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UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

International Research and Training Institute  
for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General

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ANNEX. CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES TO THE INSTITUTE

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first regular session, 1978, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1978/25 of 5 May 1978 in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue actively the necessary consultations for the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to complete as soon as possible the document requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/137 of 16 December 1977 and to proceed with the appointment of the Director and the members of the Board of Trustees of the Institute as soon as the agreement with the host country was signed. In its resolution the Council further requested the Secretary-General to convene during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly a pledging conference for voluntary contributions for the purpose of financing, inter alia, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. The present report was prepared in accordance with the request that the Secretary-General report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the implementation of this resolution.
2. The present report brings up to date the report of the Secretary-General dated 3 April 1978 (E/1978/30). It gives an over-all view of the final preparations with respect to the establishment and the efficient functioning of the Institute.

## II. FURTHER PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE

### A. Administrative and substantive matters

3. It will be recalled that a mission of the Secretariat visited Teheran last year to hold consultations on administrative and substantive matters with the host country. Also, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs visited Teheran in September 1978 for further consultations to clarify and settle some questions about the Institute.
4. The draft document on the structure, composition and responsibilities of the Institute, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/137, is presented in section III of this report. Intensive consultations with the regional commissions and the competent organs, institutions and specialized agencies of the United Nations system have been undertaken for the preparation of this document.
5. These consultations have resulted in a consensus on the following points:
  - (a) The Institute should properly consider and capitalize on what has been done so far in the field of integration of women in development by the regional commissions, as well as by the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Thus, effective co-operation and co-ordination should be established between the Institute and these bodies;
  - (b) Priority must be given in the work programme and activities of the Institute to the collection and dissemination of existing information on women's roles, contributions, resources and difficulties in all sectors of life;

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(c) The priorities determined by the United Nations should govern the programme and operations of the Institute with special emphasis on the problems of the developing countries, the establishment of a new international economic order and the development of policies and programmes geared towards this end.

B. Agreement between the host Government and the United Nations

6. Active consultations are being held with the host Government, and it is expected that an agreement will be signed in due course. The agreement would deal with the matters of financial and legal concern to the two parties, including, inter alia, provisions on the premises, facilities, equipment and services to be provided by the host Government, the related financial arrangements and also clauses on liability for claims, privileges and immunities and the settlement of disputes.

C. Board of Trustees

7. Consultations have also been undertaken with the regional commissions to identify competent persons to serve on the Board of Trustees. They will serve in their individual capacity and be appointed by the Economic and Social Council on the nomination of the Secretary-General. A number of candidates have been proposed by the regional commissions and the selection process is under way.

D. Appointment of the Director

8. Pertinent consultations are being pursued to identify and nominate candidates from among whom the Secretary-General will eventually appoint the Director and Assistant Director of the Institute. In the meantime, a Social Affairs Officer has been appointed for a six month term to help with the final preparations towards the establishment and the early functioning of the Institute.

E. Financial considerations

9. As at 30 June 1978 a total of \$US 1,665,382 had been contributed or pledged for the Institute (see annex). A note verbale has been sent by the Secretary-General to all Member States convening the 1978 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 7 November 1978. This note verbale contains information regarding the Institute. It is hoped that further significant contributions for the Institute will be made on that occasion.

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### III. STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION, RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE

#### A. Structure and composition of the Institute

10. The Institute, a body of the United Nations, shall be financed through voluntary contributions to a United Nations trust fund. It will enjoy the degree of autonomy granted to it by the Secretary-General necessary to ensure its efficient operation, taking into account the fact that it will be working in close collaboration and co-ordination with institutes within and outside the United Nations system. The administrative framework of the Institute is described below.

11. The Institute will function under the authority of a Board of Trustees which shall have over-all responsibility for the approval, supervision and evaluation of the Institute's work programme. To this end the Board shall:

(a) Establish by appropriate directives the policy and guidelines for the Institute's operation and functioning;

(b) Review and approve the Institute's work programme as well as its budget, prior to submission to the Controller;

(c) Delegate to the Institute's Director such authority under subparagraphs (a) and (b) above as deems appropriate;

(d) Report annually to the Economic and Social Council.

12. The Board shall convene as often as necessary but at least once a year. It may establish such subsidiary committees of its members as is required for the efficient discharge of its functions.

13. The Board shall be composed of a President appointed by the Secretary-General and 10 members serving in their individual capacities appointed by the Economic and Social Council on the nomination of the Secretary-General after consultation with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions.

14. The term of membership shall be three years with a maximum of two terms. With due regard to geographic distribution, the initial appointments shall be so staggered as to ensure that the appointment of at least three members will be renewed each year.

15. Ex officio members of the Board without the right to vote shall include a representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Institute and the Directors of the centres and programmes for women of the United Nations regional commissions. For specific purposes, the Board may invite as observers representatives of organizations of the United Nations systems, regional women's centres and organizations outside the United Nations system, governmental organizations and educational institutions.

## 1. Personnel

16. The professional staff of the Institute, including the Director, shall be appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with personnel policies and procedures of the United Nations.

17. The Director shall be responsible for:

(a) Implementation of the work programme and execution of policy directives emanating from the Board of Trustees;

(b) Organization of work and co-ordination of activities within the Institute;

(c) Liaison with the host Government, the United Nations offices and organizations concerned as well as with other interested parties;

(d) Servicing of the Board's meetings and its committees' work;

(e) Administration of the Institute in accordance with rules and procedures of the United Nations and the preparation of the annual financial and activities report to the Board of Trustees.

## 2. Organization

18. The organizational structure of the Institute shall include an administrative unit as well as three technical units concerned with information, research and training respectively.

19. To carry out its activities, the Institute shall engage in operational relationships with a network of relevant institutions and centres, or parts thereof, particularly in developing countries, which will be correspondent or associated institutions of the Institute, on terms and conditions to be decided by the Board of Trustees.

20. In addition, the Institute shall rely in large part on consultants and/or teams of consultants recruited for specific purposes during definite periods of time to realize determined projects of the Institute's work programme as may be necessary.

## B. Responsibilities of the Institute

21. The objectives of the Institute shall be to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and exchange of information, the efforts of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations aimed at the advancement of women in economic, social and political areas. These objectives shall be pursued in the context of the action proposals contained in the

World Plan of Action 1/ and the Declaration of Mexico 2/ adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, as well as in the regional plans of action, and the relevant resolutions of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations.

C. Collaboration and co-ordination within the United Nations system

22. Under the terms of pertinent resolutions, particularly Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976 and General Assembly resolution 31/135 of 16 December 1976, the Institute is to co-ordinate its activities with the organizations in the United Nations system, particularly as regards the planning and implementation of programmes for the advancement of women. It is therefore essential that working relations and a network of communication should be established between the Institute and the organizations concerned.

23. To facilitate this co-ordination, the Institute's activities will be conceived within the policy established by the competent intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations and they will be expected to support and complement the activities of the entire United Nations system. On the other hand, since most of the Institute's activities are expected to be carried out within the framework of the programme for the United Nations Decade for Women and the World Plan of Action, arrangements will be made so that the elaboration of the Institute's work programme is undertaken in close co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

24. In order to ensure co-ordination of activities between the research and training centres of the regional commissions and their programmes for the advancement of women, the Director of the Institute may organize such meetings as necessary, which may be held on a rotating basis in various regions, under the auspices of the regional commissions or a host country. In addition to the directors of the regional research and training centres and programmes for the advancement of women, the participants may include other representatives of the regional commissions, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and other interested organizations, as well as representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Funding agencies may also be invited to attend. The main purpose of these annual meetings would be to co-ordinate the elaboration of the work programmes of the Institute, the regional centres and the regional women's programme units of the regional commissions.

25. Representatives of the Institute may also attend the Commission on the

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1/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year  
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., chap. I.

Status of Women, and meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the interorganizational programme for the Decade for Women and relevant conferences convened by the specialized agencies on this subject.

26. The Institute may exchange staff members with specialized agencies as well as with international and regional centres, particularly in conjunction with the execution of joint projects or activities of common interest. It will also explore the possibility of obtaining financial support from the United Nations Development Programme and other funding organizations of the United Nations system.

D. Collaboration and co-ordination outside the United Nations system

27. In collaboration with the regional commissions, the Institute may assist Governments, at their request, in reference to training and research activities. Accordingly, the Institute should establish an efficient network of communications with Governments, as well as with national and international women's organizations. It is envisaged that focal points for communication and co-ordination will be designated by Governments through which the Institute will have established a two-way flow of communication. Such focal points may be provided within national commissions or bureaux on the status of women. In addition, collaboration will be sought with national public or private institutions, in particular sectors concerned with the advancement of women.

E. Programme of the Institute

28. The three main areas of concern of the Institute will be, in order of priority: (a) information and documentation, (b) research and (c) training, as indicated in the guidelines laid down in documents E/1978/30/annex of 3 April 1978 and E/5772 of 29 March 1976 related to the activities of the Institute.

29. While carried out in these main directions, the work programme of the Institute will also concern itself with the problems and issues presently facing the international community and singled out for action, notably for the second United Nations Development Decade and the operations of the specialized agencies, essentially:

- (a) Establishment of a new international economic order;
- (b) Implementation of technical co-operation amongst developing countries;
- (c) Development of agriculture and food production in the general frame of a self-dependent and auto-centred development;
- (d) Protection and reconstitution of environment and the improvement of the quality of life;
- (e) Promotion of employment and income generating activities;
- (f) Search for and implementation of development alternatives.

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Since the programme of the Institute deals specifically with societal questions related to women it will include these preoccupations within the main operational areas indicated in paragraph 28 above, as they do affect women's situations and conditions of life.

#### 1. Information and documentation

30. The Institute will collect and disseminate information regarding women's roles and contributions in all sectors of life, the means available for improving their position, the measures taken towards the elimination of discrimination against them and the progress made towards their effective participation in the development process. Special emphasis will be placed, in this connexion, on the publication of regularly up-dated documents such as catalogues and inventories of information and studies available on women (data bank), directories and reference documents including rosters of qualified individuals and organizations dealing with the questions of women, booklets and leaflets on laws regarding women, etc. The Institute will also assist in the development of information techniques for reaching the grass-roots level and will ensure that its research and training activities are given the widest possible dissemination.

#### 2. Research activities

31. In the area of research, the Institute's activities will be primarily directed towards: (a) an improvement in the specificity, comparability and reliability of pertinent statistical data, so that a proper diagnosis of the real situation of women can be made as a basis for policies and planning; (b) the development of social and economic indicators so as to facilitate the assessment or measurement of the progress made as regards women's status and their participation in development; (c) the development of research methodologies required to measure the economic values and returns of women's inputs and the work performed by them in agriculture, home work and home industries; (d) the evolution of methodologies and guidelines designed to facilitate the conduct of research projects pertaining to the advancement of women, and (e) the preparation of cross-cultural and/or other specific studies regarding the most disadvantaged women, the causes of discriminatory practices, customs and attitudes affecting women's status in the community.

32. The above-mentioned research programme will be carried out in close relationship with the regional commissions and the relevant national and international institutions. Considering the limited financial and personnel resources of the Institute, the latter will as much as possible try to orient and initiate research projects along the lines indicated above, through a network of competent national, regional, international and/or non-governmental institutions. It may also sponsor, undertake or promote action-oriented research designed to assist Governments and other bodies in the elaboration and implementation of programme activities pertaining to the advancement of women, the needs of the most disadvantaged groups, particularly in rural areas, and the promotion of self-help.



### 3. Training activities

33. The training activities of the Institute may be carried out through symposia, seminars, in-service training and courses of varying duration and internships and fellowships at the Institute. In these endeavours, the Institute will act in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional centres and educational institutions.

34. Training in limited, well-defined fields, particularly those indicated in paragraph 29 above, will constitute an important function of the Institute and will be geared primarily to the training of trainers. Moreover, priority will be given to the identification, adaptation and dissemination of innovating techniques for training and approaches designed to enhance the prospects of women's participation in decision making. The Institute may also serve as a co-ordinating body and a clearing house for training activities regarding the advancement of women. The organization of the training activities will be done in a large part through the associated institutes and centres, the use of competent consultants and, when possible, itinerant teams of consultants recruited for specific assignments.

ANNEX

Contributions and pledges to the Institute  
(as at 30 June 1978)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total</u> \$US
Algeria . . . . .	5 000
Austria . . . . .	10 000
Brazil . . . . .	3 000
Iran . . . . .	1 000 000
Iraq . . . . .	50 000
Israel . . . . .	2 000
Italy . . . . .	10 000
Mauritius . . . . .	15 000
Mexico . . . . .	5 000
Morocco . . . . .	36 457
Netherlands . . . . .	98 425
Oman . . . . .	2 000
Tunisia . . . . .	7 000
United Arab Emirates . . . . .	20 000
United States of America . . . . .	400 000
Yugoslavia . . . . .	<u>1 500</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>1 665 382</u></u>

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