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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AT THE SERVICE OF
WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN */

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Introduction

This document has been prepared as a contribution to the discussions which will take place at the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Guatemala City, in September 1988.

Within the framework of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development 1/ and of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,2/ and covering the period since the last Regional Conference,3/ this document seeks to:

1. Identify, select and classify the principal activities undertaken by the different agents in the region, with a view to enhancing the status of women and eliminating all forms of discrimination against them.

2. Report on the principal measures adopted and the changes that have taken place in the conduct of information, documentation and communications activities concerning women, at the national, regional and global levels. To draw attention to the principal successes and failures of the various agents that have participated in these activities.

3. To select, analyse and classify a sampling of the publications about women in the region, in some of the areas that are considered priority within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Women and of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and whose results would permit certain projections to be made and more information to become available on the changes that have taken place in publications about women. They would also identify lacunae which would serve to orient future studies and research.

4. To propose general guidelines for future action, as regards the strengthening of the relevant mechanisms for the compilation, processing, systematization and the exchange and dissemination of information on the subject.

In order to carry out this study, the main institutions working in this area in the region were requested to provide information on programmes concerning women and on activities which have been undertaken in the field of information and communications.

The regional and international information was obtained from ECLAC, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), the Regional Centre for Information on Women (CRIM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Research and Training Institute for

the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Latin American Institute for Transnational Studies (ILET), the Joint Integrated Unit of Academic Information Systems, the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). National centres were requested to provide relevant information and replies were obtained from the following institutions: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer de Chile, the Programa Nacional de la Mujer de Costa Rica, the Centro de la Mujer "Flora Tristán" of Peru and the Centro de Informaciones y Estudios del Uruguay (CIESU).

The document contains three chapters, the first of which proposes a number of guidelines to orient activities designed to improve the flow, transmission and dissemination of information and communications required by the process of changes in the status of women aimed at achieving a status equal to that enjoyed by man. These activities are conducted within the policy framework adopted by two international forums, namely: the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development and the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

Based on the information obtained, the second chapter contains a panoramic overview of the principal programmes and activities undertaken by the different organizations and by women themselves with a view to progressively eliminating the various forms of discrimination to which women are subjected, and to progressively improving their status. This review covers both those activities which have been undertaken by formal institutions involved in this process and by those which constitute alternative forms of solution to the specific problems that affect women.

It includes an assessment of the situation and of the progress achieved in the field of information and communications at different levels. It also discusses those information systems which treat the problem of women as just another development issue and those others in which the development of women constitutes the principal subject of concern.

The third chapter contains a description of the methodology used and of the results of the research on the publications on this subject.

This study was based principally on the review of secondary sources of information, compiled from various types of agencies in the region and from existing documents in four information systems, namely: the bibliographic information system of ECLAC, which comprises the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES), the Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL) and its library; the Bibliographic Information System of the Women's International Information Communication Service (ISIS); the Information Referral System (INRES) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the regional institutions of academic information which are devoted to teaching and research.

Since this systematization covers only a sampling of documents, the results obtained represent only a partial, though useful, data base in the sense that they will permit projections to be made which provide guidelines on

the principal trends observed in these publications and which contribute to the task of defining the thrust of future work for the various agencies involved in dealing with these problems.

Having regard to this background, it is necessary to strengthen interinstitutional co-ordination in order to increase the installed capacity for the compilation, processing, systematization and dissemination of information on this topic. Towards this end, a network or system of information and communications could be established in which a key role could be played by the most important institutions in this field which have conceived and directed these programmes, and which would comprise relevant institutions, that would contribute information in their respective areas of specialization.

I. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

A. POLICY FRAMEWORK

Information has been a key element in the conduct of activities aimed at integrating women in development and at eliminating all forms of discrimination. Its economic, social and political value has been recognized by the different agents participating in this process --governments through their established institutional mechanisms; national and international non-governmental organizations that support groups at the grass-roots level; academic and research institutions; specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, financing agencies, etc.-- who have expressed and reaffirmed this view in the different forums that have been organized to discuss the situation of women during the Decade declared by the United Nations and subsequent to it.

A review of the policy framework proposed by some of these mechanisms makes it possible to define the most significant aspects and the measures that have been recommended to enhance information and communications activities in this area. It also provides an analytic framework within which to review the main tasks accomplished in this field, which permits an evaluation of the progress made, as well as the identification of those areas in which deficiencies still remain and in which there is need for increased effort.

The Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development makes special reference to information and documentation activities on the subject. It points out, in this regard, that the minimal functional structure of the national mechanisms 4/ must cover, _inter alia_, the areas of documentation and information, public relations and dissemination. It also calls upon the governments to promote the regional and international exchange of information and experiences through the organization of international meetings and seminars.

With regard to ECLAC, the Regional Plan of Action provides for the holding of United Nations regional conferences on the integration of women into Latin American development, whose functions will be to, _inter alia_, periodically review the activities of ECLAC and other United Nations agencies. At the same time, they should provide a forum for the exchange of information which will facilitate the mutual co-ordination and support of the programmes for the integration of women into economic and social development at various levels and permit the countries in the region to share the corresponding experience.

The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women stress that, in view of the vital role played by communications in changing the image of women and their access to information, a high priority should be attached to the participation of women at all levels of policy formulation and decision-making in the field of communications, as well as in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes.

Women should be fully incorporated into the process of making decisions on the selection and development of new forms of communication and should have the same right to decide on the content of all public information activities. Cultural media, such as rituals, theatre, dialogue, oral literature and music should be incorporated into all development efforts aimed at improving communications. Support should be provided to those organizations dedicated to promoting the role of women as agents and beneficiaries of development, in their efforts to establish efficient communications and information networks.

As regards research and policy analysis, the Nairobi Strategies highlight the need to promote regional co-operation in carrying out these activities which facilitate the incorporation of new issues that are of concern to women. The absence of reliable data makes it difficult to assess the relative improvements in the status of women in the various sectors. It is therefore vital for the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) to co-operate, at the institutional level, in the compilation, analysis, utilization and dissemination of statistical data on women.

The United Nations system must expand its data base on the role of women in national, regional and international economic activities in co-operation with governments, specialized agencies and regional commissions. It must also adopt measures to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Secretariat to provide assistance to governments and other international organizations and agencies that are working towards the integration of women in the formulation of policies and in the tasks of assessing the impact of development policies on women.

The Branch for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations should act as a centre for co-ordinating the exchange of information, for providing advice on questions related to the advancement of women and for monitoring and reviewing the progress achieved in this area by other agencies. The United Nations should formulate guidelines in this regard based on comparative analyses of experiences worldwide.

The regional commissions should carry out new research on the status of women in their regions for the year 2000 by preparing data bases and obtaining the necessary indicators, making use of both national and local contributions, including prospective studies on women undertaken by grass-roots women's organizations.

Special importance is attached to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which plays an important role in the fields of research, training, information and communications. Furthermore, it is recommended that the States and organizations of the United

Nations system should be requested to continue their collaboration with the Institute in its efforts to improve the status of women.

Finally, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to encourage women, women's organizations and all the relevant government agencies of the different countries to discuss and study the various aspects of the promotion of peace and other related questions, with a view to increasing knowledge, promoting understanding and developing relations of friendship among countries and peoples. In this regard, exchange visits among women from different countries are being promoted as well as meetings and seminars with the full participation of women.

The policy framework described above stresses the information and communications needs which the process of integrating women requires. It also identifies the agencies that are called upon to work towards this end and the possible responsibilities that each of them is required to assume.

The aim of this document is, _inter alia_, to present a brief overview of the current situation as regards these activities, within the framework of the Regional Plan of Action, two years after the formulation of the Nairobi Strategies.

B. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS: CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

1. Information: definition, impact and modalities in relation to the status of women

In order to effect the necessary changes to the situation of discrimination that affects women, and to implement measures that promote their full integration in the social, economic and cultural processes of their countries, there is need for an information base that provides support for the planning and implementation of such activities.

This information base must encompass in a comprehensive manner the following aspects: information on institutions; statistical or numerical information; and bibliographic or documentary information.

a)   Information on institutions

i) Characteristics, functions and modalities. Information on action programmes, institutional and administrative mechanisms and human resources are the instruments being employed to improve the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean and to fully incorporate them into the process of development.

The large number of institutions, organizations and groups involved in activities related to this subject, as well as their changing nature --new groups emerge, new experiments are conducted, the human resources participating in such experiments, upon the latter's completion, are

integrated into other projects, etc.— render the management of this information difficult.

This information is useful for all phases of the process of changing the status of women, and particularly for the functions of planning, co-ordination and evaluation of the activities of these programmes. It facilitates planning, because it permits the incorporation into that process of data on the results of past experiments and the avoidance of unnecessary errors or duplications as well as the channelling of resources towards those sectors in which they are most needed. It helps to improve the co-ordination of activities among the different institutions and groups working in this field, and consequently permits a more rational use to be made of resources. It is of vital importance for evaluations, since it provides a clear picture of successes and failures, possibilities of repeating successful experiences as well as of the obstacles that have presented themselves and the adjustments that need to be introduced in order to advance towards the projected goals.

Such information is of particular value for horizontal co-operation activities, which require the participation of countries that share similar needs and face similar obstacles in finding solutions to their problems. Indeed, the dissemination of this information has made it possible to learn from the invaluable experiences in the region on the subject of women, which both governmental and non-governmental organizations have had.

The international organizations have established specialized systems at the regional and international levels and both national and international institutions have compiled directories, inventories and registers of projects, and of human and institutional resources as described in chapter II of this document. Annex 1 contains the list of projects on which documentation is available in the bibliographic systems.

ii) Institutional mechanisms, information-generating sources. Of the wide range of institutional mechanisms that deal with the problem of women, the following were selected for an analysis of their activities. This selection was based on various criteria, including those related to the changes that have occurred both in the policies and in the functioning of many of these institutions.

The following information-generating systems exist: national mechanisms; non-governmental organizations which were viewed from the twin perspective of centres for studies on the subject of women and of subsistence organizations; academic and research organizations; and international organizations, including financing agencies.

The definition of national mechanisms encompasses centralized national and State organizational structures whose purpose is to promote the advancement of women and the elimination of discrimination against them, in any form and by any name. Such a mechanism may be governmental or non-governmental or may consist of an umbrella body comprising various institutions. An essential requirement is that it should be recognized by the government as the national mechanism for the advancement of women.

Special importance has been attached to this topic by the various international fora that have been convoked by the United Nations and the Commission on the Status of Women. In October 1987 it conducted —under the auspices of the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, with headquarters in Vienna— the Seminar on National Machinery for Monitoring and Improving the Status of Women.5/

Among the conclusions reached by this Seminar is that national mechanisms should ensure the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of society, and should act as catalysts or executers of programmes, or both. It also concluded that the principal and general function of such mechanisms is to promote, plan, co-ordinate, supervise and review the policies and programmes related to the status of women and, where necessary, to implement such programmes.

Other conclusions reaffirm the need for these mechanisms to maintain links, at different levels, with other institutions in order to achieve their objectives, such as, for example, with non-governmental organizations and the mass communications media.

The development of an appropriate information and documentation system that covers women's affairs, including relations with specialized research institutes, constitutes a special recommendation. The establishment of information systems for data compiled and analysed by sex and the systematic organization of training programmes were also urged. The experiences of the national mechanisms in some countries of the region are reviewed in chapter II of this document.6/

In general terms, the concept of non-governmental organizations refers to organizations that are separate from the State apparatus, which operate on a voluntary basis and seek to achieve various objectives.

The concept of non-governmental organizations is very broad and includes research centres, political parties, professional and trade union associations, religious institutions and, among others, those organizations that work with certain social sectors, particularly grass-roots sectors, and help in finding solutions to their problems or promote the development of their organic structure in order to increase their participation in the process of development, or fulfil both functions.7/

The last decade in Latin America and the Caribbean has witnessed the emergence and development of a large variety of forms of organization which, while pursuing different goals, have established close relations with non-governmental organizations. In some cases these new organizations address sociopolitical conditions (such as the lack of freedom) and the economic crisis, while in others they address different problems (ethnic revival, feminism, environment, appropriate technologies, local self-management, etc.).

The concerns of these new forms of social organization are heterogeneous and dynamic. For example, grass-roots economic organizations exist which, in view of their basically working-class composition, either include questions close to the women's movement among their areas of interest or are established

to address such questions, while organizations that were set up for this purpose, in practice have been forced to deal with problems related to daily survival.

In this type of organization, non-governmental organizations have played an important role, both in their establishment and in the conduct of their activities, and have channelled material resources into them by providing training and consultancy services, promoting cultural activities and discussion sessions and supporting productive projects.

With respect to the women's movement, non-governmental organizations are engaged in a broad programme of activities. These are characterized by their marked dynamism, unlike government-sponsored programmes. The role, function and co-operation of the public and private sectors on questions related to women have been debated in various international forums.

The need to seek some form of relationship between the State and the society, represented by non-governmental organizations, is a task which is currently being undertaken by different forums of the international community.8/

Of the wide range of non-governmental entities, women's centres reflect, from different perspectives, the contribution made by women's organizations to the achievement of the goals for improving their status.

Women's centres are entities that are designed to respond to the problems and needs of women, using different approaches from those usually adopted, and in which the fundamental principles of the women's movement are put into practice.

The women's encounters that have so far been held have provided suitable opportunities for the women from different centres to analyse their strategies and programmes and co-ordinate their projected activities.9/

In Latin America, these centres are different in terms of ideology, modalities employed, women's political awareness, the scope of their activities as they affect different sectors of women, size, internal structure, available resources, etc. However, it is possible to find in them similar services and programmes: political activity, legal support and assistance, health and information services for family planning and rights related to child-bearing, organization at the level of working-class women, psychological counselling, training programmes in various areas, training of women's leaders, information services, etc.

Among their achievements is the creation of opportunities for women to develop strategies and promote activities for change. At the same time, they have contributed to the dissemination of information about experiences and, in this way, to strengthening the women's movement through networks established for this purpose.10/

Academic and research bodies are study centres that seek to identify the specific characteristics of women through the analysis of the historical context in which they exist and the reality around them.

Studies on women in Latin America and the Caribbean, for political, economic and cultural reasons, have been produced at a comparatively slow rate up to 1980 when a sustained increase in research activities, training programmes and action programmes was noted in the region. These activities have been conducted in both governmental and non-governmental centres and universities. A sample of the output from these institutions is contained in annex 2. In addition, regional seminars have been held on this subject, which have enabled evaluations of experiences to be made and guidelines to be established for future activities.

At the Regional Seminar on Curriculum Development and the Preparation of Teaching Materials in Studies of Women in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires in 1986, under the auspices of UNESCO, a question that provoked widespread debate was how to define the form of institutional insertion of the problem of women in teaching programmes. Consideration was given to the advantages and disadvantages of including studies on women in the courses for university students studying for their first university degrees and for postgraduate students and to designing multidisciplinary courses or courses in this specific discipline. In this regard, attention was drawn to the obstacles of the scarcity of economic resources, the difficulty of securing trained teaching personnel and specialized bibliographic material, the resistance of the academic institutions and of the scientific milieu to incorporating these topics, the institutional instability existing in some of these centres and the potential students demand for these courses.

Consideration was also given to the question of which methodologies would be most appropriate. The participants recommended favouring a vigorous theoretical and methodological approach in this field and taking advantage of the non-academic experiments conducted with women in order to obtain more information about problems and to incorporate them into the analysis.11/

With respect to international organizations, an increasingly larger number of specialized bodies and of other organizations of the United Nations system are undertaking programmes and activities related to the status of women.

With a view to institutionalizing the exchange of information and co-operation among organizations in this field, several United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and regional bodies heeded the recommendations made during the Decade and established centres and co-ordinating units for activities related to women.

The organization of seminars and meetings of a political and technical nature which helped to define the conceptual and policy framework for women's programmes, as well as technical co-operation, training and advisory services provided at the international, interregional and regional levels, including co-operation among developing countries, are the principal activities carried out by these organizations --from their different areas of interest-- with a view to improving the status of women. Chapter II of this document contains more detailed information on these programmes.

b)   Statistical and numerical information

The United Nations Decade for Women has highlighted the need for information on the contribution of women to development. Statistical information makes it possible to quantify the scale and scope of this contribution. It has, however, been recognized that existing statistical systems do not permit an accurate assessment of the productive role of women in society.

The international demand for better statistics and indicators on women to facilitate the task of countries in planning for the full integration of women in social and economic development, arose prior to the Decade. During the Decade efforts were begun in this direction by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) of the United Nations and the United Nations Statistical Office, through the holding of seminars 12/ and the preparation of two specialized publications. The first of these, entitled Compiling Social Indicators on the Situation of Women deals mainly with the effective utilization of the statistics currently available in many countries (in censuses, household surveys and registration system) to prepare reliable indicators on the situation of women. It suggests means of obtaining basic indicators on women from such data, by applying various concepts and data-gathering methods in use.13/

The second of the publications, Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women, critically reviews the concepts and methods most generally used in gathering data in current national programmes. It suggests possible strategies for modifying the current international recommendations for these programmes with a view to collecting more appropriate and less distorted statistics on the role of women in development.14/

Principal sources of national data

The principal sources of national data are: censuses, sample surveys and administrative registers.

i) National population censuses are important sources of information on women, provided that the data for both sexes are separately tabulated.

Since the censuses cover the population as a whole, census statistics may also be reliably compiled for relatively small geographic areas and for specific population sub-groups. See chapter II for the procedure used by CELADE in this respect.

Population censuses are usually conducted every 10 years so that in the period between censuses the information becomes gradually outdated.

ii) The sample surveys are an alternative, both for obtaining data between censuses and for securing more detailed and updated information on specific topics. However, its geographical coverage is limited.

iii) Ministries and other governmental organizations, private companies, universities and research institutes maintain administrative registers. These are usually important sources of data, provided that separate registers are kept for each sex.

Studies are also carried out which employ anthropological and non-traditional methods for compiling data to supplement the information obtained from the three principal sources.

The principal sources present certain disadvantages for obtaining information on women.

The gathering, processing, compilation and tabulation of data give rise to distortions, particularly as regards the participation of women in the labour force. In this respect, at the international level, efforts are being made to more accurately define certain concepts such as, for example, that of head of household and that of economic activity.

Another aspect with which the international organizations have been greatly concerned is the need to maintain interaction between the producers and users of statistics and indicators on women. The producers should take the initiative of disseminating survey results extensively and rapidly and users should be more aware of the factors that affect the availability of statistics in the relevant national offices, such as the latter's limited resources and the need for users to take the initiative of requesting data.15/

c)   Bibliographic and documentary information

This comprises the information generated from the different activities undertaken in the field of women: research and studies, activity projects, texts, manuals or guides, theses and papers presented at conferences and meetings, bibliographies, directories, etc.

Its main value lies in the accumulation of knowledge which it represents and, consequently, such information should be analysed and systematized to facilitate access to it.

Its universal nature and its usefulness in time give it other characteristics which are of particular interest. Thus, the different forms which it takes are also related to the interests involved and the ways in which the various users and specialists approach the topic.

These characteristics have resulted in the different institutions, at the national, regional and international levels, maintaining information systems and networks and incorporating into them modern techniques for processing and disseminating information. The adoption of common methodologies and instruments for processing this information is another of the aspects which give rise to concern, and a trend towards improvement has been observed in this area.

Chapter II outlines the principal systems operating in the region in this field, as well as some national experiences. A more detailed examination of these questions is contained in chapter III.

2. Communications: definition, impact and modalities in relation to the status of women

It is generally agreed that the main value of communications is to encourage reflection, dialogue and analyses of the current situation, as well as to promote the exchange of experiences and the development and organization of certain social groups.

Although there still persist in the society laws or bureaucratic and administrative structures that discriminate against women, which have to be changed, the main problem lies rather in the persistence of prejudices related to their status and of deep-rooted beliefs surrounding the role which has been traditionally assigned to women. In this regard, it has been recognized that one way of changing this situation is through an effort of providing examples and by persuasion, in which information and communications should play a key role.

a) Modalities of communication

i) The mass communications media. These are powerful instruments in the creation and transmission of culture, attitudes, values and social aspirations.16/ However, in Latin America and the Caribbean, they are under the influence of the models that prevail internationally in the communication systems, which decisively impose their life styles, social aspirations and their manner of perceiving the world on other societies. In the case of women, specific trends have been observed towards the promotion of a model in which an attempt is made to include all women, without distinctions of any kind.

Numerous studies have concluded that such systems of communications may constitute a negative influence and a powerful brake on changing the situation of women while promoting values and behaviour patterns that help to strengthen discriminatory practices and influence women themselves to accept these practices as something natural.17/

The United Nations has adopted numerous decisions on the mass media and on the status of women. The policy framework described in the preceding section may be cited as a concrete example of this concern. In this respect, research has been conducted, reports prepared and a large number of seminars and meetings held. Nevertheless, this situation still persists and the communications media continue to present a distorted picture of woman.18/

In the face of this situation, and as an incipient method of countering this image, women from different parts of the world have established their own media and communications network to tackle the problem of the distortion of and misinformation about their own reality.

The period since 1980 has witnessed the emergence of several forms of response, three of which deserve special mention on account of their importance: the alternative communications media; the creation of women's news and information networks; and the increase in publishing houses and bookshops that cater to women.

ii) **The alternative communications media**. Alternative communications centered on women have been developed, by and for women, on account of the latter's growing awareness of the importance of communications as a vehicle for change.

Alternative communications as such are the sum of the expressive and symbolic experiences which provide information on the actors, projects and creations of broad social sectors that are excluded from the prevailing information systems.[19]

This exclusion has been increasingly criticized at the national and international levels in recent years, constituting one of the ways in which the less developed countries have sought to deal with the problem of the concentration of international power. Attention was first drawn to it in 1973 in the position adopted by the non-aligned countries in the face of the imbalance of information, the existing colonial legacy in the sphere of culture, and the concentration of transnational power possessed by the international communications structures as well as by a considerable number of the national media.

The countries of the third world and various institutions of the industrialized countries agreed on the need for a change in the information systems. This search gave rise to the thesis of alternative systems, interpreted as a framework for information and communications established on bases of solidarity and mutual support in order to develop cultural autonomy in the field of global communications.[20]

For the women's movement this is a very special period. The 1980s have witnessed significant progress of this movement in Latin America. The restoration of democracy in some countries had repercussions on the grass-roots movements which also recovered their freedoms. Feminism was recognized as an important agent of social change. In some countries women organized themselves on a collective basis and began to develop their identity through services that were controlled mainly by women.[21]

This type of communications not only found expression in written forms. Other modalities were also employed which have widened the dissemination of information and the exchange of experiences on the status of women. Among these, audiovisual methods seem to have great potential for communications.

Their ability to recreate reality makes them particularly attractive; they facilitate group work and permit access to broad sectors of society, particularly to those with a low educational level. They are instruments that help to promote participation by encouraging the expression of other points of view and of new proposals, thus enriching, through this exchange, the content presented.[22]

iii) <u>Development of news and information networks</u>. The emergence of these networks gives new impetus to the women's movement and other types of organizations, particularly non-governmental. Their establishment has been a logical consequence of the various needs existing within women's organizations which operate both at the local and national levels, and has been partly due to the need of groups to break out of their isolation and to share ideas, information and various work experiences through organization and action. Another factor was the need for women to meet and to define concerted actions aimed at changing the current situation, at different levels. Through the establishment of networks, the groups that comprised them retain their autonomy and specificity while at the same time uniting their efforts.

At the same time, the establishment of networks reduces the incidence of the duplication of efforts, thus permitting a more efficient use of resources.<u>23</u>/

Numerous networks have been created around a given theme or set of themes: health, communications media, transnational corporations involved in consumer goods, violence against women, employment, etc. Other networks aim to fulfil a specific objective such as, for example, to promote information and communications. Networks also exist for geographic regions and some of them pursue various of these objectives at the same time.

Women's networks have acted as catalysts in the formation of new networks and operate in conjunction with others that are sponsored by non-governmental organizations which support movements pursuing different aims: pacifists, educational development, consumer protection, etc.

iv) <u>Increase in the number of women's publishing houses and bookshops</u>. In view of the prevailing trend in the publishing industry, which has traditionally been male-dominated, women's publishing houses have sprung up in many industrialized countries and, more recently, in developing countries. This has resulted in a significant increase in women's literature, as studies on this subject have shown.<u>24</u>/

v) <u>Conferences, meetings and seminars</u>. Meetings make it possible to establish new contacts and to strengthen existing ones, as well as to exchange experiences and disseminate the results of studies. They also serve to systematize discussions and debates, which constitute a key element for orienting policies and programmes. They also contribute to the strengthening of the relationships among institutions and persons, and represent a contribution to knowledge on the subject. (See annex 3, which contains a list of meetings held on the subject.)

b)   <u>Impact of the new information technologies</u>

The new information technologies have had a great impact on the development of information and communications.

While the networks of computer communications, video cassettes, electronic mail, line and satellite services, for example, do not replace

books, magazines, periodicals and films, they do facilitate access to their contents.[25]

The design of networks has shown that some countries of Latin America and the Caribbean already have a high-quality and relatively low-cost international communications infrastructure but that it will be some time before such advantages are reflected in the design of networks and in the supply of services in each country.[26] Nonetheless, these communications networks will gradually expand and this trend will also be reflected in the information and communications activities related to the status of women; thanks to the proliferating use of microcomputers, a base is being created to promote this development and women's organizations are preparing themselves to exploit the advantages offered by the situation.

II. OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES
IN RESPECT OF THE TOPIC: INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND
PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT THE NATIONAL,
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

This chapter provides a description of the principal activities of a number of institutions involved in programmes for women, and in particular of those involved in activities connected with information and communications relating to the topic at the national, regional and global levels.

A number of significant programmes and actions have been selected in the field of women, defined on the basis of various criteria: by virtue of their significance as pilot experiments, of the fact that they illustrate alternative means of tackling a problem, they represent an ongoing and systematic measure or on account of the achievements made and their expected impact.

A. INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

Three areas have been identified within information activities: those which constitute institutional information and which concern the measures undertaken by the various bodies involved in women's affairs; aspects connected with statistical information and the agencies working in this field, and aspects bearing on bibliographic information and the description of the main programmes and actions in this area.

1. Information on institutions

a)   At the national level

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the following institutions have been selected for the purposes of this analysis from among the broad range of those involved in programmes concerning women: national mechanisms, non-governmental agencies and academic and research bodies.

i) National mechanisms. According to data provided by the Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women,27/ 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries possess this type of organization. The structural framework and statute governing these bodies vary from one country to another, depending on political, economic and social circumstances. However,

their fundamental characteristic is their ability to exercise authority and to obtain access to the decision-making levels of the government.28/ Other official governmental bodies may be found, although only those listed in the directory have been mentioned by way of example.

In 10 countries in the region these bodies are represented by governmental agencies; one corresponds to a non-governmental organization and two possess a mixed organizational structure. In the case of government agencies, the bodies concerned are various ministries: labour, social welfare, education and culture, justice, etc.

Generally speaking, these are of a pluralist structure with a variety of organizational forms, and are entrusted by governments with responsibility for co-ordinating and implementing measures designed to ensure the advancement of women. Table 1 shows some data relating to these bodies: country, name of the institution representing it, its nature and position within the administration.

ii) Non-governmental organizations. A review of the work carried out by non-governmental organizations leads to the conclusion that in Latin America and the Caribbean it has gained both strength and prominence among the measures aimed to bring about change. Women play a key role in this area either as protagonists or participants in the experiments carried out by these organizations.

The action of the vaso de leche (glass of milk) committees in Lima, the tireless work of the communal kitchens in Santiago, the therapeutic potential of herbs and plants --together with the social and symbolic relations which accompany and give meaning to their use-- or action aimed at the adoption of appropriate technology by communities, are just some of the responses provided by women or by the community in general to specific situations, and represent one approach to political action. By way of example, three experiences of work in support of these organizations, either with groups of women or another type of organization have been chosen:

An experience based on the constitution of medicine chests made up of medicinal plants

In its quest to disseminate the culture within which rural women live, the Study and Training Programme for Peasant and Indigenous Women (PEMCI) in Chile, developed a health project based on a programme of research and action. This experiment involved assisting in the development of medicine chests made up of medicinal plants, as a complementary health aid for the group and the community and in gathering information on the methods of use and significance associated with the herbs, involving two groups of rural women: one group made up of mapuches from the communities of Picuta and Coigüe, in the ninth region and a group of women from the area of Lo Ermita, Calera de Tango in the Metropolitan Region. In order to make up these medicine chests, the groups gathered, dried and packaged the most frequently used medicinal plants in their localities and at the same time began to exchange them. The information gathered as to the methods of use of these plants reveals an approach to illness and furthermore provides an essential tool for

Table 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: NATIONAL MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN
PROGRAMMES CONCERNING WOMEN

Country	Name of institution	Nature	Depends on
Argentina	Dirección General de la Mujer	Governmental	Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs
Barbados	Bureau of Women's Affairs	Governmental	Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development
Belize	Department of Women's Affairs	Governmental	Ministry of Labour and Social Services
Brazil	Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Mulher (National Council for the Rights of Women)	Governmental	Ministry of Justice
Chile	Secretaría Nacional de la Mujer	Governmental	Government
Cuba	Federación de Mujeres Cubanas	Non-governmental	
Ecuador	Dirección Nacional	Governmental	Ministry of Social Welfare
Jamaica	Bureau of Women's Affairs	Governmental	Ministry of Social Security and Consumer Affairs
Mexico	Comisión Nacional Mujer	Governmental	National Population Council
Saint Lucia	Women's Affairs Division	Governmental	Ministry of Community Development
Trinidad and Tobago	Women's Bureau	Governmental	Ministry of Community Development, Welfare and the Status of Women
Uruguay	Instituto de la Mujer	Interinstitutional (Governmental/Non-governmental)	Ministry of Education and Culture
Venezuela	Dirección General Sectorial de Promoción de la Mujer	Governmental	Ministry of the Family
	Dirección de Mujer y Menores	Governmental	Ministry of Labour
	Coordinadora de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales de Mujeres	Non-governmental	

Source: United Nations, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women, Commission on the Status of Women, thirty-second session (ST/CSDHA/BAW/BP.5), Vienna, 1988.

using the medicine chest. This experiment involved the women organizing themselves to share out their tasks and carrying out an ongoing group assessment of the progress of the experiment and of its results.29/

Experiment based on the prevention and detection of cancer of the uterus in a district of Lima

This idea arose from a course on women and health, sponsored by the "Flora Tristán" Centre for Peruvian Women. The group carried out a campaign of prevention and detection of cancer of the uterus in its district and in other neighbouring areas.30/

Experiments carried out on communal sayañas */

The Multi-services Appropriate Technologies Centre (SEMTA) in La Paz, Bolivia, is working to increase the agricultural potential of the province of Pajales, considered to be a transition zone between the Northern Altiplano and the Central, through its Programme of Intensive Cultivation and Livestock Raising. The purpose of the programme is to expand the region's agriculture potential, by tackling two fundamental problems: the lack of water and the considerable vulnerability of the crops to frost.

For this purpose, in addition to producing monetary income and supplementing the local diet by the production of new foods, SEMTA is introducing certain technological progress to the communal sayañas which are particularly suitable plots for crops.

The system is made up of a well, a windmill to pump water and a storage tank. For the purposes of this project, SEMTA channels, through the revolving funds system, material which is not to be found in the locality and which is an essential input for the project. By means of this project, these areas have succeeded in expanding their agricultural potential.

iii) Study and research centres. A large number of experiments are underway in countries in respect of this type of centre or programme. They include the following: the Centre for Women's Studies, in Chile; the Paraguayan Women's Study Group of the Paraguayan Centre for Sociological Studies; the "Flora Tristán" Women's Centre, in Peru; the Centre for Studies into the State and Society (CEDES) in Argentina; the Study Group into the Status of Women (GRECMU) in Uruguay; the Centre for Population Studies (CENEP) and the Centre for Women's Studies in Argentina; the Centre for Women's Studies in Brazil, etc. Some of these centres have established links with academic centres or possess specific chairs in women's studies. Table 2 shows the experience acquired by these programmes and summarizes some of their results.

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*/ Small arable plots.

Table 2

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH CENTRES WITH PROGRAMMES CONCERNING WOMEN

Country	Institution	Year set up	Programme	Impact/results
ARGENTINA	Centre for Women's Study Seminar "Women and Mental Health"	1979	**Objectives** - To investigate current theoretical concepts in the traditional training given in the psychology course in Argentina to provide a grasp of health-mental illness among women - To train non-sexist mental health professionals, capable of taking into account sexually marked values and cultural patterns	The assessment of this seminar highlights a clear change in both the theoretical and technical attitudes and outlook of the pupils. As most of them work in hospitals, the training given has been disseminated to other spheres
BRAZIL	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Rio de Janeiro Centre for Women's Studies (NEM)	1981	**Activities** a) Offers subjects in which credits may be earned in the academic programme of several departments for the award of a university diploma. Some of the courses offered are: women and society; women and psychology; women and law b) Edits teaching-aid texts used by other study centres in Brazil c) Organizes conferences, seminars, film festivals, photographic exhibition, etc. and edits a widely distributed broadsheet	The greatest impact of NEM within the university has been in the legitimation of the status of women as the subject for academic study

Table 2 (cont. 1)

Country	Institution	Year set up	Programme	Impact/results
MEXICO	Colegio de México. Research and Study Programme into Women (PIEM)	1983	a) Funding programme for research and scholarships. Set up in 1986 Objectives: to stimulate research into women as agents in the process of social transformation, both in the past and in the present and to stimulate studies from a historical angle to highlight the participation of women in the various spheres of political, economic and social life b) Training workshops. These have covered a whole range of topics and have been attended both by researchers from the Colegio, and from other academic institutions as well as by women from other areas interested in the subjects covered c) Documentation centre	The PIEM is as yet only temporary. In order for it to become permanent it has proposed to raise the theoretical level of its work and to incorporate researchers of both sexes from the Colegio itself and from other institutions, into debate and research
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Research Centre for Action in respect of WOMEN (CIPAF)/ Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD)	1983	Women's Studies Programme (PEM) Activities: a summer course held in conjunction with the Postgraduate Division of UASD and which represents the first National Seminar on Methods and Research Techniques in respect of Rural Women. Since 1986, through a convention between CIPAF and UASD, an extracurricular chair on women has existed with the Faculty of Political Science	The postgraduate course represented a step forward in the study of rural women as its impact allowed CIPAF to carry out research at the national level into this topic with the participation of pupils This was completed by a cycle of lectures open to the general public and publications in the press ensured national coverage

Table 2 (cont. 2)

Country	Institution	Year set up	Programme	Impact/results
ARGENTINA	National University of Buenos Aires. Faculty of Psychology	1985	Course "Introduction to the Psycho-social problematics of Women". Represents the first teaching experiment by this Faculty in women's studies Objectives: To provide historical and conceptual information making it possible to prepare instruments for analysing the classic treatment of femineity as well as other options which gradually emerge within women's studies. The topics were: maternity, sexuality and women's work.	The course had an impact within the Faculty and outside. It provided a basis on which changes began to take place in the attitudes of some teachers who began to show an interest in the topic of women and to acknowledge their academic level
ARGENTINA	FLACSO. Master's in Social Sciences. Specialized in Women's Studies	1985	Objectives: To provide systematic information to young researchers involved in research projects into women in various research centres in the country and to offer courses to master's students in other subjects within FLACSO The following courses have been offered: "Development of the social conscience of women and of their identity as a sex" and "Daily life, women and the family"	As a result of the courses held the existing theoretical output was revised. The pedagogical approach adopted encouraged students to draw on their personal experience; simultaneously, cross-references with other social actors and scientific output made it possible to shift from the individual to the social sphere

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Table 2 (concl.)

Country	Institution	Year set up	Programme	Impact/results
BARBADOS, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	University of the West Indies	1985 (preliminary action as from 1977)	Project for Women's studies in the University a) Preparation of material and training for personnel b) Initiation of the teaching of the programmes	The preliminary measures reached their objectives and the project is now under way. The project makes use of participative techniques in teaching a multidisciplinary approach and a grasp of the mutual relations between subjective and objective experience in the analysis of human behaviour.
ARGENTINA	Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO)		The working group on the status of women has not drawn up a specific programme, but has established study groups, in accordance with the needs of pupils of both sexes. This group has adopted the strategy of incorporating both women and men and holding brief intensive training sessions for scholars on the state of the discipline in which they propose to carry out research	Progress with knowledge of the topic from an integrated approach

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b)   At the regional and international level

i) ECLAC Unit for the Integration of Women into Development. Action in respect of the integration of women into the development of Latin America and the Caribbean falls within the regular programmes of work of the ECLAC system.

The activities pursue the following lines of work: research and study into the topic; training; technical assistance; organization of meetings and seminars of the Secretariat of ECLAC and co-ordination activities with other organizations within the United Nations system and other bodies.

More than 70 studies, studies and assessments of specific situations of women in the region have been carried out as part of the research and study activities. Most of these have been published in publications or presentations at ECLAC meetings.

In respect of training and in connection with the project on women and development planning, fellowships were awarded to women planners from countries in the region to attend courses run by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and two course-workshops were run at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in 1986 and in Quito, Ecuador, for the Andean area.

Furthermore, technical assistance was provided to several countries in the region, in particular to national institutions responsible for the integration of women into development.

At governmental and technical meetings and seminars organized by ECLAC, special examination was made of three topics: the diversity in the status and living conditions of women and families in the low-income urban sectors, and specifically, their insertion within the labour market; the usefulness of household surveys for obtaining adequate statistical data on women and the regional heterogeneity and diversity of circumstances of young women within their countries.

The work of the Unit was permanently co-ordinated with the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA). In addition, close contact was maintained with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), as part of its co-ordination and co-operation with other bodies in the United Nations system.

The overall thrust of its action will be to strive to integrate the topic within the theoretical work of ECLAC, and establish links with other social issues.

ii) The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). This Institute, whose headquarters are in the Dominican Republic, is an autonomous body within the United Nations system whose mandate is to promote and support, by means of research, training and the collection and exchange of information, all efforts undertaken by intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental agencies designed to

achieve the advancement of women in the economic, social and political spheres throughout the world.

INSTRAW is implementing a variety of programmes within its research and training activities. These include a programme for the improvement of statistics, indicators and data on women, which constitutes a significant contribution to the study of the status of women. In connection with this programme, progress has been made with the improvement of alternative methodological approaches for compiling statistics and indicators in respect of the status of women, particularly through training activities.

This activity has been carried out in close co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office, the regional economic commissions, national focal points and academic and non-governmental agencies concerned with the topic.

So far, four training workshops have been held in countries as well as a subregional workshop for producers and users of statistics on women, based on the methodology and training manual jointly prepared by INSTRAW and the United Nations Statistical Office.

The Institute's activities in the sphere of information, documentation and communication pursue the following objectives: to establish a mechanism in order to systematically organize any information produced in respect of women and to make it available to the various users; to provide support for the development of awareness and education by means of the dissemination of information and to promote the development of co-operation in the sphere of information on women between systems throughout the world. For 1988-1989, special priority will be given to activities connected with this programme.

In the sphere of communication, INSTRAW collaborates directly and at the personnel level with a network of institutions, researchers and consultants. Its international status enhances its role as a network, and allows it to establish links with institutions and individuals within and outside the United Nations system who are capable of directly contributing to the Institute's programme.

In addition, INSTRAW possesses considerable experience of the production of material for disseminating and promoting knowledge of women's issues. In this connection it has undertaken an extensive programme of activities, noteworthy among which is the publication of a half-yearly broadsheet entitled "INSTRAW Noticias" which seeks to inform governments, non-governmental organizations, groups of women and individuals of the most recent events and results of the Institute's activities in the sphere of women and development. Of particular significance among the activities carried out by the Institute in this sphere are the organization of seminars and workshops, the production of posters and other outreach material.31/

iii) <u>The participatory action programme for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)</u>. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women was set up in 1976 by a mandate from the General Assembly. In 1985 it became, in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Its purpose is to act as a catalyst to

facilitate adequate participation by women in the principal activities of development. To this end it provides support for innovative and experimental activities which are for the benefit of women.

The Participatory Action Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PAPLAC) run by UNIFEM with assistance from ECLAC, has adopted an innovative and dynamic criterion for its activities, by means of which the region's women take part in defining their needs and priorities as well as the strategies to allow them to bring about changes in their circumstances.

PAPLAC focuses its activities on four priority areas: women in rural areas in agricultural production, fishing and agricultural industries; women in the informal urban sector, in particular domestic service, domestic industries and independent or family trade; violence against women and communications systems.

The major projects carried out by UNIFEM in support of poor women in urban and rural zones include the following: four subprojects in Peru in support of economic management and knowledge of nutrition among the country's poorest communities together with a project co-sponsored with the "Flora Tristán" Centre for Peruvian Women, which provides legal, economic and occupational health and safety advice to industrial workers in the electronics, food, textile and chemical industries in Lima.

In Colombia more than one thousand peasant women from the Andean and Coastal regions benefit from a project to provide administrative and technical training to small-scale farmers, as well as training to agricultural outreach and health personnel.

In Saint Lucia, a project sponsored by ECLAC is designed to establish the percentage of the national social services budget allocated to women. The long-term objective is to involve women in all phases of social planning, from the very beginning.

In the Caribbean, in connection with a project sponsored by ECLAC, a study is being made of the economic activities of hagglers and hucksters in order to improve data collection and identify priority areas for programming.

In the Dominican Republic, a survey was carried out in more than two thousand rural households in connection with a project carried out by the Research Centre for Action in Respect of Women (CIPAF), in order to obtain detailed data on the following areas: paid and unpaid activities of women; the link between productive and reproductive activities and women's organizations. The results of the survey were published in two books and several videos have been produced on the circumstances of these women.

In Brazil a project was implemented to set up an information and documentation centre within the National Council for Women's Rights in order to gather information on the situation of women in the country. Its central objective is to develop public awareness of the status of women and to provide support for the development of policies designed to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them.

Finally, a project sponsored by the International Labour Organization (ILO) helps to change female stereotypes and to enhance the role of women, through short-length television documentaries.32/

iv) UNESCO Programme "The status of women". The major programme "The status of women" is of a horizontal nature. It has been realized that women's affairs involve all aspects of society, and it is consequently desirable to examine them in terms of their relations with the whole. The second Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989) adopted a twin strategy to improve the status of women. On the one hand, activities are carried out in connection with the various major programmes in order to improve the status of women while on the other, measures are adopted and efforts made to integrate the female dimension into all of the Organization's Programmes and Activities.

Specific activities designed to improve the status of women fall within the context of the various major programmes, although generally speaking, they focus on the following main topics:

First of all, the promotion of research and information activities in respect of the status of women. These activities include strengthening the research and teaching infrastructures, preparing and disseminating fresh theoretical methods and approaches, the provision of information and documentation services as well as the creation of national, regional and international networks of specialists in matters relating to the status of women. In this connection, regional meetings of researchers and university teachers have been organized with the support of UNESCO. These have included: the Latin American Seminar on Study Programmes on Women, held in 1981, and sponsored by the Pontificia Universidad Católica of Rio de Janeiro; the homonymous seminar, sponsored by the Colegio de México in 1985 and the Latin American and Regional Seminar "Curricula Development and Preparation of Teaching Material in Women's Studies for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean", held in Buenos Aires in 1986 and sponsored by the University of Buenos Aires and the Centre for Women's Studies.

These activities also include studies and research into the following topics: foreseeable changes in the status of women to the year 2000, the basic rights of women and the elimination of gender-based discrimination, violence against women; the role of women in the transmission of historical memory and cultural values; the new roles of women and men within the family and in public life, together with the image of women projected by the mass media and its impact.

Another topic of interest has been the improvement of access by young people and women to education and training and the strengthening of the educational role of women in society.

In order to examine these issues, the Regional Technical Meeting on Educational Inequality Among Young People and Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in 1983, and its conclusions made a valuable contribution to research and future measures in this field.

Other activities along the same lines are designed to reveal stereotyped portrayals of women in teaching manuals and material in order to eliminate

them and to incorporate themes representing the contribution of women to development.

A third topic of interest is the enhancement of women's role in development and their participation in political, economic, social and cultural life. The activities include research and projects designed to increase such participation.33/ 34/

v) The UNICEF Regional Programme for the Participation of Women in Development. As a child's development is intimately linked to its mother's state of health, UNICEF altered the orientation of its programmes for women in order to consider them both as mothers and as individuals. Thus, the emphasis on assistance which originally underlay the programmes was replaced by a focus on development. The regional programme for the participation of women in development sprang from this new orientation. "The programme co-operates with government and a number of non-governmental bodies in order to provide support for projects and activities dealing with the specific needs of women at each stage in their life cycle (young girls, adolescents, adults and the elderly). The areas in which support are provided are advocacy, basic services, economic activities, organization and institutionalization."*/

The aim of the activities carried out within Advocacy is to attempt to develop an awareness among governmental and non-governmental agencies, women, their families and communities regarding the needs of women and the role which they play in society.

Basic services seek to provide for the specific needs of poor women in terms of health, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, education and literacy.

The objectives pursued by the area of Economic activities are to provide training, technical and administrative assistance as well as credit to provide employment and income.

The area of Organization provides support for the establishment of women's organizations and for their ongoing development.

By means of the area of Institutionalization, UNICEF endeavours to ensure that governments adopt and expand methodologies and strategies which have proved successful and devote budgetary funds and resources in support thereof.

At the present time this programme provides support for 57 projects in 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Certain successful small projects have made it possible to develop models which, with support from UNICEF and government and non-governmental agencies, have been institutionalized, providing support and services for women at the national

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*/ See UNICEF, "El Programa Regional, Participación de la Mujer en el Desarrollo" Un paso con la mujer, un salto en el desarrollo, Bogotá, Colombia, Editora Guadalupe Limitada, 1987, p. 7, footnote 1, which states: "as there is no word in Spanish which corresponds exactly to the meaning of "Advocacy" this is to be understood as meaning advocating, insisting on, promoting, defending the cause of women".

level. Furthermore, these experiences have been shared and transferred to other countries.

As illustrations of other projects undertaken by UNICEF, mention may be made, in the area of basic services, of one carried out in Bolivia in connection with the National Settlement Policy. This project provides support for an integral programme of basic services including projects and activities in the spheres of health, nutrition, education and literacy.

In the sphere of Economic Activities, credit is provided for itinerant vendors in the south-western area of Cartagena, Colombia, through a project to generate income. In 1984 the project entered a phase of consolidation in respect of which UNICEF and the National Training Service (CENA) signed an agreement in order to systematize methodology and train human resources to repeat and extend the experiment at the national level. At present the project has been institutionalized and is under way in other cities in Colombia.35/

vi) Programme for the participation and integration of women into agricultural and rural development of FAO. At the institutional level, women's problems find their place within this institution's Rural Development Programme. Specifically, the issue is given full coverage by the action of an Interdivisional Working Party.

Action designed to bring about the integration of women into rural development aims at achieving recognition for the vital role played by women in economic and social life and for their role in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Both of these constitute essential requirements for successful rural development planning and for the implementation of programmes.

The programme for the participation and integration of women into agricultural and rural development for 1986-1987,36/ planned activities at the national and subregional levels, including the following: organization of a survey into the situation of women in agricultural production, marketing and agroindustries in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including fishing and forestry; the organization of training activities and activities for the exchange of technical co-operation in the field; technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) in the form of national training courses for groups, the exchange of technicians to assist governments in planning programmes and activities in this sector; the organization of studies in specific countries relating to the methodologies adopted for projects to provide income for women and the preparation and dissemination of publications and audiovisual material on the topic.

An illustration of the activities carried out in the region is provided by the preparation of publications and studies on the theme of women, such as the one carried out in connection with the project "the incorporation of peasant women into the process of production and consolidation of groups in the reformed sector" (Project HON/82/007 of UNDP, the National Agrarian Institute (INA) and FAO) involving the systematization of experience and methodologies and an assessment of the project's impact on selected groups of peasants. It is also worthwhile mentioning the case studies connected with income-generation projects to evaluate the applicability of a Project

Assessment Manual, drawn up by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the sphere of horizontal co-operation support was provided for the exchange of technicians among countries in the region and to allow a number of officials to attend workshops and training courses held in certain countries. These include the workshops and courses held in Chile and Costa Rica.

Another significant sphere in which FAO was actively involved was in meetings organized by the Regional Office or in conjunction with other bodies. Examples are two meetings held recently: the Subregional Round Table on "The Participation and Integration of Women into Agriculture and Rural Development in the Caribbean" held in Saint Lucia in July 1987, and sponsored by the country's Ministry of Agriculture and the Training Workshop on "Assessment of Income-Generation Projects for Peasant Women", held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1988.

In the sphere of training, the Regional Office provided technical and financial assistance for the organization of training courses. These include the training courses held in Belize, Honduras and Santiago, Chile.

vii) Information Referral System (INRES). This system has been developed by UNDP since 1975 and seeks to contribute towards horizontal co-operation by providing the necessary information for the voluntary sharing or exchange of technical resources, knowledge and capacity between two or more developing countries to achieve their individual or mutual growth.

At the present time, a computerized data bank, began in 1982, is available. It contains multisectoral information relating to the capacity of institutions in the developing countries to provide education and training courses, research and technological development services, consultancy and expert services as well as scientific and technical information. It also contains information relating to these institutions in respect of TCDC projects.37/

2. Statistical or numerical data

a) At the national level

In order to improve knowledge of the economic activities carried out by women, who are classified as inactive by censuses, demographic surveys or employment surveys —in accordance with conventional criteria— experimental studies have been carried out in four Latin American countries (Honduras, Costa Rica, Bolivia and Uruguay) in order to improve these data.

These studies on the activity carried out, which have received collaboration from CELADE, have involved the introduction of a module, applicable to women above a certain age, containing specific questions on the activity carried out. Some of these studies are extremely recent as a result of which no data are yet available regarding the results of some of them.

Experiments carried out in Honduras in 1983 as well as in Costa Rica, together with the definitive results of the National Retrospective Demographic

Survey of Honduras (EDENH-II), which ended in 1984, made use of the data already collected and prepared. Use of the module referred to above made it possible to obtain tabulations revealing considerable differences in the female activity ratios.38/

Table 3 shows the applications made in the countries mentioned.

b)   **At the regional and international levels**

Various regional and international organizations possess statistical data bases which they have particular efforts to analyse and improve as far as the status of women is concerned. These include: the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); the Statistics and Projections Division of ECLAC; and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

i) International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). This institute's activities are described on pages 25 and 26 of this report.

ii) Statistics and Projections Division of ECLAC. This division's data base contains information, broken down on the basis of sex, from census samples, population censuses, ongoing statistics and household surveys. This information has facilitated the preparation of studies 39/ relating to statistical analysis in respect of women on the labour market and of the repercussions of the economic crisis (see table 4).

iii) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). Since 1969, this Centre has possessed a Data Processing Unit which retrieves data from the censuses and surveys carried out in the different countries in the region and processes them for its own use as well as to provide assistance and services to national institutions.

In respect of women, CELADE has initiated activities designed to intensify study of the relations between the status of women and demographic variables and in this connection it has planned to resort to more specific data sources than those so far utilized.

In connection with these activities, and in order to disseminate the quantitative data available in the centre, an issue of its Demographic Bulletin was devoted to the analysis of the social and demographic situation of women in Latin America.

A number of selected tables, taken from the population censuses, together with analysis thereof by a number of the Centre's specialists was used to provide an overall demographic profile of the female population, taking into account the following factors: fertility, mortality, education, international migration and employment. In all of these spheres the data revealed both the differences in comparison with the male population and the prevailing conditions in the different countries in the region.40/

Table 3

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES DESIGNED TO GATHER INFORMATION
ON THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF WOMEN

Honduras   Pilot survey for EDENH-II, Municipal Councils of Choluteca and
                  El Corpus; May 1983. Female population over 10.

Costa Rica   Experimental Population Census in San Juan, San Ramón Canton;
                  May 1983. Female population over 12.

Honduras   National Demographic Survey of Honduras (EDENH-II); July 1984.
                  Female population over 10.

Bolivia   Experimental Population Census in the Cliza Canton, Department
                  of Cochabamba; December 1985. Female population over 7.

                  Experimental Population Census in the Comanche Canton,
                  Department of La Paz; January 1986. Female population over 7.

Uruguay   Pilot survey for the National Fertility and Health Survey.
                  Departments of Montevideo and Salto; April 1986. Female
                  population between 15 and 49.

                  National Fertility and Health Survey (ENFS); June-October 1986.
                  Population between 15 and 49.

                  In neither case was a special module introduced, but rather
                  incorporated into the survey itself, while maintaining its
                  specific character.

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Source: Guillermo Macció, La actividad de las inactivas. Document presented at
        the Seminar on "Economic Characteristics in the 1990 Population
        Censuses", Buenos Aires, 28 to 31 October 1986.

Table 4

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS INCORPORATED INTO THE DATA BANK OF THE
STATISTICS AND PROJECTIONS DIVISION OF ECLAC a/

Countries	Number of surveys	Geographical coverage			Year of survey	
		National	Urban	Metro-politan area	Earliest	Most recent
Argentina	7		1	6	1970	1982
Bolivia	8		5	3	1978	1985
Brazil	4	4			1977	1985
Colombia	14	4	9	1	1971	1985
Costa Rica	7	6	1		1967	1985
Chile	6	6			1971	1984
Panama	4	2		2	1970	1985
Peru	6	1	2	3	1974	1982
Uruguay	3		2	1	1980	1985
Venezuela	10	9		1	1971	1985

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),
Las mujeres en el sector informal en América Latina: aspectos
metodológicos (LC/R.562) Santiago, Chile, 1987, p. 73.
a/ Figures up-dated to May 1988.

A further activity undertaken by this institution, and which has
applications in studies relating to women, is the REDATAM system, Recovery of
Census Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer. By means of this system, users
are able to choose any area they desire, down to the size of a block or any
area made up of smaller units, in order to produce tabulations from original
or retrieved variables. This system has now been installed in the National
Statistical Offices of Saint Lucia, Chile and Costa Rica.41/

3. Bibliographic and documentary information

a) At the national level

The institutions, organizations and groups of different kinds working in
countries on matters related to women have been concerned with establishing or
obtaining access to centres or systems containing specialized information in
this field.

The level of organization achieved varies and, in general, is related to
the support received from international organizations and financing agencies
in the form of resources or technical assistance.

Various experiments are currently underway in different countries of the region; in Uruguay, the Study Group on the Status of Women (GREOMU); in Peru, the Documentation Centre (CENDOC), which serves four institutions; in the Dominican Republic, the Research Centre for Women's Activities (CIPAF); in Costa Rica, where there is a National Information Programme, to cite a few examples. Some of these, such as DOCPAL and INFOPLAN, are focal points of regional information systems and have adopted the working methodologies of these systems, maintaining a continuous exchange with them. Other centres carry out their activities using methodologies which they themselves developed. The question of methodology has been discussed at various meetings and there has been a general consensus on the need for institutions to reach agreement, as far as possible, on the standardization of procedures, in order to facilitate and render more efficient the transfer of information.

Among the experiments mentioned above, that of Costa Rica differs from the others in that it is a National Information Network for Women and constitutes a subsystem of the National Information Planning Network (NAPLAN), an agency of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy. It began its work in 1985, with the preparation of a diagnostic study on the current status of women and a proposal for an information system on women in Costa Rica.

The establishment of this Network was promoted by the Programme of Information for Women of Costa Rica and is supported financially by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). This Network is currently composed of 23 information units belonging to ministries, universities, international organizations and non-governmental bodies.

So far a number of activities have been carried out with the participation of the institutions that comprise the Network: training courses for the personnel of these units and publication of the Bulletin of New Bibliographic Entries which contains the lists of documents already entered into the computerized data base, and the preparation of a Document Selection Manual.42/

b)   At the regional and international level

Various specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations system are concerned with the analysis and dissemination of information on the status of women, from different perspectives. There are a number of reference centres or data banks in which information is deposited: UNESCO has a centre for the distribution of documents on women and girls; the ILO maintains a computerized data base which compiles the output of information on this subject generated by the institution and that of other organizations that are concerned with the subject of the employment of women; the units of the bibliographic system of ECLAC: CLADES, DOCPAL and the Library maintain data bases that cover the subject of women; the Intergovernmental Committee for Migrations (ICM) maintains a regional bibliographic information system on migration, which contains documentation on migrant and refugee women. There are also specialized information systems in this area, such as those of INSTRAW, the Branch for the Advancement of Women, in Vienna, Isis International, etc., which are devoted to in-depth analyses of information

and documentation in order to highlight the differences that exist in this area.

A brief description is given below of the work being done by these systems.

i) Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. As a leading protagonist in women's issues at the international level, within the framework of the United Nations system, this body has prepared proposals and is putting into operation a Women's Information System (WIS). The latter is a computerized data base on the information and documentation generated by the agencies of the United Nations system, which facilitates a more active participation by agencies in evaluations and promotes a more rational procedure for compiling information on the subject. At the same time, it provides comprehensive coverage of the information needs of the United Nations system and other organizations at the national and international levels.

In order to examine the procedures and possible forms of organization, in January 1988, the Seminar on Information Systems for the Advancement of Women for the National Machinery Report was organized in Vienna by the Branch for the Advancement of Women and the Commission on the Status of Women.43/

The conclusions of this Seminar confirm the need for information systems in the countries, preferably as part of the national machinery, and the need to co-ordinate these matters through the organization of information networks, as far as possible making use of modern information and communication technology.

These national systems would facilitate sectoral co-ordination and general planning for the advancement of women. As far as possible, they should use methodologies that are compatible with those of international systems and seek forms of attracting funds which would permit the establishment of connections at the subregional, regional and international levels.

In this regard, the national machinery could evaluate the results obtained by the Branch for the Advancement of Women in implementing the Women's Information System (WIS). Moreover, the work being carried out by the WIS must be pursued and the current system of experimentation strengthened under the auspices of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The agencies of the United Nations system, particularly the Branch for the Advancement of Women and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, should provide consultancy, technical assistance and training services to the national machinery, in order to improve their information activities.

ii) The Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) was established in 1971, at the request of the governments of the region, which were members of ECLAC.

Their activities have been geared towards the establishment of interinstitutional information networks specialized in different aspects of

development and in the design and promotion of standardized systems of information processing.

The Centre has a broad information base on the regional situation as regards the national information and documentation infrastructures, the result of diagnostic studies which have been carried out and of the technical assistance missions which it undertakes.

It is responsible for co-ordinating the Planning Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPLAN), which requires the maintenance of a data base with information in this area to supply the various focal points of the NAPLAN networks and containing approximately 11 000 entries.44/

The following publications are part of the output of CLADES: PLANINDEX, which contains the information on planning entered in the data base; Informativo INFOPLAN, which reports on new features of the system; Informativo Terminológico, which seeks to standardize the terminology used in information processing; Serie INFOPLAN: Temas Especiales del Desarrollo; and national and development bibliographies, using the information of their data base.

At the same time, as part of its training activities, it has produced training kits which facilitate the organization of networks and information centres in a standardized manner.

The services of CLADES includes the provision of technical advice in the field of information and systems and in the introduction of computerized systems for handling bibliographic information. It also offers training in project formulation in the area of economic and social development.45/

In this regard special mention must be made of INFOLAC, the Regional Programme to Strengthen Co-operation among National Information Networks and Systems for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The overall objective of the programme is to enhance the individual and joint autonomy and capacity of the national institutions of the region. Its main areas of activity are: the management of information projects; the evaluation of modern technologies for information management, compatibilization, systematization and interconnection of non-numerical automated data bases; the promotion of the use of information services, units, systems and networks; and finally, the training of human resources specialized in information. The technical secretariat of INFOLAC is composed of ECLAC/CLADES together with the Department of Scientific Affairs of the OAS and the General Information Programme of UNESCO.

iii) The Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL) 46/ was established in 1976 as a permanent regional bibliographic information service which maintains a computerized information data base consisting of approximately 30 000 entries, to which between 1 800 and 2 000 new entries are added each year. It maintains the following regional services: publication of the twice yearly review (June and December) DOCPAL Resúmenes sobre Población en América Latina, which contains summaries of the most recent publications on the subject; specialized bibliographies upon request, which are obtained from interactive searches within the data base, at no cost to the user; a document delivery service that provides, upon the request of interested persons,

photocopies and, in the near future, microfiches of the documents contained in the data base: partial exchanges on the basis of agreements, under which microfilmed documents are sent to participating centres such as the Data Analysis System of the State of São Paulo (SEADE) of Brazil and CONAPO of Mexico, which have benefited from this new modality of information exchange, and bibliographic information from the participating centre are received in the same manner.

CIADES and DOCPAL together with the ECLAC Library, constitute the bibliographic system of ECLAC, which currently has more than 66 000 entries in its data base.

iv) Isis International (Women's International Information and Communication Service) is a non-governmental organization which, since 1984, has maintained an office in Santiago, Chile, that co-ordinates its services and publications for Latin America and the Caribbean in order to promote the exchange of information and experiences among the women of the continent and between the latter and groups of women from other parts of the world. It currently comprises a network of more than 10 000 contacts in 150 countries.

In performing this function, the Centre uses a computerized data base on the subject of women, at a worldwide level, with special emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean. The data base currently contains approximately 1 500 entries, grouped into 28 thematic categories such as: the identity of women; health and procreation; the economy and labour, etc.

In Latin America and the Caribbean it is engaged in the following activities and services: co-ordination of the Health Network of Latin American and Caribbean Women, whose objectives are to identify and promote interaction among the groups, organizations and institutions concerned with women's health and to compile and disseminate the material produced by such bodies through the publication of a bimonthly bulletin by the Network; it also produces and publishes the Women's Review of the Women's International Information and Communication Service, in collaboration with one or more groups of women from the third world. In addition, it publishes Women in Action, a supplement to the Women's Review of the Women's International Information and Communication Service; it prepares and distributes information guides in which it provides systematized information of use to women and groups interested in this subject. These guides include: Women in Development – a guide to resources for organizing and for overcoming stereotypes; a guide to audiovisual resources for women; in addition, it maintains an information and documentation centre which provides support at the domestic level for the work of the institution as well as services to groups and institutions that request them.

v) Latin American Information Centre on Migration (CIMAL). This Centre was established by the ICM in Santiago, Chile in 1983, and has a computerized data base that contains approximately 3 500 entries on migrations and on qualified human resources, including information on the subject of women. In maintaining this data base, the ICM co-ordinates its activities with the bibliographic system of ECLAC.

The Centre carries out research, technical assistance and information dissemination activities. Its research is mainly aimed at identifying the most significant activities undertaken in the region in the field of migrations. Through technical assistance it collaborates in the establishment or strengthening of information units concerned with the issue of migration. Information is disseminated through the publication of the ICM Review on migrations in Latin America, in a Spanish-English bilingual edition. To supplement this service, computerized bibliographies are prepared and photocopies are provided on request.

B. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Analysis at the national level

At the national level, a study sponsored by UNESCO, with the collaboration of the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations,47/ reviews the broad situation in this field in the different countries and, more particularly, the way in which governments perceived change in the content, use and policies of the communications media, with regard to women during the course of the Decade.

The conclusions of the study are not sufficiently encouraging. Although the replies of governments indicate that the United Nations Decade for Women has coincided with a period of activity in promoting equality and participation of women in the sector of communications, women's rights in the field of the communications media are still very far from being consolidated. In fact, only a small minority of countries have designed careful strategies to implement policies in this regard, even where such policies already exist.48/

As regards the image of women projected by the mass communications media, the information provided by this study and by others that have been conducted in this field confirm that, with a few exceptions, this image continues to conform to a traditional stereotype. The situation is hardly any better as regards the roles assigned to women in the news and in leisure programmes, and even the educational communications media leave much to be desired in this regard.

A number of more recent studies show that a change is taking place which, although slight, suggests that the communications media do not necessarily have to conform to a given form of presentation.

This is the case in countries such as Venezuela, Mexico and Ecuador, where the traditional information media include special sections on the situation of women from different perspectives. In this regard, the example may be mentioned of the newspapers El Nacional of Venezuela, El Día of Mexico and Hoy of Ecuador. Several cultural differences have been noted and it has been observed that the programmes broadcast are more positive in those countries in which there is a firm commitment to improving the status of women at the different levels.

In the case of Cuba, the study indicates that since the triumph of the revolution in 1959, the image of women projected by the Cuban communications media has undergone a radical change. The image currently presented is that of the female worker (student, militant, professional), who is an active participant in all areas of the daily life of the country.49/

As regards the professional participation of women in the communications media, the studies show that women are under-represented at the higher levels of the communications organizations with no account being taken of their academic qualifications, years of service and the scope of their experience. Women continue to be excluded from key decision-making positions and their earnings continue to be lower than those of their male counterparts.50/

In so far as the distinction between newspapers for women and the feminist press is concerned, most countries have a press catering to women, which is not necessarily feminist. Women's organizations publish periodicals and bulletins and have access, although not on a regular and priority basis, to the traditional communications media.51/

The situation as regards experiments in alternative forms of communication is different. The potential to counter the image of women which is put forward by the traditional media by using other types of publications represents a positive contribution to the women's movement. Nonetheless, there are still limitations arising mainly from the insufficient awareness, within the women's organizations themselves, of the importance of communications; or from the compartmentalization and isolation in which the various experiments in alternative communication are conducted.52/

By way of example, a number of experiments in this field are described below. These take the form of publications whose role in influencing women's groups and promoting discussion of and changes in the situation of broad sectors of the society is recognized within the country.

This is so in the case of Fem, an analytic review published in Mexico since 1976; of Viva published in Peru by the Peruvian Centre for Women "Flora Tristán", whose objective is to engage in political reflection on the country from a feminist perspective; Mulherio in Brazil, published by the Publications Nucleus of the same name, which is characterized by an approach to the problem of women that takes into account the problems of men thus permitting the incorporation of the specific view of women on the various areas of interest in the society. Quehaceres, a publication in the Dominican Republic, prepared by the Research Centre for Women's Activities (CIPAF). La Cacerola, of the Study Group on the Status of Women in Uruguay (GRECMU), which promotes dialogue between researchers and women in Uruguay.53/ In addition, regional publications such as Mujer-Fempress play an important role in the countries since they fulfil needs or stimulate local groups into initiating new experiments.

Other noteworthy forms of alternative communication are those that use audiovisual media. Two of these deserve particular mention; the application of audiovisual material in basic education, which is being carried out by CIDHAL (Communication, Exchange and Human Development in Latin America) in Mexico and whose principal function is to work with women from working class urban

sectors, and to pay particular attention to the situation of women in families, in work places and in the community.

In the field of health, CIDHAL also provides a number of services and organizes women's health groups. It utilizes audiovisual material in all of these activities.

Another experiment is that carried out by the Amauta Association of Cuzco, in Peru, which promoted a programme to organize and train the women of three districts of that city: Pueblo Joven Barrio de Dios, Pueblo Joven Primero de Enero, and Asociación Pro-vivienda Manawanonga. After being organized, the women from these districts felt the need to exchange their experiences and to promote a discussion of their own problems, within their communities. They selected the audiovisual method as their medium of communication since they felt that this medium would enable them to communicate with a large number of women, including with those who were unable to read.54/

2. Regional studies

Of those institutions working at the regional level in the field of communications, four of them deserve special mention on account of the work which they perform in different areas related to the problem, as well as for the influence which they have had on the women's movement in Latin America: the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (its activities are described on pages 25 and 26); the Women's International Information and Communication Service, whose activities are described on page 38; the International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC); and the Women's Alternative Communications Unit.

The International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC), with headquarters in New York, has been working since its establishment in 1976 with women and groups of women from the third world. Its programme is geared towards the following areas: technical assistance and training; information adaptation and distribution services; and network communications support. Through these activities, IWTC compiles and disseminates information from and about women and groups of women; produces and distributes material such as manuals, books, folders, audiovisual material, etc., in collaboration with groups or at the latter's request; it facilitates and supports the establishment of new networks, and the strengthening of existing ones.

It publishes the bulletin La Tribuna, which contains varied information on different topics: projects, resources, events, and activities in which women participate and which affect their lives and status. The manuals entitled "My project: how to finance it" and "Mobilizing women" have proved to be particularly useful to women.55/

The Unit of Alternative Communication for Women was created in 1981 in the Latin American Institute for Transnational Studies (ILET). The needs of women themselves have defined the scope of the project, whose principal objective is to identify and compile information about the situation of women

in Latin America and to disseminate such information to a broad range of users, in the different countries and sectors of the population.

The information handled by the Unit is obtained mainly from reviews and periodicals from the different countries of Latin America and from alternative women's publications obtained from different parts of the world. It also receives information directly from a network of correspondents in 13 countries of the region. In addition, it maintains contact with other action and research centres, which constitutes a direct source of communication with organizations and groups working in this area. On the basis of this information, the Unit prepares its monthly bulletin entitled Mujer, which is divided into two sections: the first of these reproduces articles and news on women, which are published in each country while the second is devoted to articles especially written by the assigned correspondents, which provide information and gives the women's viewpoint on local affairs.

The bulletin Mujer supplies the communications media with alternative information on women; currently, more than 40 press media and more than 20 radio services use or reproduce articles taken from this bulletin. In this regard, as from April 1988, a new service, the FEMPRESS press service, aimed at the publishers of the traditional information media, will provide these articles on the status of women, from the perspective of women.

Each quarter, the Unit prepares dossiers on specific issues, and also publishes the Alternative Communications Series, a series of booklets describing significant experiments in this field.

Another activity that is carried out by the Centre is to make women more aware of journalists and of the importance of the use of the mass communications media for women's associations and groups, through workshops, debates and seminars. These activities are organized by the staff of the Unit and the correspondents of FEMPRESS.

III. REVIEW AND SYSTEMATIZATION OF A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS
ON WOMEN IN PRIORITY AREAS OF STUDY:
SOME CONSIDERATIONS

A. OBJECTIVES

Based on a selection of documents concerned with women in areas defined as having priority for the study of this subject, which are included in bibliographic information systems in the region, this chapter seeks to fulfil the following objectives:

1. To identify the areas of greatest interest as regards literary production on subjects related to the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 1975 onwards highlighting those aspects which have been of particular importance in these areas;

2. To identify the new areas of study that have resulted from the concern about this topic; and

3. To systematize research, projects and studies produced in two areas, namely: women and employment and the identity of women.

These objectives were set taking into consideration the areas defined by the policy-setting instruments for the review of the status of women, namely, the United Nations Decade for Women, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Regional Programme of Action, as well as the development that has taken place in this field over the period covered by this study.

The study arose out of the concern of organizations at both the national and international levels, as well as by financing agencies, for information, which has led to the establishment and maintenance of bibliographic systems. These systems are either specifically devoted to the subject of women or the latter constitutes one of the fields with which it is concerned.

The methodologies used by these systems and the in-depth analyses which they conduct of the publications included in their collections, facilitated the review of the information that had been collected.

Moreover, the study was facilitated by technological advances in information processing. The computarization of these systems made it possible

to retrieve the data on the basis of the elements that were considered important for this review, and to carry out the corresponding cross indexing.

B. METHODOLOGY

1. Information gathering

The methodology employed in this study was based on the selection of the areas that would be included, using, for this purpose, the recommendations of the policy-setting instruments already referred to. At the same time, new areas of concern in respect of this subject were identified on the basis of the conclusions of meetings and of a review of the activities of academic and research bodies.

As part of the programme of activities, the major institutions working in this field in the region were asked to submit information on programmes concerning women and activities that had been carried out in the field of information and communications. The information on the programmes carried out by these institutions is contained in chapter II.

At the regional and international level, the following bodies were consulted: the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), the Intergovernmental Committee for Migrations (ICM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Latin American Institute for Transnational Studies (ILET), the Women's International Information and Communication Service, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). At the national level, centres in various countries were contacted and replies obtained from the following institutions: the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer de Chile, el Programa de la Mujer de Costa Rica, the Centro de la Mujer "Flora Tristán" of Peru and the Centro de Formación y Estudios del Uruguay (CIESU).

The universe of this study comprises the existing documents in the data bases of two systems, namely: the Bibliographic System of ECLAC (consisting of CLADES, DOCPAL and the Library), which is specialized in the field of economic and social development, one of whose subjects of interest is that of women and the information system of the Women's International Information and Communication Service, which is based on this subject.

For this purpose, the research areas of interest (women and employment, violence against women, feminine identity, etc.) were transposed to the terminology included in the vocabularies used by these systems (Multilingual Thesaurus on Population,56/ Macrothesaurus for the processing of information on economic and social development,57/ The UNESCO Thesaurus on Education: OIE,58/ and the "List of descriptors on the subject of women",59/) and the bibliographies were obtained through interactive searches. The analysis of

these bibliographies made it possible to identify the type and volume of information contained in these systems.

For the purposes of the research on the thesis produced on this subject, the information was supplemented by other information from a number of academic centres in countries of the region and in the United States and by the review of secondary sources specialized in this type of document.60/

In order to obtain the information on projects concerning women, a search was requested of the Information Retrieval System of UNDP, whose entries constitute a support for horizontal co-operation.

The volume of information obtained from bibliographies made it necessary to focus the research into two areas: employment and the identity of women. Female employment was selected because it represents an area considered as priority for the study of their status and identity and because it constitutes a subject of more recent interest which promotes awareness of the specific characteristics of women.

The selection comprises 364 documents, of which 270 relate to the employment of women and 94 to their identity. If account is taken of the fact that the two systems taken together contain 4 265 documents on the subject of women, this selection constitutes approximately 8% of the two collections taken together. Appendixes 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 contain the tables prepared on the basis of this information.

2. Analysis

The information contained in the bibliographies was analysed to determine: which are the topics of the study, who study them, to what purpose, when are these studies undertaken, what form do these studies take, where is this production concentrated (countries, regions), etc.

With this aim in mind, the information was grouped into categories both on the basis of content (thematic areas, thrust of the study, groups or sectors studied, etc.), and on the way in which the information is generated (quantitative or qualitative methodologies, nature of the documents, types of documents produced, i.e., theses, papers presented at conferences, etc.).

C. RESULTS

1. Traditional topics of study

The study of the state of information on a number of topics covered by the United Nations Decade for Women, affords a general picture of the existence of such information and its processing in the information systems selected for this study.

Of these topics, those which were considered as fundamental to the study of the status of women were selected: employment, education, health, organization and social participation, legislation and planning.

The review of the available documentation on these topics in the selected information systems revealed that most of the information generated was concerned with those topics. The employment of women constitutes a field of special interest which has been the focus of a broad range of studies (a study of this subject is contained in section 3 of this chapter).

The organization of women and their social participation are subjects that have also received special attention in both systems. In the case of the Women's International Information and Communication Service, information tends to focus on the different types of women's organizations (political, community, trade unions, co-operatives, etc.) and on the activities which such organizations are carrying out in different areas.

The living conditions of the different groups, the effects of the economic crisis, the forms of mobilization and social participation, subsistence strategies, solidarity networks, the effects of authoritarian régimes, the struggle for democracy, and the activity of social movements, are the aspects of this subject which receive most attention.

The concern about the area of health is also significant in that it constitutes a priority area for the Women's International Information and Communication Service, as the co-ordinating institution of the Health Network of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Aspects such as health as it relates to reproduction, primary health care, preventive medicine, mental health, traditional medicine and health education, are the focus of attention in this system. In the ECLAC system the subject of health is treated in few of the documents from the selection examined and the system is concerned mainly with aspects of health related to maternal and child welfare and with access to health and family planning services.

In both systems women's education is treated together with topics such as access to education, levels of teaching, discrimination in education, professional training, illiteracy and general education. As regards the latter element, considered as an alternative mechanism of education, the Women's International Information and Communication Service has valuable material in the form of guides and manuals for working with base groups.

On the subject of planning, a large body of information is available, especially in the ECLAC system, within which CLADES has responsibility for the Planning Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPLAN). In general, the material highlights the absence of government policies on women and the lack of adequate information in this field.

In this regard, the interinstitutional effort of the ECLAC system —co-ordinated by its Unit for the Integration of Women in Development, through a project entitled "Women and Planning"— has produced a conceptual framework and undertaken several workshops for planners. At the same time progress has been made towards the systematization of policy-supportive information.

There is little documentation on the subject of legislation. Such information as is available relates mainly to the rights of women, discrimination between the sexes, conventions and resolutions of international organizations, etc. It is useful to note here, however, the efforts being made in this direction by the Inter-American Commission on Women of the OAS and the activities carried out by the Instituto de la Mujer in Spain.

2. New areas of study

These areas of study emerged with the establishment of the so-called women's programmes and study centres, comprised of researchers from different disciplines, connected in some instances to feminist or women's movements.

These programmes cover a broad range of subjects, old and new, not so much with the aim of developing a "science of women", but in an effort to situate the particularities of women within the framework of the social sciences and of the realities of the countries in the region. Among these, mention should be made of those which examine the ideological positions vis-à-vis the role of women in society, the social role of maternity, sexuality, the identity of women, life cycles, with special emphasis on the elderly and on adolescents, consumption, relations of power, violence against women, etc.

The international agencies of the United Nations have also influenced this concern by drawing attention to trends and aspects which affect women and which need to be addressed. One particular case, in this regard, is related to violence against women. This is an area of particular concern to many women and women's organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Studies on this subject reveal that the incidence of domestic and sexual violence is showing an upward trend against the background of the economic crisis affecting the many countries of the region. Despite this, legislation on the subject is still in its infancy and the mechanisms for its implementation are even less available.

A number of women's organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean have contributed to a greater awareness of the situation and are providing legal, psychological and information advisory services.

Most of the information on this subject is to be found in the Women's International Information and Communication Service and covers aspects such as domestic violence, prostitution, sexual tourism, sexual violence, torture and sexual harassment on the job.

3. Systematization of the subject areas "women and labour" and "women's identity"

a)   Women and labour

The participation of women in the labour force and discrimination against them in employment appear to be the two main focuses of the publications

dealing with the subject of <u>women and labour</u> which were reviewed in both of the bibliographic systems. These concerns are reflected in the treatment of such topics as that of the economically active population, in relation to which primarily quantitative data are given, and that of the various forms of labour discrimination, which include wage differentials and women's relatively more restricted access to decision-making levels, even in cases where the women in question have educational backgrounds similar or superior to those of the men concerned.

More specific subjects are also addressed, including paid domestic work, work in the home, the various forms taken by the informal sector, income-earning projects or productive workshops, unemployment, etc. Attention is also devoted to forms of labour by women which are not reflected in the traditional measurements of productive activity (e.g., the work performed by housewives, the informal sector, underemployment, the agricultural sector).

In the Isis International system, the publications evidence the presence of an interest in delving more deeply into specific labour-related women's issues such as, for example, the implications of working days double the normal length, occupational health, ways of coping with economic crisis conditions, and the responses forthcoming from women's organizations.

In most of the studies, the above-mentioned topics are examined within the context of broader economic, social and political processes: development styles, economic systems, specific phenomena such as modernization, class structures, etc.

In the case of the ECLAC system, some studies stress the family as the unit of analysis to be used in examining the interrelationship between individual and societal processes, while others focus on the analysis of census and household survey data.

Both institutional and individual <u>generators of information</u> were studied in an effort to identify the sources of the data and to determine the type of information they generate. An attempt was also made to ascertain the extent to which this subject matter appears to be of interest to both sexes.

It was noted that within the ECLAC system the main generators of information concerning the subject area of women and labour are academic or research institutions, followed by international agencies. In the case of Isis International, it was observed that non-governmental organizations figure slightly more prominently than academic institutions, with these two types of bodies supplying almost all the information compiled by the system. This may be accounted for by the nature of the contacts established by Isis, inasmuch as it forms part of a network of non-governmental organizations, and by the emergence during the past few years of alternative analytical and action-oriented forums in various countries of the region.

In regard to individual authors, although it was noted that the subject is of greater interest to women, the participation of men is not insignificant (see annex 2).

In so far as the groups or sectors studied are concerned, nearly half of the documents are of a general nature, either setting forth methodologies or analysing situations experienced by women working inside and outside the home (see annex 3).

Rural women, poor urban women and migrant or refugee women are the social sectors which have been studied the most. Analyses of the first of these groups focus chiefly on the difficult living conditions of these women and the lack of recognition of the productive work they perform, which, in the vast majority of cases, constitutes an extension of their domestic work. The studies on poor urban women stress the emergence of alternative types of organizations for coping with poverty and daily problems of subsistence. Women figure as key actors in this connection. The attention devoted to migrant women centres on the processes by which they adapt to different living conditions and on the additional obstacles they face when they attempt to take part in productive activities. In some societies, ethnic problems are another factor.

Although most of the documents in both information systems are of a theoretical/analytical slant, documents whose main purpose is the presentation of demands are not entirely unrepresented, especially in the Isis International system.

As regards the type of document, monographs and books predominate, along with, to a lesser degree, articles from periodicals. It should be noted that a considerable number of papers presented at meetings and conferences are also included. This type of documentation, which can only be obtained through regional information systems, provides material that can make a valuable contribution to the advancement of knowledge and to action and policy proposals (see annex 4).

Theses constitute an important part of the output of regional academic institutions, although this was not reflected in the sample of documents which was reviewed (see annex 5). This may be partly due to the fact that in order to gain access to these documents within the region it is necessary to go to the sources that produce them, which requires both time and resources. No specialized system yet exists in Latin America and the Caribbean which is concerned with systematizing and disseminating this type of document (see annex 6).

As regards the temporal distribution of the information, a concentration of material towards the end of the Decade was observed, probably as a result of the appraisals of the action taken within its framework.

The distribution of documents by countries may be attributable, on the one hand, to the existence of a larger number of centres dealing with social and economic research, population and women's issues in some of them (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, etc.) and, on the other hand, to the importance assigned to the systematization and dissemination of such information, which, in many cases, is reflected in the creation of national systems.

A large number of documents of a _regional_ character are also present, indicating the availability of joint analyses of differing sets of conditions (see annex 7).

b) _Women's identity_

The term _women's identity_ has come into use in the past few years in connection with the interest shown by women in exploring the characteristics of their gender more fully.

Accordingly, in the Isis International system material is to be found which deals with such dimensions as the public world/private world, daily life, power relations, ideologies and value systems, socialization and sex roles, sexuality and the abuse of women, motherhood and reproductive health, etc.

Within the ECLAC system, the institution's policy as regards women's issues has been to incorporate them into its regular programmes. Hence, this subject is dealt with in connection with the various areas of development, and this is also reflected in the documentation that was analysed.

Material pertaining to the subject of women's identity can thus be found by referring to such aspects as the roles of women, the family and socialization, sexuality and reproductive behaviour, sex discrimination and the emancipation of women.

In respect of the _generators of information_ in this area, the chief sources are, as was to be expected, academic and research institutions and, secondarily, governmental organizations. This also appears to be a subject of special interest to women (see annex 8).

As regards the groups or sectors studied, as in the case of the subject of women and labour, it was noted that there is a special interest in the subject when it is dealt with at a general level from a theoretical/analytical approach. This would appear to be a consequence of the fact that this subject has only recently become an object of study. Efforts are being made, however, to delimit the exploration of this topic through the analyses of a number of specific groups.

Thus, for example, one subject that has been analysed is the implications for urban women of productive workshops which combine income-earning activities with the use of participatory methodologies that provide them with opportunities for reflection and an exchange of thoughts about their daily lives. These workshops also help to promote social organization and, in a sense, to integrate the women's public and private worlds. In regard to the subject of young people, the existing studies focus on such aspects as young people's world view as compared to that of their parents; the mother-daughter relationship, which is explored in an attempt to define the identities of the women in question; the ways in which younger generations see the relationships of couples and their relationships with their children, etc.

The concern with ethnic groups is reflected in an interest in studying traditional social practices and the role they play in shaping the identity of women (see annex 9).

The main types of documents to be found are monographs or books, conference papers and magazine articles (see annex 10). A marked interest was observed among younger generations of professionals in such subjects as ethnic groups and their cultural traits, the production of literature relating to women, and other topics. This interest is reflected in their choice of subjects for their dissertations (see annex 5).

In relation to the geographical distribution of the studies, the researchers noted a phenomenon similar to that seen in the case of the subject of women and labour as regards the existence of study centres and documentation systems. Conferences have also generated a significant volume of material on this topic of a regional nature (see annex 4).

In respect of the temporal distribution of the documents, a marked increase in the number of studies dealing with the identity of women since the early 1980s is to be observed. This may be due both to the emergence of a greater interest in the subject and to the establishment of democracies in some countries of the region, such as Brazil, where the women's movement has come to be involved in some spheres of government (see annex 11).

CONCLUSIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE ACTION IN THE
FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
FOR WOMEN

In the course of this study it was possible to identify changes and
achievements in the field of information and communications activities
relating to women. These include the following:

1. The creation of programmes concerning women in various spheres of society
    and the recognition of the subject by scholars and researchers as an
    integral aspect of their overall work.

2. The emergence of alternative forms of communication and the
    strengthening of communication and information networks in this field.

3. The development of new technologies having specific applications in the
    field of information and communications.

4. Progress, albeit within the framework of pilot studies, in formulating
    ways of measuring women's productive activity; such measurements have
    been developed in some countries with the support of international
    organizations.

5. The establishment of regional and national information and documentation
    centres dealing with the subject of economic and social development,
    including women's issues, within the framework of a growing recognition
    of the value of having systematized information available as an aid in
    carrying out activities of any sort.

6. At a more specific level, the formulation and presentation of new
    insights and postulates based on studies concerning previously unexplored
    topics within the field relating to special considerations in respect of
    women.

In the light of the foregoing, a need is seen to further strengthen
interinstitutional co-ordination and collaboration. To this end, it is
proposed that an effort be made to contribute to the creation of a mechanism
for facilitating the exchange of experiences and information at the national,
regional and world levels. It is, furthermore, suggested that this effort be
undertaken under the guidance of the Commission on the Status of Women through
the Branch for the Advancement of Women and with the collaboration of
organizations belonging to the United Nations system as well as other
international organizations and with the participation of ECLAC.

This mechanism could take the form of an information and communications network or system based on a suitable distribution of responsibilities and services such that all participants might see their needs fulfilled while, in turn, helping to meet the needs of others, thereby contributing to regional self-reliance in areas such as training, information and communications technologies, and the exchange of experiences.

In the pursuit of these objectives, use could be made of the installed capacity in the field of information and communications for women provided by existing international co-operation initiatives in the region, especially those of international organizations within the United Nations system and of intergovernmental and non-governmental regional and subregional organizations which could participate in a programme aimed at creating and maintaining such a network.

The reinforcement provided by international co-operation might be primarily directed towards complementing and supporting the efforts of national mechanisms to upgrade the information available on the subject and to systematize and disseminate it properly.

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Annex 1

PROJECTS CARRIED OUT OR UNDER WAY IN RELATION TO WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I. WITHIN THE INFORMATION REFERRAL SYSTEM (INRES) OF THE
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Country	Name of project	Starting date	Sponsor
HAITI	Women in the rural environment in Haiti and the Caribbean	1966	Haitian Centre for Social Science Research
COSTA RICA	Costa Rican women	1975	Institute for Social Studies in Population (IDESPO) - National Autonomous University
UNITED STATES	The integration of women into development	1987	United Nations, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and Policy, Programming and Development Planning Division
PERU	Peasant women and the labour market	1986	Institute of Peruvian Studies (IEP)
CHILE	The integration of women into development	1986	ECLAC - Social Development Division
PERU	Women and the development of urban labour	1987	Interdisciplinary Institute for Development Research

II. WITHIN THE ECLAC BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM

Country	Name of project	Starting date	Sponsor
BOLIVIA	Research to promote the integration of women into Latin American development. Improvement of census data and exchange of information	1980	ECLAC
BRAZIL	The impact of modernization on women in a rural community	1982	ECLAC
PERU	Seminar-project on Professional Training for Working Women	1976	Department of Labour
LATIN AMERICA	Statistical analysis of the status of women in the Latin American countries using household surveys	1985	ECLAC; INSTRAW
CARIBBEAN	Women in the Caribbean, Research Project	1986	University of the West Indies. Institute of Social and Economic Research
CHILE	Peasant women and agricultural wage-earners in the central region	1987	Centre for Women's Studies
BOLIVIA	The incidence of women, the family and grass-roots social organizations on integrated rural development	1979	UNDP
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	Regional project for the advancement and development of women in Latin America and the Caribbean	1980	UNICEF
PERU	Analysis and furtherance of participation by women in economic activity	1983	Ministry of Labour and Social Advancement; UNICEF

Country	Name of project	Starting date	Sponsor
BOLIVIA	Support for the incorporation of women into population policies	1985	National Population Council; United Nations Population Fund
PANAMA	Meeting housing needs: will self-help work for women? a/	1986	Population Council
MEXICO	Women's participation in self-help housing projects in Mexico City a/	1986	Population Council
JAMAICA	Performance of men and women in repayment of mortgage loans in Jamaica a/	1986	Population Council
ECUADOR	Female-headed households and housing: a case study of Solanda low-income housing project a/	1986	Population Council
PERU	Communal kitchens in Lima a/	1986	Population Council

a/ These projects, which are carried out in Latin American and Caribbean countries, fall within the "women, low-income households and urban services project" sponsored by the Population Council.

Annex 2

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: WORK BY WOMEN;
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Authors	Total for both systems	Systems	
		ECLAC	Isis Int.
I. Personal			
Women	180	148	32
Men	56	54	2
II. Institutional			
Governmental	26	25	1
Non-governmental	23	8	15
Academic and research organizations	68	55	13
United Nations organizations	36	35	1
Other international organizations	30	29	1
Funding organizations	1	1	0
Not specified	32	32	0
Total a/	452	387	65

a/ The totals do not coincide with the number of documents analysed as some of
them are included in both categories.

Annex 3

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: WORK BY WOMEN; GROUPS OR SECTORS REFERRED TO
IN THE DOCUMENT BROKEN DOWN BY THE NATURE OF THE STUDY

(Both systems)

Groups or sectors studied	Group total	Nature of study			
		Theoretical/ analytical	Information/ divulgation	Didactic	Methodological
Employees	1	1			
Employees in private houses	9	6			3
Home workers	6	4			2
Housewives	7	6			1
Indigenous women	4	2		1	1
Industrial employees	3	2			1
Migrant or refugee women	31	24	6		1
Poor urban women	39	30	4	2	3
Rural women	54	42	4	1	7
Women, heads of household	4	3	1		
Women in general	111	86	9	5	11
Young women	1		1		
	270	206	25	9	30

Anexo 4/Annex 4

CONFERENCIAS SOBRE LAS CUALES EXISTE DOCUMENTACION INGRESADA AL
SISTEMA BIBLIOGRAFICO DE LA CEPAL E ISIS INTERNACIONAL/
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Taller de la Tercera Edad. Lima, noviembre de 1981-diciembre de 1982.

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Seminario sobre Análisis y Promoción de la Participación de la Mujer en la Actividad Económica. Lima, 2-5 de marzo de 1982.

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Congreso de Investigación acerca de la Mujer en la Región Andina. Lima, 7-10 de junio de 1982.

Seminario Regional para la Formación y la Capacitación de la Mujer y la Familia Rural a través de Escuelas Radiofónicas. México, D.F., 8-12 de noviembre de 1982.

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Taller Feminista Global para la Organización contra el Tráfico de Mujeres. Rotterdam, 6-15 de abril de 1983.

Congresso Interdisciplinar Internacional de Mulheres. Groninger, 17-21 de abril de 1983.

Encontro Feminista para a Paz. Alanho, 8-10 de junio de 1983.

Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe. Lima, julio de 1983.

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Seminario "Lo Femenino y lo Masculino en Nuestro Tiempo: ¿Ruptura o Continuidad?". Santander, agosto de 1983.

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Seminar on Women, Work and Demographic Issues. Tashkent, 11-19 October 1983.

Mujer en el Derecho Hispanoamericano. Jornadas de Encuentro entre Países de Habla Hispana. Madrid, 24-29 de octubre de 1983.

Taller Roles Sexuales. Santiago de Chile, 17 de noviembre de 1983 - 26 de enero de 1984.

Seminar for Women Leaders on Population and Development in the English-Speaking Caribbean. Basseterre, 22-24 November 1983.

Mesa Redonda sobre Estrategias de Sobrevivencia en Economías Campesinas: el Rol de la Mujer. Bogotá, 22-25 de noviembre de 1983.

Seminario Técnico Regional sobre Mujeres y Familias de los Estratos Populares Urbanos en América Latina. Santiago de Chile, 28 de noviembre - 2 de diciembre de 1983.

Grupo de Expertas sobre las Estrategias de Ejecución para el Adelanto de la Mujer hasta el Año 2000. Santiago de Chile, 3-5 de diciembre de 1983/Group of Experts on Operational Strategies for the Advancement of Women up to the Year 2000. Santiago, Chile, 3-5 December 1983.

Encuentro del Grupo de Estudios de la Mujer, CLACSO. Buenos Aires, 4 de diciembre de 1983.

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Seminario "La Salud Mental y las Mujeres". Buenos Aires, 1984.

Seminario Mujer y Desarrollo. Lima, 1984.

Taller de Actividades Sexuales, TAS. Santiago, 1984-1986.

Curso "Teoría Feminista y Estrategias para el Movimiento de Mujeres". Lima, 20 de febrero - 30 de marzo de 1984.

Seminar on Women and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Cairo, 12-16 March 1984.

Seminario Taller de Información sobre Investigaciones Positivas y Acciones Institucionales y Privadas Dirigidas a la Mujer. La Paz, 2-4 de abril de 1984.

Jornadas Mujer y Salud. Madrid, 16-18 de mayo de 1984.

Encuentro Regional sobre la Salud de la Mujer. Boyacá, 28 de mayo-2 de junio de 1984.

Seminario Taller sobre Políticas Sociales referidas a la Mujer y Familia. Cochabamba, 4-6 de julio de 1984.

Conference on Population and Development for Women Leaders of Latin America. San José, 18-20 July 1984.

Jornadas Mujer y Educación. Madrid, 13-15 de septiembre de 1984.

Seminario sobre Problemas de la Mujer en lo que Respecta al Suministro de Agua y Saneamiento. Manila, 24-26 de septiembre de 1984.

Encuentro Nacional de Programas de Salud al Servicio del Proceso Popular. Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, México, 11-14 de octubre de 1984.

Taller Nacional sobre la Participación de la Mujer Campesina en Actividades Productoras del Sector Primario. Heredia, 16-20 de octubre de 1984.

Encuentro Taller sobre Metodologías de Trabajo con Mujeres Campesinas. Bajo Piura, 21-25 de octubre de 1984.

Reunión de Delegados de los Países del CDCC que participaron en la Reunión Regional de América Latina y el Caribe Preparatoria de la Conferencia Mundial para el Examen y Evaluación de los Logros del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer: Igualdad, Desarrollo y Paz. La Habana, 18 de noviembre de 1984/CDCC Meeting Prior to Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Havana, 18 November 1984.

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Jornadas Multidisciplinarias. Mujer y Salud. Buenos Aires, 23-24 de noviembre de 1984.

Seminario Pensar la Mujer Jóven: Problemas y Perspectivas Preliminares. Santiago de Chile, 3-5 de diciembre de 1984.

1985

Seminario sobre Políticas de Desarrollo Agrario en América Latina y sus Efectos sobre la Mujer Rural: Síntesis de la Década de la ONU para la Mujer. Bogotá, 1985.

Taller Análisis de Reforma del Código Penal Concerniente a la Familia y a la Mujer en Venezuela. Caracas, 27-28 de febrero de 1985.

Workshop on Violence against Women. Penang, 23-24 March 1985.

Jornada sobre Atención Primaria de Salud en Ambientes Urbanos. Lima, 30 de marzo de 1985.

Encuentro Nacional Mujer, Salud y Desarrollo. Buenos Aires, 11-12 de abril de 1985.

Simposio "Mujer y Sociedad en América". Mexicali, Baja California, 17-19 de abril de 1985.

Taller Mujer y Proyectos Productivos. Quito, 19-21 de abril de 1985.

Trinidad and Tobago Federation of Women's Institutes Conference. Port of Spain, 25 April 1985.

Seminario sobre Mujer, Trabajo y Empleo. Lima, mayo de 1985.

Seminario "Jerarquía de Género y Desigualdad Social". Lima, junio de 1985.

Taller sobre Análisis Estadístico de la Mujer en el Mercado de Trabajo a través de Encuestas de Hogares. Montevideo, 3-6 de junio de 1985.

Foro de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer. Nairobi, 10-19 de julio de 1985.

Conferencia Mundial para el Examen y la Evaluación de los Logros del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer: Igualdad, Desarrollo y Paz. Nairobi, 15-26 de julio de 1985/World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985.

Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe. São Paulo, agosto de 1985.

International Meeting of Experts on the Social and Cultural Causes of Prostitution and Strategies against Procuring and Sexual Exploitation of Women. Madrid, 3-6 September 1985.

Seminario Latinoamericano sobre la Mujer Migrante. Buenos Aires, 9-12 de septiembre de 1985.

Taller Nacional "Participación de la Mujer en la Agricultura y la Producción. Implicaciones para Políticas, Programas de Acción y Servicios de Apoyo". Talca, 21-25 de octubre de 1985.

Encontro Latino-Americano de Teología na Otica da Mulher. Buenos Aires, 30 de octubre-3 de noviembre de 1985.

Jornadas Feministas Españolas "Diez Años de Lucha del Movimiento Feminista". Barcelona, 1-3 de noviembre de 1985.

Interregional Meeting on the Prevention of Maternal Mortality. Geneva, 11-15 November 1985.

National Workshop of Women in Development Planning. Kingston, 9 December 1985.

1986

Encuentro sobre la Mujer en el Mundo Andino. La Paz, 24-25 de enero de 1986.

Feminist Hearing on Reproductive and Genetic Engineering. Brussels, 6-7 March 1986.

Encontro de Mulheres Trabalhadoras de Paraiba. Paraiba, 7-8 de marzo de 1986.

Regional Conference for the Near East. Istambul, 17-21 March 1986.

Seminario "Políticas de Consumo Año 2000". Nueva York, 27-29 de mayo de 1986.

Seminario Regional sobre el Desarrolllo de Currícula y Preparación de Materiales de Enseñanza en Estudios de la Mujer en la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe. Buenos Aires, 4-7 de junio de 1986.

Conferencia Internacional "Participación Política de la Mujer en el Cono Sur". 26-29 de junio de 1986.

Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres que Producen Programas Radiales para Mujeres. Lima, 3-5 de julio de 1986.

Seminario ILET-CLACSO sobre Actores Sociales y Políticos: sus Perspectivas de la Democracia. Santiago, 14-15 de julio de 1986.

Encuentro Nacional de la Mujer Rural: "Organicémosnos para la Unidad en la Acción". Punta de Tralca, 17-20 de julio de 1986.

Conferencia "Análisis de la Prensa. Problemas Teóricos y Metodológicos". Santiago, 28-30 de julio de 1986.

Congreso Uruguayo de Sexología. Montevideo, 25-28 de septiembre de 1986.

Foro de la Mujer. México, D.F., octubre de 1986.

Consumidores y la Crisis Económica. Conferencia de la IOCU para América Latina y el Caribe. Montevideo, 1-4 de octubre de 1986.

National Conference on Women's Studies. Chandigarh, 1-4 October 1986.

Meeting on Contraceptive Development Process and Quality of Care in Reproductive Health Services. New York, 8-9 October 1986.

Saude e Direitos da Mulher. Conferencia Nacional de Saude. Brasilia, 10-13 de octubre de 1986.

Reunión de Expertos sobre la Medición de la Participación, Ingresos y la Producción de las Mujeres en el Sector Informal. Santo Domingo, 13-17 de octubre de 1986.

International Congress. Boston, 23-25 October 1986.

Taller Mujer, Desarrollo y Planificación en América Latina y el Caribe. Santiago, 27 de octubre-14 de noviembre de 1986.

Conferencia sobre Mujer, Población y Desarrollo en América Latina. Montevideo, 3-7 de noviembre de 1986.

Seminario sobre Participación Política de las Mujeres. Madrid, diciembre de 1986.

Taller sobre Feminismo y Educación Popular en América Latina. Montevideo, 1-6 de diciembre de 1986.

International Conference on Ethical Issues of Reproductive Health. Washington, D.C., 5-6 December 1986.

Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family with Special Emphasis on its Effects on Women. Vienna, 8-12 December 1986.

Seminario "La Mujer en el Proceso de Redemocratización". Santiago de Chile, 12-13 de diciembre de 1986.

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Interregional Workshop on Career Development of Managerial Women. Bangkok, 23-27 January 1987.

Safe Motherhood International Conference. Nairobi, 10-13 February 1987.

Orientation Meeting on Women's International Solidarity Affairs, Manila, 26 February 1987.

Congreso Nacional "Dar Poder a las Mujeres por Tierra, Trabajo, Vivienda, Salud e Igualdad de Derechos". Manila, marzo de 1987.

Training Seminar for Research on Violence Against Women. Roseau, 23-27 March 1987.
Taller Seminario "Participación de la Mujer en el Desarrollo". Montevideo, 28-29 de mayo de 1987.

Curso "Condiciones de Trabajo y Medio Ambiente". Lima, 10-12 de junio de 1987.

Women in Development Planning Expert Group Meeting. Port of Spain, 12 June 1987.

Subregional Round-Table on the Participation and Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development in the Caribbean. Castries, 6-10 July 1987.

Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Windsor, 8-11 October 1987.

Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe. Taxco, 18-24 de octubre de 1987.

Séptima Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe. México, D.F., 30 de octubre de 1987/Seventh Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Mexico City, 30 October 1987.

Seminario sobre el Impacto de la Crisis en las Mujeres y su Respuesta en Términos de la Emergencia de Movimientos de Mujeres en América Latina. La Paz, diciembre de 1987.

Annex 5

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THESES ON THE SUBJECT OF WOMEN
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Annex 6

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: WORK BY WOMEN;
TYPES OF DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY EACH INFORMATION SYSTEM

Types of document	Total	Systems	
		ECLAC	Isis
Articles in reviews	55	51	4
Conference documents	41	27	14
Guides or booklets	9		9
Monographs or books	143	127	16
Projects	17	7	10
Theses	5	5	-
Total/systems	270	217	53

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: WORK BY WOMEN;
DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY EACH COUNTRY, SUBREGION AND REGION BY YEAR OF PUBLICATION
(Both information systems)

Countries, regions, subregions and territories	Country total	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	Un-dated
Argentina	15					3	3	1		3		4		1	
Bolivia	7				1	1	1		1		1	1	1		
Brazil	12		1				2		1	2			5	1	
Chile	31		1	2				1	4		6	4	6	2	5
Colombia	21		1			1	1	3	9	2	1	1		1	1
Costa Rica	5			1					1		3				
Cuba	7		2	2	1	1							1		
Curaçao	1											1			
Dominican Republic	12	6	1	1					1				1		2
Ecuador	5						1		1			1	2		
Guatemala	3			1							1				1
Haiti	2				2										
Honduras	1						1								
Jamaica	1						1								
Mexico	14	1		1	1		1	3	2		1	1	3		
Nicaragua	-														
Panama	8						1			5	2				
Paraguay	3					1	1			1					
Peru	25	1	1		1		1		6	2	2	4	6	1	
Puerto Rico	4	1			1		1	1							
Trinidad and Tobago	2		1			1									
Uruguay	6							1	1	1	1		1		1
Venezuela	8							1		1		6			
Latin America	54	4	1	4	6	4	4		4	3	5	9	9		1
Central America	1														1
The Caribbean	34	7	4	3	3	5	1	1		3	2	1	2		2
South America	-														
Yearly totals a/	_282_	_20_	_10_	_16_	_18_	_17_	_20_	_12_	_34_	_22_	_25_	_31_	_36_	_7_	_14_

a/ The totals do not coincide with the number of documents analysed as documents may cover more than one country.

Annex 8

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE IDENTITY OF WOMEN;
SOURCES OF INFORMATION BROKEN DOWN INTO SYSTEMS

Sources	Total for both systems	Systems	
		ECLAC	Isis
PERSONAL			
Women	75	41	34
Men	13	12	1
INSTITUTIONAL			
Governmental	7	5	2
Non-governmental	15	9	6
Academic and research organizations	43	26	17
United Nations organizations	9	7	2
Other international agencies	5	-	5
Funding organizations	-	-	-
Not specified	2	2	-
Totals a/	169	102	67

a/ The totals do not coincide with the number of documents analysed, as some
of them appear in both categories.

Annex 9

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE IDENTITY OF WOMEN;
GROUPS OR SECTORS REFERRED TO IN THE DOCUMENT BROKEN DOWN BY TYPE OF STUDY

(Both systems)

Groups or sectors studied	Group total	Nature of study			
		Theoretical analytical	Information divulgation	Didactic	Methodological
Rural women	6	6			
Poor urban women	17	10	2		5
Women in general	53	40	5	2	6
Young women	6	5			1
Indigenous women	4	4			
Intellectual women	2	2			
Mothers and daughters	1	1			
Middle-class women	1				1
Migrant or refugee women	3	3			
Housewives	1	1			
Total	94	72	7	2	13

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Annex 10

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE IDENTITY OF WOMEN; TYPES OF DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY EACH INFORMATION SYSTEM

Types of document	Total	Systems	
		ECLAC	Isis
Articles in reviews	13	10	3
Bibliographies	4	1	3
Conference documents	25	11	14
Directories	1		1
Guides or booklets	1		1
Monographs or books	48	29	19
Theses	2	2	-
Total	94	53	41

Annex 11

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE IDENTITY OF WOMEN;
DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY EACH COUNTRY, SUBREGION AND REGION BY YEAR OF PUBLICATION

(Both information systems)

Countries, regions, subregions	Country total	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Argentina	7	2					1	1			1		2	
Bolivia	3								1		1		1	
Brazil	3												3	
Chile	21				1	1			1	3	3	4	7	1
Colombia	10							1	5		2		2	
Costa Rica	5						1					3	1	
Ecuador	1												1	
Mexico	5					1	1		1	1		1		
Nicaragua	2										1		1	
Paraguay	2												1	1
Peru	5								1	2		1	1	
Uruguay	3								2				1	
Latin America	14						1		1	4	2	3	3	
Total a/	81	2	·	-	1	2	4	2	12	10	10	12	24	2

a/ The totals do not coincide with the number of documents analysed as a document may cover more than one country.