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A



**World Conference
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Decade for Women:**

Equality, Development and Peace

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**Copenhagen, Denmark
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YUGOSLAVIA

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WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE

UN DECADE FOR WOMEN

Copenhagen, July 14-30, 1980

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SPEECH OF THE HEAD OF THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION
MRS. MILA DJORDJIĆ, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE
FEDERAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL
WELFARE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER- DEPARTMENTAL
GROUP FOR COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS DURING THE UN
DECADE FOR WOMEN

Esteemed Madam President,
Distinguidhed Delegates,
Friends,

It is a special pleasure for me, on behalf of the Delegation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to greet this eminent gathering. At the same time I avail myself of this opportunity to express the gratitude of my Delegation to the Government and the people of Denmark for the excellent facilities for work and the warm atmosphere of welcome we have been all extended to. It is a special privilege for us that Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark officially opened this Conference and greeted its participants. I would also like to pay tribute to the words addressed to us by Prime Minister of Denmark, His Excellency Mr. Anker Jørgensen. We also owe our gratitude to all those that have worked on its preparation and particularly to the UN Secretariat. It is a very good occasion to say how much we appreciate the efforts and personal contribution of the Secretary General of this Conference Dr. Lucille Mair whose extremely important address shall, no doubt, be a useful guidance in our joint efforts and in our work.

Our Conference confirms that there is a permanent interest of the United Nations Organisation to endeavour continuously for the implementation of the attitudes and decisions of the World Conference of the International Year of Women held in Mexico City.

An analysis of the results since Mexico up to now

showed that, in considering women's position in the contemporary world and individual societies, there is a high degree of consensus reached in evaluating the nature of the problems and the ways of dealing with them.

The decisions and recommendations of the Mexico City Conference are being confirmed and accepted at numerous regional, sectoral and international meetings. Here, we point out in particular their further elaboration at the Baghdad Conference of Non-Aligned and Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development, as well as the very strong support of the two Summit Conferences of Head of States and Governments (in Colombo in 1976 and in Havana in 1979).

All these Conferences confirmed the essential significance of the principles adopted in Mexico City of linking up the struggle for promotion and qualitative change of the status of women with the problems of the general world struggle for development, peace, equality and security.

Just because of that, the struggle for promotion of the status of women is one of the key strategic issues of the entire world. At the same time it represents integral part of the struggle for equality, human rights, economic and social development in every country, as well as, democratization of international relations, for establishment of a new international economic order, for maintaining of peace in the world and for achievement of full national, political and economic independence.

That is why we consider Mexico City Conference as a special boundary marker for our action.

In that sense, the Declaration and the World Plan of Action, as we in Yugoslavia call them "Mexico inheritance", represent a significant instrument of stimulus which direct and strengthen the activities of governments, of all social forces and women themselves for promotion of the status and the role of women.

In Yugoslavia, as probably elsewhere in the world, many concrete initiatives and activities for their realization are being undertaken.

Immediately after the Mexico City Conference, the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia published all the documents of the United Nations adopted at the World Conference in Mexico City. Our Assembly also adopted the Resolution on the Main Lines of Social Action to Promote the Socio-economic status and Role of Women in the Socialist Self-Managing Society. Our Government set up a special inter-ministerial Working Group for coordination of the work of federal organisations in implementing the decisions of the World Conference of International Year of Women during the UN Decade for Women.

Madam President,

My Delegation thinks it is very important to point out that there are many circumstances which, at this moment, give our Conference a special significance. Some of them, which we

have to take into account, I will mention here, in particular.

We think that the primary obligation of our Conference is to perceive globally the reasons due to which, in spite of many efforts made at national level, no significant, essential improvement of the status of women has been achieved. In certain countries and regions that status has even deteriorated. The whole content of the UN Secretary General's report for the 34. General Assembly Session confirms this evaluation.

This Conference is being held under conditions of dangerous deterioration of tension and increasing disputes and oppositions in the world. Nowadays, peace is faced with serious threats. Temptations are serious and numerous. In front of our eyes frontiers, sovereignty and independence of smaller and medium size independent states, among which, very often, members of the non-aligned movement, are being roughly violated. The struggle for broadening of spheres of interest to new areas is being strengthening and rivalry between the biggest super-powers and their blocks is even deepening more. The existing international crisis hot-beds are being activated and new ones are being created. There is an ever decreasing sense of responsibility for decreasing the difference and the gap existing in the degree of development between the developed and the developing countries.

Limited and short-term interests postpone resolution of problems which are so important both for the developed and less developed countries, that the entire future of the world depends on their resolution, including provision of living conditions and prosperity of men and women everywhere, particularly in the developing and least developed countries.

Having all this in mind, we think it is very important that the Draft Action Programme contains significant evaluations of direct interdependence of influence of the world economic crisis and the present unjust international economic relations in the world with the status of women. In a world in which 70% of the population lives in mass poverty, hunger and illiteracy, under conditions of general backwardness, women, of course, share the difficult destiny of their nations. We know that their position, within the frames of this worldwide injustice, is even more difficult, due to many workloads they bear and their insufficient qualifications for modern activities in economic and other fields.

To this warning situation, certainly some additional and warning tones are being added by the certain truth that the present-day world economic crisis, whose burden is being beared by the working class and the poor, among which women in particular, bear the heaviest burden, is no more a classic crisis, "cyclic" and short-term. It is obviously the question of a permanent crisis of structural character which is not always connected with the nature of socio-economic system, but it is becoming universal. Just because of that, dangers are even bigger.

Although the burden of the crisis mostly affects poor countries and poor social layers, the working class, and most often women, in underdeveloped communities and economies, negative consequences are being reflected in a more and more evident way in the developed countries too, although sometimes in a different form. This is why women in the developed countries

are also affected by the shocks of the world crisis. There is an increasing unemployment, income value decreases in real terms, resolution of problems of young generations is being postponed, social rights and achievements, as well as, working conditions are being endangered. As we are aware of, many attitudes and documents prepared for this Conference are reminding us on all this. The causes for this situation are known to all of us. There is no need to describe them. Nowadays, by all their seriousness, they make pressure on the conscience of the mankind and engage progressive world brains to analyse the causes and to find out solutions.

It is for this reason of precise importance nowadays to fight for right, and not for temporary solutions. We join those solutions which endeavour for accelerated and global development and necessary changes in the economic and social structure, on the basis of the establishment of a new international economic order.

Starvation, poverty and various forms of discrimination, are, first of all, consequences of the unequal economic relations in the world which hamper free development of national economies. For this reason, the way for overcoming starvation and poverty doesn't lie only in international solidarity and aid for satisfying the basic needs. By this we don't underestimate the importance of all assistance programmes, by means of which this dramatic situation is being alleviated. But, they don't eliminate the causes and for that reason they can not substitute real solutions. Every postponing of real solutions only deepens and deteriorates the present situation.

The consequences of not implementing the Declaration and the Programme of Action for establishment of a new international economic order, adopted at the VI and VII Special Sessions of the UN General Assembly might be, and they are already, very difficult, and the results in the implementation of the strategy of the so called Second Development Decade, extremely unsatisfactory.

In that context, the Yugoslav Delegation points out the obligation of our Conference that more strongly than it has been presented in the Draft Programme of Action, points out interdependence of political and economic development and the interest of women in all countries of the world, so that more resolute measures can be undertaken for implementation of the approved objectives of the New International Economic Order as preconditions for promotion of social and economic status of women and realization of socio-economic changes at national plane.

In this, we see the basis of universality of women's problem in the modern world. At the same time it is also a basis for discovering ways and more permanent resolutions for the question of employment, health care and education, as sub-theme of our Conference, which are of exceptional significance for realization of the role of women in development.

Nowadays, we point out frankly and with sorrow the facts that in the Second Development Decade developed countries have not met the expectations justly expected from them, as well as, the course of negotiations so far for the preparation of the strategy for the Third Development Decade.

With your permission, I would like to express the conviction and hope of my Delegation, which is being shared by many members of the "Group of 77", that progressive forces in the world would endeavour for the New Development Decade to be finally the Decade of Action. To this purpose we consider necessary to include in the Action Programme stronger, essential requests, which our Conference proposes for the Third Development Decade Strategy. According to this, by adopting the Strategy for the Third Decade, it is necessary to establish corresponding international instruments and mechanisms which would stimulate and ensure the implementation of the objectives of the Decade.

Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation considers very important that the Agenda of our Conference deals with the position of women in South Africa, the position of Palestinian women and the position of women refugees world-wide. They burden the conscience of the mankind which is obliged to endeavour more strongly, not only for the realization of humanitarian aid, but also for the engagement of the entire international community, primarily, in resolving the reasons that put these nations and women alike in such a position. It is therefore, the obligation of our Conference to condemn more resolutely the policy and practice of apartheid, the horrible racist terror and discrimination as well as all other unacceptable acts of aggression, occupation of foreign territories, policy of accomplished facts created by force and ignoring of UN resolutions.

That, what is going on now in the racist, unhuman establishment in South Africa shows that the days of that

regime are already numbered. Million of men and women, which nowadays live under racist regime of discrimination and humiliation, would, in due time, settle the accounts with the government of the racist minority which represents challenge to the whole progressive mankind, not only in Africa, but in the whole world. We are glad for that and express our full support to the struggle of the men and women in South Africa.

At this occasion as well, we congratulate the brave people and women of Zimbabwe upon acquiring their independence, wishing them to maintain their hard won freedom and to achieve as good results as possible in the socio-economic development of their country. In realization of this they can and should count upon support of the broadest international community. Our solidarity with the people of South Africa and their liberation movements, should be also expressed through maximum increase and realization of the established measures for providing assistance to the women in Namibia and South Africa and concrete contribution to their training, so that they can equally participate in all fields of development of their respective countries.

Another strong challenge to all freedom and peace loving forces of the modern world, is certainly the continuation of the Israeli aggression and consistent denial of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the right of a nation to establish its own state within recognized and secured frontiers which refers to all Middle East countries involved in this crisis.

As pointed out in all important documents and resolutions of the UN General Assembly and non-aligned countries, it is

necessary for Israel to retreat from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, cessation of Israeli policy of rude force towards the Palestinians and the aggressive acts towards the neighbouring Arab countries. Only a consistent, universal, permanent and just solution of the Middle East crisis, with full participation of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, as the only legitimate and recognized representative of the Palestinian people, can provide peace and security to all countries of this region.

We believe that one of important tasks of our Conference is to adopt decisions, in harmony with numerous UN resolutions and stands of the non-aligned conferences, about the specific measures and actions of support and assistance aiming at improvement of political, economic, social and living conditions of the Palestinian women.

Madam President

My Delegation also pledge for efficient resolution of the problem of refugees. As I have mentioned before, the problem of women refugees, i.e. the question of the destiny of, unfortunately ever-increasing number of refugees in different parts of our planet, can not be resolved only through humanitarian action. Solidarity and humanitarian actions are needed and important, but it is primarily necessary for the international community to engage itself more on elimination of the reasons that caused that problem.

The task of the international community is, first of all, to find out peaceful solution of this problem on the basis of retreat of foreign military troops from anyone's territories, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, as well as, on the basis of full respect and consistent application of the principles of national independence sovereignty, equality, free national and social development of all countries. No nation, no country can be deprived of these inalienable rights by any reason and excuse. The role of the United Nations is irreplaceable both in searching and implementing political solutions and realization of humanitarian assistance provided to those which have been put in such a situation without their fault.

At the end of my speech, being aware of different conditions existing and convinced that it is always the way to choose, independently your own way of development, allow me to inform you about some Yugoslav experiences. As it is known, Yugoslav women have given their invaluable contribution to the victorious outcome of our revolution and the construction of a new self-managing socialist society. Over 100.000 women with arms in their hands participated in the struggle, of which 25.000 were killed and about 40.000 were wounded.

Evaluating what has been achieved, not on the basis of what we have put in front of ourselves as a target, but on the basis of the conditions we inherited, we can say with full respect that generally we have achieved considerable results in the promotion of the position of women in the process of socialist transformation of the entire society. In this

transformation the emancipation of labour and of the human personality - man and woman - are the principle aim.

The emancipation of women was mainly encouraged by the general policy of speeding up the country's development and of introducing self-management. Women in Yugoslavia participate in all spheres and all levels of socio-economic and political life in the country.

In the documentation which we are going to circulate at the Conference we have presented the most significant results we have achieved. Due to limited time, I am not going to read them now.

Particularly significant results have been achieved in employment and education, health care and social security, maternity care, development of social care for children which, altogether, enable women to participate more in decision-making concerning the development of our self-management socialist society.⁷

Allow me to inform you about these results with a few data. In the post-war development the number of employed women increased from 337.000 to 1.800.000 which amounts to 35% of the totally employed people in the social sector. On the basis of the new Medium-term Development Plan it is foreseen that the number of women employees reaches the level of 2.500.000 by 1985.

In the field of education we have almost covered all female children and youth by eight years of primary education. In secondary schools and universities women participate by 45%. Considerable results are being achieved in providing opportunities for new professions and in integration of women

in areas out of so called women's jobs by which the traditional division of labour is being overcome and general affirmation of women is being strengthened.

Impressive results have been achieved in improvement of the health of the population, reduce of children's mortality and improvement of maternity care. Since three years ago maternity leave has been extended from 105 to 210 days. Generally speaking significant attention is being attached to different forms of social care for children and other forms of family assistance, which enable women and family to resolve so called "irreconcilable" conflicts between work and maternity in favour of women, children, family and the whole society.

To achieve all these results, no doubt, active participation of women in political system, has contributed a lot. It has greatly increased in all forms of decision-making, from working organisations, local communities, municipal and republican assemblies up to the Federation.⁷

In spite of such results, we think that all opportunities have not been used which the level of our socio-political development offers, for an even greater promotion of the social status of women. Apart from material difficulties which determine the implementation of our goals we are faced with inconsistency in the realisation of that policy, with resistance of conservative attitudes, traditional prejudice against which, not only women, but all leading progressive forces of our society, are fighting against.

Distinguished Delegates,

The stands and views that we presented on behalf of the Yugoslav Delegation concern the most crucial issues which originate from the fundamental principles and policy of non-alignment to which, as it is known well, Yugoslavia is deeply devoted to.

As we all know, the non-aligned movement has given, both remarkable and significant contribution in regard to the promotion of the status of women. With the purpose of strenghtening the efforts of non-aligned and other developing countries to implement at national level the Mexico City Conference decisions in the spirit of the proclaimed policy of collective self-reliance the Conference on the role of women in development was held in Baghdad. The Final Document, adopted in Baghdad and approved at the Summit Conference of Head of States and Governments in Havana, contains rather valuable stands which, according to our opinion, deserve to be incorporated in the Programme of Action for the second part of the Decade.

Madam President,

Our beloved and unforgettable President Tito in his message to the Conference in Mexico City said that he was "deeply convinced that the social role and position of women are rather indicative for general development of every society and that every action, oriented to resolve the problem of the status of women, means contribution to the general progress of the entire society, and through this, to the progress of the entire world". He also said he considered very important that special attention is being attached to the problem of the status of women by the

international community and by the United Nations. He also saw this as a reflection of the growing role of the UN and as an expression of strengthening of forces of peace and progress in the world and of all they stand for.

We believe this message has lost nothing of its significance and this is why I mention it at this Conference.

I thank you Madam President

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Statement by Ms. Gorana Sipic, representative of the
International Center for Public Enterprises in Deve-
loping Countries, at the World Conference of the
United Nations Decade for Women, Copenhagen, July 1980

Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the International Center for Public Enterprises
in Developing Countries (ICPE), I would like to express my
gratitude for being invited as observer to the World Confere-
nce of the United Nations Decade for Women, and to be able
to express the possibilities of the Center concerning the
cooperation in improvement of the role and position of women
in development, especially in developing countries.

May I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the
Executive Director of the International Center for Public
Enterprises in Developing Countries, our warmest congratu-
lations to you Madame President, on your election
as a President of this important Conference.
We also wish to express our deep gratitude and respect to
Ms. Lucille Mair and her staff in the Secretariat for the
preparation of the Conference.

Public enterprises in developing countries are now assuming
a position of great significance in the growth and develop-
ment strategies of developing countries.
For this reason developing countries established in 1978 the
International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing
Countries in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, as a joint and cooperative
institution devoted to the study of problems of public enter-
prises in developing countries in stimulating improved perform-
ance. So far 31 developing countries have become its members.

Recognizing the importance of the role and contribution which
public enterprises could have in improving the status and the
role of women as a factor of development, the Center has been
integrating this particular subject in all its programmes
and projects dealing with various problems of public enterprises
in developing countries.

The overall objective of the Center's activities concerning the
the role and the position of women as a factor of development
is to investigate existing different approaches to the integra-
tion of women in development process in developing countries
with special reference to actual and possible role of public
enterprises in developing countries in order to identify and

suggest practical measures which could be incorporated into the policies of management of public enterprises; of training and education, planning, financing, participation, transfer and development of technology, and development policies of public sector in general and public enterprises in particular.

According to the recommendations made by the group of experts from developing countries, who met in Ljubljana this year, the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries is promoting an innovative approach in studying the status and role of women as a factor of development by way of integration into other programmes and projects of the Center, and is going to undertake series of research studies which would examine very specific aspect so as to bring forth concrete observations which will have a direct impact on policy making and practice in public enterprises in developing countries.

The ICPE is engaged in intensive activity in the field of research training, information and consultancy on subjects which are of vital concern to the healthy growth of public enterprises in the developing countries.

The projects and programmes of the Centre deal with :

1. Education and Training of Personnel in Public Enterprises in Developing Countries
2. Planning in Public Enterprises
3. Financing in Public Enterprises
4. Workers' Self-Management and Participation in Decision-Making as a Factor of Social Change and Economic Progress in Developing Countries
5. Role of the Public Sector in Developing Countries
6. Management of Transfer and Development of Technology and Innovation Processes in Public Enterprises
7. System of Information and Control in Public Enterprises

The ICPE has within the scope of its activities established Consultancy Service. It is also preparing a major programme of post-graduate studies.

These activities of the Centre are conducted on a cooperative international basis with the fullest involvement of institutions, officials, academics, management professionals and experts from the developing countries.

In pursuit of its aims the Centre cooperates also with international and regional organizations concerned with public enterprises, above all with the organizations of the system of the United Nations. Furthermore, the Centre cooperates with other countries and their national organizations which are interested in the subject of management of public enterprises.

The Centre is committed to making concrete and substantive contributions towards technical cooperation among developing countries and thus towards the economic emancipation of developing countries. As a joint institutions of developing countries, it represents and instrument of collective self-reliance. Thus, it is contributing to the establishment of the New International Economic Order. The Centre will require technical, moral and material support of developing countries.

The ICPE avails itself of the opportunity to place its services for technical cooperation between developing countries at the disposal and for consideration of the developing countries attending the Conference and appeals to the Conference and distinguished delegates to extend their support to the Centre's aims and objectives, as well as, to recommend to those developing countries, who are not yet members of the Centre, to join it.

In concluding I am happy to inform you that the Information on the Centre's activities, and the results of the International Expert Group Meeting on Women as a Factor of Development and the Responsibilities of Public Enterprises in this Regard, held in April 1980, as well as A Selected Annotated Bibliography on Women and Development, are at your disposal in the Conference Hall.