them and to take the administrative and executive measures necessary to apply them over-all and in detail.
- (4) Confirming the importance of equality between men and women, in all laws concerning work and eliminating all provisions which discriminate between them in States where this has not yet been achieved, and ensuring in particular, that the laws concerning work provide for motherhood to be considered as a public service, with the facilities required for women to assume their pedagogic and professional responsibilities. Moreover, emphasis should be given to the rights of women with regard to guarantees due on their leaving work.
- (5) The introduction of laws and procedures required for the control of work and the protection of national workers, both men and women, in foreign organisations and companies, and the adoption of measures to ensure the application of these laws.
- (6) The establishment of governmental machinery to seek ways in which to promote the welfare of women in society and to integrate women more fully into the process of national development. This machinery should be represented on all relevant planning bodies at the national and international levels. Executive and administrative measures should also be taken to fill the gap which exists between the law on the one hand and actual practice on the other. Governmental machinery should liaise with local women's organisations in order to bring the concerns of women to the attention of their particular government.

- (7) Creation of bodies for the guidance of women in obtaining their rights, and offering legal aid with a view to ensuring the enjoyment of those rights.
- (8) Increasing the participation of women in decision-making, planning and implementation at all levels. In this process, it is necessary to recognise the importance of inculcating and awareness of changing social, cultural and traditional beliefs and patterns prevalent in societies that militate against the full participation of women.
- (9) As part of the national strategy, the drawing up of appropriate legislation to ensure equality and freedom of women in all economic, social and political fields is recommended.
- (10) The specialised organisations of the United Nations are invited to organise conferences and to prepare studies which will bring to light the status of women in developing countries.
- (11) Provision of needed social services especially health care and nutrition, education, drinking water and housing and enabling women to have easy access to them.
- (12) Active steps to promote employment and self-employment of women.
- (13) Provision of support services like child care by the State and the community to enable women to fulfil their multiple roles.

3. Rural Women

The conditions of life and work for women living in a rural environment make it important for them to receive special attention in all the developing and Non-Aligned countries, in view of the volume of the population in rural sectors, which is in excess of two-thirds of the national population in most countries. Moreover, the rural population including women and girls, makes an extensive contribution to national revenue through its agricultural production, livestock, fishing and various cottage industries and crafts. But the rural areas and their inhabitants continue to be afflicted by under-development by comparison with capital cities and towns, where investment and services are concentrated. Although the international community is beginning to pay more attention to the provinces, there remains a great gap in most countries between the modern sector and the traditional, rural sector. For rural women conditions of life are more difficult than statistics reflect because they carry out heavy work in the fields and suffer from under-nourishment and various diseases. Furthermore, they are the victims of illiteracy and political and cultural isolation which put them on the margins of national life. They often lack drinking water, healthy accommodation and other important components of the quality of life.

Agricultural statistics in certain developing countries show a decline in the level of production of foodstuffs and animal products. Some statistics show that, often over the course of the past few years, the increase in rural production has not kept pace with demographic increase and the growing demand for consumer goods. In most of these countries, farming methods are still traditional and have not attained the evolutionary level of modern agriculture.

Many States have made efforts to deal with these problems and have undertaken detailed programmes, whose results have been somewhat different. The international community, through the relevant specialised international organisations, has similarly tried to deal with these problems. Consequently, this Conference feels that the special status of rural women requires at this stage:

(1) That governments strive to put into effect the provisions for the international and regional plans of action concerning women laid down in the resolutions of the Mexico Conference, and to apply the recommendations adopted by the International Group at the Cairo congress on integrated rural development and the role played in it by women, and by the meeting of rural development experts, held in Rome.

(2) That the research and information system of the Non-Aligned countries be asked to study in detail the factors which are impeding the effectiveness of efforts made to improve the special circumstances of rural women and to ensure that resolutions be appropriate to the developing countries so as to allow them to assimilate and benefit from them and to co-operate with specialised international organisations in this field.

(3) That governments undertake to adopt policies and rural development strategies as an integral part of national planning policies for economic and social development, and allocate adequate investments in order to increase agricultural output both vertically and horizontally, particularly of foodstuffs, and the provision of essential services, such as water and electricity, and to improve living conditions in the rural areas.

(4) That the policy of industrialisation be organically linked with agricultural production and its needs, and an attempt be made to establish agricultural industries in suitable regions, so as to reduce the continuing rural migration to the urban areas.

(5) That services be distributed and linked in a manner adapted to the geographical distribution of the rural communities, using regional planning methods in determining the extent of such services as regards coverage and economy, and taking steps to enable women to benefit from these services, through rural women workers, in order to develop appreciation and better understanding of improved health principles and practices, and provide country women with effective home economics extension services for an improved farm and family status.

(6) That an integrated method of rural development be adopted in planning, as well as the programming of productive projects and services in rural areas, so as to increase job opportunities for men and women, and decrease concealed and seasonal unemployment, with the provision of essential services to workers of both sexes in the agricultural areas; programmes of training of rural women may be taken up to enable them to avail of new job opportunities.

(7) Adopt all measures and steps to ensure the success of women oriented educational and cultural programmes to be included in the literacy programmes, taking due account of the need to avoid any overlapping between implementation of programmes and agricultural seasons.

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(8) That efforts be made to intensify health programmes among the inhabitants of rural areas, and particularly among children and women. This calls for greater attention to supply of drinking water and health services, and the widespread immunisation of children against disease. Priority health services could be usefully introduced and could be led by women together with the educated girls in the village, after these had been trained in primary health service methods and their application in villages and to desert groups without health institutions or maternal and child protection centres.

(9) That integrated rural development centres be established for the systematic training of women specialists, women extension workers local leaders, and women's committees, so as to enable them to carry out integrated social activities in the countryside and at the same time to get to know the problems and find solutions to them through self-help, which the State would support by providing finance and expertise.

(10) That regular series of educational publications, audiovisual materials and radio programmes be prepared, to enlighten the inhabitants of rural and desert regions with regard to the education of children, medical care, nutrition, food preservation, agricultural techniques, the prevention of animal diseases, and other subjects taught by male and female extension workers in the promotion of information and educational services.

(11) That the factors which restrict women's access to rural services and infrastructure and means of production, even where available may be identified, and women assisted in availing themselves of these services by removal of socio-cultural barriers and promoting grass-root level rural women's organisations.

(12) That the women's role in the development process should be visualised in all sectors of economic development and not limited to the programmes of social services.

(13) That programmes of rural industries, production of handicrafts and similar activities in which women participate in large numbers should be promoted and supported by adequate marketing arrangements.

(14) That modernisation of agriculture, land reforms and other measures which are part of rural development programmes should include a study of their impact on women and provide for positive benefits to them including training of women to adapt to new technologies.

(15) The introduction of appropriate technology with a view to facilitating and easing the conditions of the rural woman in her dual role of working for an additional income to sustain her family in addition to her domestic role.

Training of women in the rural areas with a view to educating them to make use of such appropriate technology made available to them.

- (16) To programme and implement income generating activities for the rural women who form more than two-thirds of the population in almost all the Non-Aligned and developing countries.
- (17) Organise women's work in agricultural production and provide them with training opportunities to increase output. It will be possible to ascertain whether they are making an effective contribution to this field when this output is evaluated.
- (18) Consider the participation of people in all sectors of society, both men and women, in the development process, as an integral part of the over-all strategy for social change. It would be necessary, in this context, to give support to institutions working for the participation of the people, in such a way so as to achieve social and economic objectives in rural development.
- (19) Re-examine those laws and legislative measures which have a negative effect on the participation of women in achieving objectives in rural development.
- (20) Work towards developing teaching programmes in order to bring them into line with the needs of rural communities, especially regarding girls.
- (21) Organise well-suited arts and crafts activities among rural families.
- (22) Encourage the co-operatives capable of playing an important role in rural development to promote and secure greater female participation at all levels in these co-operatives.
- (23) Endeavour to change people's views on the importance of the role of women in development programmes through education and mass media.
- (24) Encourage institute and university graduates to work in rural areas on leaving their place of study since youth is an important factor in social change.
- (25) Carry out surveys, research and inquiries under the auspices of the universities, scientific institutions and organisations concerned with the protection of the family, by emphasising applied studies and fieldwork on the life-style of rural families.
- (26) Attach special importance to the role of women in decision-making in the planning and implementation of rural development programmes.
- (27) Endeavour to expand and develop rural training centres and encourage women in rural areas to take advantage of them so that they can participate fully in agricultural activities, make proper use of agricultural machinery, contribute to arts and crafts and be usefully employed in the food industry.

(28) Ensure that young girls in rural areas have greater access to the intermediary and higher agricultural schools and institutes to complete their education and training so that they can participate in agricultural activities employing modern techniques and **expand** their general knowledge.

(29) Ensure that economic and social and development plans are accompanied in each country by other plans containing a programme for implementation which guarantees a better status for women in education and training, and gives them work opportunities in projects carried out within the framework of the development plans.

(30) To conduct studies, research and necessary surveys on the labour force, job opportunities, promotion chances and the changes that have occurred in this field as a result of social and economic development, paying particular attention to the role of women.

(31) To provide when designing policies for the implementation of national development programmes, that rural areas are given priority over urban areas with regard to health, social and educational services, as a measure to redress the present state of incompatibility between rural and urban areas with regard to the distribution of services. Thus enabling rural women to benefit as much as women in urban areas from such services.

4. The Impact of the Transfer of Technology on the Economic and Social Conditions of Women

The international community is aware of the historical reasons for the political, economic and social consequences of the monopolisation of technology by the developed countries. The generation of knowledge in recent centuries has been predominantly concentrated in a few geographical centres. The diffusion of technological knowledge from these centres to the developing world has been limited, with the result that the participation of the developing countries in the production of knowledge has been seriously impeded. A situation of monopoly by developed countries and their enterprises and of dependency by developing countries has thus been reached in the field of science and technology. This situation has had serious and varied effects on the conditions of women.

There is a general awareness among the non-aligned and other developing countries of the need to elaborate the strategy of development, as well as to adopt plans which would be fully integrated in the national plans of social and economic development.

These activities of non-aligned and other developing countries should be concentrated at the national level, by mutual co-operation of non-aligned and other developing countries and within the United Nations system and other international organisations. They should consider the impact of technological changes on women.

This Conference, therefore, considers that:

- (1) The international community must take an interest in availability of contemporary scientific and technological achievements to women and in the contribution made by women to the use, introduction and transfer of technology and do so by increasing the opportunity for women in scientific research and technological development and by encouraging women experts to contribute to international activities concerned with the transfer of technology.
- (2) Within the context of a comprehensive and coherent national scientific and technological policy designed as part of the National Plan emphasis must be placed on efforts to enable women to use contemporary scientific and technological achievements to make it possible for them to participate in modern sectors of work and in the need for recourse to those forms of technology that meet women's requirements, help them to perform more easily the tasks incumbent upon them, to enable them to contribute more effectively to development;

- (3) Scientific research institutions must be strengthened so that they can carry out research on the appropriate technology for the developing countries and on the use of these technological methods best adopted to the community, particularly with regard to women, and must work out clearly defined arrangements for co-operation between research workers and experts as regards the benefits to be derived from the results of the research carried out in the various fields.
- (4) Priority must be given in research to those studies that serve collective objectives and social needs, instead of focussing on the special interests of certain sectors and groups, so as to put into practice the principles inherent in the phrase "science and technology at the service of the community".
- (5) It is essential to give priority to the mobilisation of financial and technical resources and to develop technology adapted to the community, through the development of local expertise, so as to be able to rely to a greater extent on national institutions in view of the process of the transfer of technology adapted to meet local needs.
- (6) Developing countries should focus their efforts, at international level, on bringing about a change in the laws and regulations that allow certain countries to monopolise the scientific and technological heritage, which should be declared the heritage of humanity as a whole, which has contributed to its development.
- (7) Governments should establish appropriate institutional machinery which takes into account socio-economic, cultural, and environmental conditions necessary to carry out effectively the process of scientific and technological development. This machinery must be responsible for assessing, selecting and adapting foreign technology and expertise.
- (8) Scientific and technological policies should take into consideration, when introducing technology into rural areas, the need to increase the earning capacity of rural communities, as well as the consequences of technology on women.

The likely impact of technology on women may be studied before its adoption especially in areas and activities in which women predominate and projects including adoption of new technology should include arrangements for training of women to take up new activities involving such technology.

- (9) National scientific and technological policies should be an integral part of the over-all national development plans. Such national scientific and technological policies should provide for technological development, ranging from the most simple to the most advanced technologies, should give special attention to the scientific and technological training of women and should include information systems and the appropriate co-ordination with the regional and international institutions.

- (10) Special attention should be given to the development of an educational programme to bring about scientific awareness and encourage creativity and innovation equally among men and women.
- (11) Developed countries should co-operate with developing countries in the process of restructuring the existing international machinery or building new international institutions for development, and international co-operation in science and technology.
- (12) To call on all the countries of the world, to give due importance to the development and production of the technological means and requirements which further the principles of peace and contribute in speeding-up social and economic development; and call on them to stop the race in the production of destructive and devastating technological devices, which drain human and financial resources that could otherwise be used in the operation of better opportunities for the welfare of man and the well-being of the entire human community.

5. Impact of migration - internal and international - on women and families

The Conference reaffirms the view that productive employment for all who seek work, is one of the aims of the development plans of all the non-aligned and developing countries. At the same time, development is the best answer to the conditions when for many men and women immigration abroad is still the only way to work.

The developing countries' interest in industrialisation is associated with internal and external migration which has had obvious negative results, and insufficiently appreciated positive results. This migration has provided the manpower required to carry out development projects and has changed the structure of the labour force. At the same time, this migration has put thousands of men and women in totally different living conditions, changing their life and the life of their families. For many developing countries migration abroad is one of the most injurious after-effects of colonialism. Shamelessly pillaging their old colonies, some developed countries are directly responsible for the force migration of millions of men and women. Modern means of communication have led to increased migration abroad for many reasons, some of which, such as the brain drain, have attracted international attention; while others, especially the emigration of women and effects on the woman herself and on the family, have passed without proper attention.

As a result, the Conference deems it necessary:

- (1) That studies should be made to determine the dimension, causes and consequences of women's migration and its effect on women's conditions, including the position of their family life.
- (2) That stress should be laid on the need to devise methods of mutual co-operation in organising the migration at the regional and international level of skilled and unskilled labour, particularly by some methods of safeguarding the needs and interests of the countries concerned.
- (3) That ways and means must be found for limiting emigration due to its causes in order to conserve skilled and specialised workers.
- (4) That emphasis should be laid on the need to adopt development policies that guarantee a correct geographical distribution of economic projects so as to check internal migration to the large cities and to ensure the appropriate limits on migration to the small towns.

- (5) That steps should be taken to control the rural exodus to the towns so as to obtain an even distribution of manpower between the agricultural and livestock sector and the various other sectors of production and services.
- (6) That it is necessary to provide re-education facilities for migrant women appropriate to their new environment, so as to ensure that their talents do not go unused as a result of the change in their surroundings.
- (7) That each State should define its own attitude, in the light of its own conditions, towards the phenomenon of internal migration, emigration and immigration and its effects on development, by which it maintains a balanced structure in the national composition of the population and the fair distribution of the national income as the conditions for implementing the development plan of the country.
- (8) That steps should be taken to encourage counter-emigration both at home and abroad. The State should organise means of exchanging expertise concerning their experiences in this field including the care and protection of its migrant workers temporarily employed abroad, especially the second generation, and the actions for preservation of their cultural identity.
- (9) To call on international organisations to give considerable attention to the conditions of immigrant families who have emigrated in the face of external aggression and civil war, and to support women in their new situations so as to enable them to adjust to their new conditions, and to face the subsistence, social and psychological problems coming from immigration; and the actions for preservation of their cultural identity.
- (10) That steps be taken to promote organisations of migrant women workers for their protection against exploitation and for their integrated development.
- (11) The need to provide the main services in the rural areas (health, social and cultural) to check the exodus to the cities, in view of the fact that the main reason underlying this harmful phenomenon is the lack of proper services in the countryside and the desert regions. Development plans should, therefore, take due account of rural economic and social development, as the latter should be viewed as a highly important part of the developing plan of every country.
- (12) That existing international instruments should be ratified and implemented worldwide, and that, pending their ratification, the principles therein contained should be taken into consideration; if necessary, new bilateral, regional and international instruments should be adopted aimed at the protection of the status and rights of migrant workers, which place international migration for the employment in the context of the over-all international co-operation.

6. The Economic and Social Impact of Development Projects
resulting from International Economic Arrangements

In recent years there has been a growing awareness in the world of the negative effects, particularly socially, of development projects resulting from international economic agreements, due to their concern solely with economic and technical considerations and their disregard of social considerations as they are frequently not based on national needs and plans of development. However, the awareness is still limited, particularly as far as the consequences for women are concerned. The Conference therefore considers that;

- (1) Developing countries should make special efforts to arouse awareness of the positive and negative economic and social consequences of development projects resulting from international economic arrangements, more particularly for women.
- (2) Developing countries in co-operation with the commission of the status of women should bear in mind that this question be examined the United Nations Conference on Women to be held in 1980.
- (3) Feasibility studies for development projects for international co-operation should examine their short and long-term impact on women's existing roles, opportunities and status.
- (4) It should be pointed out to international organisations that priorities for aid and loans should be given to projects helping to enhance women's contribution to and participation in the development process at all levels and ensure substantial positive benefits to women.
- (5) External aid should be at terms conducive to accelerated and integrated development, bearing in mind the needs of the country to which it is extended and the national plans of action. They must help to strengthen utilisation of national potential - human and material with special emphasis on development and utilisation of women's skills.

7. The impact of family structure and conditions on the role of women in development and vice-versa

The process of economic transformation is putting pressures on all types of families which particularly affect women and their rôle in development. The international community has taken up some aspects of the subject like demographic changes, family planning and women's status and in recent years has expressed a growing interest in the economic value of women's work. But the socio-economic aspects of family structures and relationships and sex-role stereotypes have not received adequate attention though many of the problems affecting women derive from these factors and the changing composition of families. Such changes have produced positive results for some sections providing greater rights to women enabling them to play a wider role in social life but they have also affected some sections adversely.

The Conference therefore considers that the importance of this aspect calls for:

- (1) The developing countries have a variety of family and kinship structures with wide differences in sex-role stereotypes. Therefore, while devising strategies to promote equal and participatory roles of women in development, States should examine these different forms which offer alternative models to the better known forms of the patriarchal, extended or nuclear families.
- (2) Acceptance of the responsibility by the State to ensure that marriage and motherhood do not become a disability in women's full participation in development and to assist her in fulfilling her multiple roles by legislative measures and all appropriate and needed State and community services.
- (3) To seize the opportunity raised by the International Year of the Child to place greater emphasis on the principle of protecting children.
- (4) Ensuring the requirements for protecting the natural role of women in procreation and maternity, and promulgating the necessary legislation to establish a balance between the role of women in development and as a mother, in order to avoid conflict between these two roles.
- (5) Concentrating on the importance of policies, particularly with regard to family organisation, basic thinking and material needs while ensuring sufficient flexibility to guarantee sufficient freedom to parents in family planning.

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(6) Emphasising the importance of ensuring that the organs connected with information, education and culture lay at national level, the necessary stress on intellectual consciousness, together with the necessary change to be brought about in customs and traditions, in order to ensure that the community recognises the new role of women and supports them to enable them to assume their roles efficiently.

(7) Reviewing laws on personal status so as to regulate divorce, marriage, child custody inheritance and other aspects of relationships to ensure equality of women in the family.

(8) Creating consultative services to give advice and guidance to women in distress and to settle intra-family disputes.

(9) Developing countries, in co-operation with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women should prepare studies on the social functions of the extended family and on clarifying positive functions and avoid the stresses and strains experienced by families in industrialised countries as well as in the traditional environment.

(10) Developing countries should take into account that the implementation of the World Plan of Action covers the fields related to structural changes on the family relations and their impact on the role of women in development.

(11) To preview curriculae and school text books in some countries, and to reconsider the role of women as depicted in these books, which picture women in their traditional roles as characterised by social functions and which do not feature women as assuming leadership roles.

8. The role of women's organisations and associations in promoting the participation of women in development

The integration of women in development is an objective for which the whole nation is responsible. It does not depend on government organisations alone, but on national bodies, public organisations and community action in general.

In the early stages of women's organisations, charitable and national associations were able to offer certain kinds of assistance to deprived families, and various social services to help women. Over the past years, women's organisations and associations have been created and have begun to deal with the different aspects of women's problems. These national associations and women's organisations have been achieving appreciable results by seeking to raise problems of equality between men and women and to expand women's role in public social life.

If women's organisations are to play an effective role in promoting the role of women in development, their structures, policies and activities will have to be expanded. Their membership must be made more representative in composition of the masses of women, and their capacities will have to be strengthened, to enable them to be effective in the development process.

Owing to the historical context in which women's associations were set up, most of them are concentrated in capital cities and towns, or are not effective beyond the limits of these cities. On the other hand there is a lack of such organisations in rural areas. Where they exist their effectiveness is extremely limited owing to a general lack of personnel qualified in management, organisation and planning. Moreover, a number of these national and public organisations lack resources, while the financial and administrative restrictions that are imposed upon them limit their freedom to exert legal pressures and to promote the new role of women in developing countries.

As a consequence, the Conference considers that action should be taken in the following fields:

- (1) National Governments should recognise the importance and complimentary role of women's organisations, and should promote and assist such organisations financially and otherwise especially at the grass-roots level, to enable them to perform their functions including as:
 - (a) mobilising agencies for the masses of women particularly poor women in rural and urban areas;
 - (b) as liaising and co-ordinating agencies for delivering all developmental services and inputs (e.g. education, primary health and child care, skill development, credit and marketing facilities, information on social, political and economic rights, etc.); and
 - (c) as organising agencies of working women in unorganised occupations in both rural and urban areas, for protection against exploitation and for providing necessary supportive services for child care.

(2) In order to increase women's consciousness and capacities to participate as equals at all levels of the development and decision-making process, women's organisations should focus their attention on organising needed training of their members, in scientific techniques of planning, implementation and evaluation, including social research. Such efforts should be assisted by national governments, international agencies and the non-aligned nations as part of their programme of economic co-operation.

(3) Women's organisations and all popular organisations should accept the responsibility of increasing women's participation in their activities and membership at all levels, especially at decision-making levels.

(4) National organisations should be invited to meet and to exchange experiences and to develop a procedure for ensuring continuity of co-operation, in such a way as to assist the realisation of economic action programmes of the non-aligned countries and other developing countries.

(5) Governments are invited to give consideration to including representatives of women's organisations and associations, as appropriate, in their delegations to international conferences and particularly those concerning the role of women.

9. Participation of women in the political, social and economic lives of their countries, and their contribution to the strengthening of peace

The international community has realised that no citizen can take on his responsibilities in the development effort without taking part in political and social life. This truth applies as much to women as to men, although women suffer acutely from their exclusion from political life, and from the negative auxiliary role that they play in economic and social development.

For this reason, the Conference considers that the following steps should be taken:

(1) States which have not yet done so should implement all United Nations resolutions concerning equality of men and women in all spheres within the constitution and organic laws of the State.

(2) It is the responsibility of the State in collaboration with women's organisations to make women aware of the importance of exercising their legal, economic, social, cultural and political rights.

The information and education media should be used to change social attitudes and institutions which limit women in exercising their political, economic, social, legal and cultural rights.

(3) Government organisations and cultural institutions have a responsibility in making women aware of what "peace" really means - as an aim of humanity and as an indispensable means of attaining national dignity, sovereignty, social justice and economic independence, for it is on these that true development depends.

(4) The State should provide supportive measures in the way of child care, maternity protection, legal aid and the right of association, etc. with the backing of specialised agencies at different levels from the grass-roots onwards to transform de jure into de facto equality.

(5) The State should take active steps to increase the proportion of women at all levels and branches of government as a necessary step towards the realisation of equality provided under the law.

(6) States which have not yet done so should draw up the necessary laws and procedures governing the employment and protection of national workers, both men and women, in transnational institutions and take measures to have these laws enforced.

(7) The State should identify all areas where there is inequality in the remuneration between men and women for work performed and ensure equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities for promotion by proper legislation and its enforcement.

(8) In order to promote greater integration of women in political activities and to open for them positions of responsibility and dignity, States should ensure equal opportunity for their employment in government institutions and endeavour to ensure their participation at national and international gatherings.

The international community has long been aware of the close relationship between political, economic and social factors; it realises, too, that economic independence and the acceleration of the process of development depend on nations exercising their right of self-determination, on abolishing colonialism and imperialism, racist and Zionist discrimination, apartheid, foreign occupation as well as all forms of foreign aggression and exploitation and interference in a nation's internal affairs.

The Conference asks that an end be put to all these condemned practices for they are the main barriers to economic liberation and progress in the developing countries. The Conference asks all countries and all international organisations, specialised agencies, investment societies and all other institutions to refuse to recognise any of the measures taken to exploit the resources of regions suffering from these abusive practices and to refuse to collaborate with or condone any such measures.

The Conference asks for increased aid and support for the heroic struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, Palestine, Zimbabwe and other regions oppressed by colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism and Zionism to help them achieve liberation, dispose fully of their natural resources, control all their economic activities. Aid must also be given to the front line States in Africa and the Middle East.

The Conference condemns the way imperialist countries are currently attempting to thwart the struggle of the peoples of Africa and Palestine and to misrepresent their aspirations for they are trying to impose surrogate governments in Zimbabwe, in Namibia and in Palestine.

The Arab delegations at the Conference submitted the following proposal:

"Inasmuch as the Egyptian regime, by signing the peace treaty with the Zionist racist entity has failed to honour its commitment to the resolutions of the Arab Summit Conferences, the Non-Aligned Conferences and their resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Zionist conflict, and has moreover committed overt aggression on the PLO by disposing of the rights of the Palestinian people without any right to do so, and by siding completely with the imperialist Zionist racist camp against the interests of the Arab nation which can only lead to an increase of tension and a threat to peace in the Arab region, threatening the economic and social rights of its peoples: constituting in addition a dire and direct threat to social and economic conditions prevailing throughout the Arab community, in particular in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, and more especially where the rights of women are concerned within that community with all consequent adverse effects on the main objectives of the Conference.

The Conference, in view of the above, recommends to the Ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee in Colombo, and to the Sixth Summit of the Non-Aligned Countries in Havana, to suspend the membership of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Non-Aligned Movement."

Some other delegates expressed support for the proposal. Some other delegates said they had no instructions and must seek them. The Conference decided to refer the foregoing proposals to the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau in Colombo.

The Conference recommends support and aid to the peoples of Indo China in defending their national independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, contributing to maintain peace and stability in South East Asia.

The Conference expressed solidarity with the Government and the people of Cyprus in their struggle for safeguarding, the independence, territorial integrity, unity, national sovereignty and non-alignment of their country.

The Conference censures and condemns Zionist acts of aggression against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian camps, acts which threaten Lebanese independence and territorial integrity and at the same time reinforce the petty communal state of Saad Haddad.

The Conference resolves to implement the United Nations' resolutions aimed at establishing a just and global peace in the Arab region, ensuring total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the re-establishment of the Palestinian people's national rights, including its right to return, self-determination and the creation of an independent State on its own territory.

The Conference gives full support to national liberation movements and people's right to independence, their right to self-determination in face of all forms of imperialism in the world, against racial discrimination and racist Zionism.

The Conference denounces the exploitation by Israel of natural wealth and resources in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, as well as the establishment of settlements which violate the provisions of the Hague Convention and the Geneva Conventions and limit the role of women in development.

The Conference upholds the Arab boycott of Israel and recommends co-ordination of efforts made in this field with the other third world countries, in order to boycott all racist regimes, especially in Palestine and South Africa.

The Conference recommends that the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Governments of the Non-Aligned Countries examine the situation in southern Africa in order to consolidate and intensify action by the non-aligned countries as well as political, material and moral support for the National Liberation Movements of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa - SWAPO, the Patriotic Front and the ANC - as well as for the Front-Line States - Botswana, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Message of the Conference to the United Nations

Invoking the principles agreed upon by the non-aligned countries regarding the respect of rights of States and their sovereignty in their region, the participants in the Conference urge the United Nations to take steps to put an end to the repeated acts of aggression committed by Israel against Lebanon; these acts are a violation of the United Nations Charter; moreover, Israel's flagrant acts of aggression against Lebanese women, men and children are a violation of human rights. We ask the United Nations to take urgent measures to put an end to Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy, in order to safeguard the Lebanese people's rights to live in peace in their territory.

The Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries on the Role of Women in Development has shown great interest in the present social, economic and political conditions of the people of Palestine, particularly of Palestine women, since these are related to an understanding of the Palestine cause. The Conference expresses its deep concern over the fact that the Arab people of Palestine and Palestine women are denied the exercise of their legitimate rights, are deprived of their right to reintegrate their homes and property from which they have been driven, and are denied their rights to self-determination and to sovereignty and national independence.

The Conference calls upon all the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as on all other international and regional organisations to support the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This support is needed for the purpose of enhancing their capacity to face the designs aimed at distorting the national image in the usurped homeland, and at usurping the territory and destroying the national economy; moreover to support the Palestine Liberation Organisation in its action designed to solve the social problems resulting from the very nature of the present struggle, inasmuch as the efforts exerted by this organisation accelerate the development of women so that they may be better equipped to shoulder their responsibility in their struggle for liberation and national reconstruction.

The Conference reaffirms the 1975 Mexico declarations and resolutions approving assistance to mothers and children in the armed struggle for independence and self-determination, and against colonialism, foreign oppression, the policy of racial discrimination and Zionism, together with the condemnation and elimination of these factors which impede the achievement of peace.

The Conference points out that the process of collective expulsion of the Palestinian people from their homeland prevents the integration of Palestinian women in the work for progress, and calls upon governments and non-governmental organisations to give material and moral support to the struggle of Palestinian women.

The Conference asks that practical steps be taken to implement these resolutions and intensify efforts made to this end.

The Conference asks that all appropriate conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement devote a special separate item to Palestinian women to determine all their needs, and demands that consideration be given to the content of the regional plan of action of the Economic Commission of Western Asia.

It condemns the seizure of the Arab territories and the threat against them as these constitute a plundering of the means of production and reduce the Arabs to enslaved workers in the service of the enemy; hence the consideration of severing commercial relations with the Zionist settlement in the territory, since its production is based on the looting of Arab resources and the exploitation of Arab labour.

The Conference demands the termination of the immoral economic blockade against Cuba and demands the return of the territory illegally occupied by the United States base in Guantanamo.

The Conference expresses its solidarity with the peoples in the American continent who are fighting for independence, sovereignty and self-determination, in particular lending its full support to those combating fascism in countries such as Chile, where every day the most fundamental human rights are violated.

It expresses its support for Nicaraguan women who are suffering from the most barbaric repression, and demands that the Government of that country put an immediate end to the situation. Every effort should be made to speed up the process of decolonisation of the people of Puerto Rico.

The Conference recognises the importance of the Sixth Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries to be held in Havana, Cuba in September 1979. It sends its special greeting and hopes that the agreements and resolutions adopted by this Conference be ratified.

It urges the governments of the non-aligned countries to make a sustained effort to achieve women's equality, their integration in the development process and their contribution to world peace, in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Equality, Development and Peace.

10. The economic independence and the collective self-reliance and their relation with the consolidation of the role of women in development; importance of the New International Economic Order.

The participants to the Conference reiterated the significance of the consistent stand of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries adopted at the Non-Aligned Ministerial Conference in Lima, decisions of the Conference in New Delhi; the Fifth Non-Aligned Summit Conference in Colombo and Ministers Conference in Belgrade that the social position of women and their role in the process of development should be treated in the framework of the over-all international social, economic and political situation.

The Non-Aligned and other developing countries are unanimous in the view that most aspects of the inadequate participation of women in the process of development can be traced to one main cause - the obsolete and untenable economic and political relations in the world.

Such a standpoint requires that the role of women in development and the question of their position should be considered in the context of the over-all social and economic development, first of all in its global dimension, i.e. the efforts to abolish economic domination and economic dependence during the struggle for the restructuring of the existing unequal international relations and the setting up of the New International Economic Order.

Proceeding from the mandate adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi in April 1977, in connection with the role of women in development, the Conference reviewed the development of the international economic situation since the V Conference of Heads of State or Governments of the Non-Aligned countries in Colombo and noted with concern that it is still in a deep crisis which is constantly deteriorating. The position of the Non-Aligned and developing countries in world economy and in international economic relations in general is constantly worsening and the gap in the economic development between the developing and the developed countries continues widening. Particularly difficult is the position of the least developed among the developing countries, which are to the greatest degree affected by tendencies in the world economy as well as the landlocked and island developing countries, therefore the Conference considers that a specific approach is necessary for the solution of the problems of more accelerated development of these countries within the framework of the global formulation and establishment of the policy and strategy of the developing countries.

(1) Finding a basis in the stands and decisions of the V Conference of the Non-Aligned countries, the Conference underlines the necessity of greater engagement of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries as well as the entire international community in the establishment of the New International Economic Order as defined at the VI Special Session of the General Assembly and Declaration and Programme of Action and further elaborated and specified at the VII Special Session of the General Assembly.

(2) The New International Economic Order essentially means a restructuring of the world economy in the spirit of independence, justice and true sovereign equality through the implementation, inter alia, of the following important steps: exercise by all developing countries of full and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, an integrated programme for commodities and the creation of a common fund as the basic instrument for achieving the goals of the integrated programme; the alleviation of the burden of indebtedness of the developing countries; the increase of inflow of financial resources to the developing countries; substantial reform of the international financial and monetary system; the creation of conditions for a more accelerated industrialisation of the developing countries; the easier access of the developing countries to the modern technologies of the developed countries; the faster implementation of the decisions brought at the World Food Conference, considering that the problem of nutrition is still unsolved and very serious; establishing of effective international controls to regulate the operations of TNC and last but not least the need to find appropriate and effective measures to combat inflation exported to developing countries by developed countries. In this respect, the Conference welcomes with satisfaction the Iraqi proposal appearing in the opening speech of the Vice-President of the Revolutionary Command Council concerning the establishment of a world fund to help developing countries alleviate the effects of monetary inflation, with the industrial States contributing to it according to the volume of the annual inflation which they directly export to the developing countries. The oil exporting countries will also contribute to that fund on the same basis.

The Conference recommends to the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Colombo and to the VI Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement due to be held in Havana to sponsor that proposal and take the necessary measures to study all details pertaining to the establishment of the fund with a view to implementing the proposal.

(3) The Conference notes with regret that after the V Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned countries no substantial progress has been achieved in the negotiations on the New International Economic Order and that the majority of the developed countries, regardless of their formal declaration, do not show the necessary political will nor the readiness to accept the essential stands and requirements for structural changes in the world economy and the need of the developing countries regarding the solution of basic economic problems which are of interest to the world economy in general. Moreover, the developed countries offer a different concept which is centered on the satisfaction of basic human needs, which, on the other hand, is impossible to achieve without the establishment of the New International Economic Order. This actually means an attempt to revise the New International Economic Order and at the same time preserve the privileged position enjoyed by the developed countries at present.

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(4) The Conference notes that the socio-economic conditions of women in the Non-Aligned and other developing countries, and the possibilities of enhancing their role in development are severely limited by the unequal relations that dominate the world economic order. The cause of promoting women's role in development thus requires highlighting and concretising the issues that link this movement to the struggle for the achievement of the New International Economic Order. Women have an important contribution to make to this struggle, for the achievement of full national and economic independence through the efforts of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries to set up the New International Economic Order.

(5) The current UNCTAD meeting and the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session devoted to the New International Economic Order in 1980 will mark the continuation of a series of negotiations lasting several years and devoted to a search for new relations in the world. Equally so, the main thrust of international strategy for development in the United Nations Third Development Decade will be directed towards the fulfilment of the objectives of NIEO.

(6) The participants to the Conference agree that an important factor in the struggle for the NIEO is the principle of collective self-reliance i.e. stronger co-operation among Non-Aligned and other developing countries, strengthening of their negotiating position from the standpoint of unity and solidarity and search for appropriate development strategies with the full employment of all available human resources, men and women alike.

(7) The Non-Aligned countries have defined forms of mutual co-operation in various fields, bearing in mind the principle of mutual solidarity.

The participants of the Conference point out that the actions and measures of mutual co-operation of the Non-Aligned and developing countries in regard to the realisation of this strategy and the integration of women in development should extend to all fields and sectors of mutual co-operation and this aspect should be included in all the contents of their co-operation.

The co-operation should proceed at the level of governments, or of institutions in charge of national development and international co-operation while the co-operation among the women's organisations in the Non-Aligned and other developing countries may help a great deal to expand the scope and enrich the content of this co-operation.

(8) Bilateral, regional and multilateral co-operation of the Non-Aligned and developing countries should particularly cover the following fields:

- planning of economic and social development and the determination of medium-term and long-term objectives and tasks, whose prominent part should include all aspects of promoting the role of women as active factors in economic and social development;

- education and professional training; employment, engagement in work and conditions of work; health, health care and health education; social care of children; family planning, transformation of family structures and sex-role stereotypes; assistance to the family in the realisation of certain functions and help in the household; roles of women in rural areas; housing and space planning; nutrition; social security, etc.

(9) The Conference strives for realising co-operation between the Non-Aligned and developing countries in this field through various forms and particularly:

- the promotion of mutual political, economic, technical and scientific co-operation;
- the exchange of information, experts and experience; the holding of joint expert gatherings and working groups on specific topics; joint scientific and research projects; the elaboration of planning methodologies and methods of studying and following various problems; the provision of joint documentation on the status of women in the world, and appropriate indicators of change in their position;
- the co-operation of socio-political organisations, professional associations and institutions which are active in this domain, etc.

(10) It was reiterated that the defined objectives, strategies and measures intended to improve the social position of women and strengthen their role in development should be a component part of the national development plans in each country and of the over-all effort to establish the New International Economic Order, based on the policy of collective self-reliance of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries.

(11) As a first step in this direction, the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned nations should appoint an expert study group to collate and analyse studies on the socio-economic conditions of women in Non-Aligned and other developing countries, in so far as they are being affected by the strategies of the transnational corporations, and by development projects emerging from bilateral and multilateral economic arrangements. Such an analysis will help the Non-Aligned and other developing countries to adopt appropriate policies, and assist women to play their due role in the struggle for the NIEO.

The study group's analysis would provide a strong input into the Research and Information System being established by the Non-Aligned nations, for further investigations.

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11. Co-operation between non-aligned and other developing countries in promoting the role of women in development

- (a) At governmental level
- (b) Within the United Nations
- (c) In governmental and non-governmental organisations

The non-aligned States and the developing countries are faced with problems related to the integration of women in development, and they make widespread efforts to solve their problems. Co-operation between these countries strengthens the action taken on a national scale by each State. Similarly there are certain essential tasks which these States cannot undertake on an individual basis. Joint co-operation and co-operation with specialised international bodies is needed to deal with problems, by such means as studies and research, the exchange of information, the development of standards, and indices for the measurement of universal achievements in implementing international plans of action for the integration of women in development.

These States should endeavour to benefit fully from the specialised international organisations and should find ways and means through which this benefit is ensured. At international and regional levels there are institutions with activities and programmes related to women, such as the regional economic commissions of the United Nations, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, FAO and WHO. These institutions offer specialised services which, in the majority of cases, provide only limited benefit to developing countries.

The need is evident for closer co-operation and increased exchanges on women's problems within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement. The results of the Conference have further facilitated the exchange of experiences and information among the non-aligned and other developing countries with regard to the difficulties confronting women in achieving their full integration in the development process. The Conference notes the success achieved by the Economic Plan of Action of the non-aligned countries, which has encouraged various types of structural, economic and social activities in different areas of co-operation.

Accordingly, the Movement's areas of co-operation have proved to be suitable mechanisms for co-ordinating and strengthening the various activities for economic development. Women's participation in development has been included among the areas of co-operation, and it is essential that issues concerning women should receive attention and should be included in all spheres and activities of the mutual co-operation among the non-aligned and other developing countries.

The Conference recommends:

- (1) That the efficiency of the co-ordinating countries for Women and Development within the Non-Aligned Movement, as designated at the Belgrade and Havana Conferences should be enhanced in this area of co-operation. In fulfilment of this end, the responsibilities of these countries will include, inter alia, the following:

- (a) To co-operate with the other co-ordinating countries of the Non-Aligned Movement or other spheres mentioned in the Economic Plan of Action to ensure that all these countries and co-ordinating groups take into consideration the effect of their activities on the objective of integrating women in development;
 - (b) To follow-up the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference on the Role of Women in the non-aligned and developing countries after their adoption by the Co-ordinating Bureau and the Summit Conference;
 - (c) To charge the co-ordinating countries to prepare the Programme of Action for the integration of women in development, within the framework of the Economic Plan of Action;
 - (d) To follow-up the implementation of resolutions affecting and dealing with women adopted at conferences of the non-aligned countries;
 - (e) To provide opportunities for the non-aligned countries to co-ordinate their positions in all international conferences related to women, especially the United Nations Mid-Decade World Conference to be held in Copenhagen in 1980;
 - (f) To stimulate non-governmental women's organisations to co-ordinate co-operation and communication among themselves.
- (2) The Conference emphasises the need to give priority and importance to the effects on women of the various activities in the Economic Plan of Action and that the responsibility for such attention should not be limited to the co-ordinating countries only.
- (3) The Conference further stresses the importance of including women in delegations, committees, and activities within the Non-Aligned Movement.
- (4) The Conference considers that co-operation, at the governmental level, should include, inter alia:
- (a) Ensuring the extension of measures and actions of mutual co-operation including agreements (multilateral, bilateral and regional) within the following areas:
 - (i) planning of economic and social development and the determination of medium and long-term objectives and tasks, which should give a prominent place to all aspects of promoting the role of women as active factors in economic and social development;

- (ii) education and professional training, employment, engagement in work and conditions of work, health, health care and health education, social care of children, family planning, transformation of family structure and family relations, assistance to the family in the realisation of certain functions and help in the household, status of women in rural areas, housing and space planning, nutrition, social security etc.
 - (iii) realising co-operation between the non-aligned and developing countries in this field through various forms, and particularly: the promotion of mutual political, economic, technical and scientific co-operation; the exchange of information, experts and experience; the holding of joint expert gatherings and working groups on specific topics; joint scientific and research projects; the elaboration of planning methodologies and methods of studying and following various problems; the provision of joint documentation on the status of women in the world; the co-operation of socio-political organisations, professional associations and institutions which are active in this domain, such as The International Centre for Public Enterprises of the Developing Countries.
- (b) To co-operate in implementing the positions and conclusions of the Conferences of Heads of States and Governments, and of Ministerial Meetings of the Non-Aligned Countries where they concern the Role of Women in Development, as well as positions and conclusions of the Conferences devoted to specific topics, such as labour, health, information, transfer of technology and others;
- (c) To ensure that bilateral agreements and means and measures of co-operation between non-aligned and developing countries having effects on women, should state the need to exchange expertise, especially women experts in order to achieve co-operation that is adequate for removing the obstacles hindering the participation of women in development; and to ensure increased opportunities for a greater number of women to develop their abilities in this field so as to allow an effective exchange of experts.
- (5) The Conference considers that co-operation at the international level should include, inter alia:
- (a) Co-operation and co-ordination among the non-aligned countries and with bodies of the United Nations system should take place through the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries and co-ordinating countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, with the objective of benefiting from the services of the United Nations system;
 - (b) The Co-ordinating Bureau with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women should consider studying ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of the services provided by the United Nations system to non-aligned countries, especially those relating to women.

- (c) The non-aligned and other developing countries should assist the United Nations and its specialised agencies to strengthen their activities in promoting women's role in development, through information, suggestions and advice on issues which are particularly relevant to the participation of women in development in developing countries;
- (d) Since the crucial issues affecting women's role in the non-aligned and other developing countries are integrally connected with problems of economic development, the United Nations should include it as a substantive concern within all its activities for promoting economic development, and not confine it to the area of social development only;
- (e) Calling upon the United Nations and all specialised agencies, including WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and FAO to arrange for the exchange of expertise and information regarding successful experiments among developing States, particularly where women and development are concerned, with the assistance of their experts, both men and women, and of institutions in developing countries;
- (f) Calling upon the United Nations and its specialised agencies to apply the appropriate resolutions of the international Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries held in Argentina in 1978, and to include into all TCDC Projects particular attention to women;
- (g) Calling upon the United Nations and its specialised agencies to give adequate assistance to women experts in developing countries, with particular regard to the implementation of development programmes for encouraging the expertise of women in developing countries, increasing their efficiency and extending the range of their services;
- (h) Calling upon the United Nations to study at national and international levels the problems identified within development, and to implementing various ways of coping with these problems, making use of successful experiments carried out in developing countries;
- (i) Calling upon the United Nations and its specialised agencies to expand resources for their exchange of scholarships among developing countries, for the benefit of women workers in fields concerning women and development, so as to improve their knowledge, widen their experience and enrich the national programmes.

- (j) Calling upon the United Nations and its specialised agencies to draw up integrated practical programmes and to take account in all their programmes of the needs of women and developing their capacities;
 - (k) Urging UNESCO and its regional or inter-regional technical assistance bodies to enlarge the scope of its activities and make use of local expertise in developing countries; at the same time urging the specialised agencies together with UNESCO to assist with this programme with a view to offering integrated projects within their technical co-operation programmes;
- (6) The Conference considers that co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organisations requires:
- (a) Commitment of the governments to organise the methods of co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organisations, to enable non-governmental organisations to perform their complementary and important roles for the achievement of the goals of integration of women in development, and to provide the necessary requirements for their functioning;
 - (b) Co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organisations should include, inter alia:
 - (i) Exchange of information and sharing of experience - in attempts to promote women's role in development, especially relating to national strategies, delivery mechanisms; innovations and experiments at the grass-roots level organisations, and in the field of research on women's situation;
 - (ii) Organising training programmes - in scientific techniques of planning, implementation and evaluation, including policy research for personnel of non-governmental agencies engaged in promoting women's role in development;
 - (iii) Exchange of visits, seminars and workshops for personnel concerned with planning and execution of women's development programmes;
 - (iv) Collaboration among social scientists and research and planning organisations - for the development of appropriate quantitative indicators and methodologies necessary for planning to ensure full participation of women.

RESERVATIONS

The following countries expressed their reservations regarding the following paragraphs:

Argentina:

"The Conference expresses its solidarity with the peoples in the American continent who are fighting for independence, sovereignty and self-determination, in particular lending its full support to those combating fascism in countries such as Chile, where every day the most fundamental human rights are violated."

Argentina, India:

"It expresses its support for Nicaraguan women who are suffering from the most barbaric repression, and demands that the Government of that country put an immediate end to the situation. Every effort should be made to speed up the process of decolonisation of the people of Puerto Rico."
