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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (c) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (continued)
- (d) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/44/3, A/44/84, A/44/139, A/44/187, A/44/188, A/44/235, A/44/254, A/44/260,
A/44/409 and Corr.1, A/44/499)

- (c) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (continued) (A/44/266 and Add.1-2, A/44/379)
- (d) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/44/290, ST/CSDHA/6)
- (h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued) (A/44/8 and Add.1, A/44/534)

1. Ms. AHLUWALIA (Canada) welcomed the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which had important policy implications for national and international efforts to integrate women in development. Women constituted 50 per cent of human resources, yet were responsible for two thirds of the world's work. No development, therefore, could be achieved without their active involvement. Despite attempts by many countries to promote participation of women in all aspects of society, a wide gap remained between awareness of women's role as agents of development and their practical involvement in development activities. Poverty among women had even increased, resulting in what had become known as the "feminization of poverty".

2. Concrete measures were required to ensure the advancement of women, particularly by implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. First, impediments to the progress of women had to be removed, bearing in mind the close relationship between women's education and employment, and the necessity to control population growth by according women the right of choice in childbirth. Educational opportunities for women remained very limited in most developing countries. The practice, aggravated by economic hardship, of withdrawing girls early from school was perpetuating underlying structural gender inequalities and impeding the socio-economic development of women.

3. Structural adjustment often entailed the cutting of funds for social programmes, and it was important to protect the most vulnerable elements of society from the burden of adjustment. Structural adjustment did, however, provide a basis for equitable growth and development, and without it national economies would find themselves in even worse circumstances. Economies had to adapt to change to ensure that new ideas and techniques were translated into higher productivity and standards of living. Increasingly scarce resources had to be allocated to selected priority areas. By examining economic conditions through a "gender lens" the human dimension could effectively be incorporated into economic planning.

4. Economic changes had not always been the sole cause of women's difficulties, but had sometimes only aggravated chronic inequalities which existed prior to the 1980s. If those inequalities were to be addressed, women must be accorded their

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(Ms. Ahluwalia, Canada)

proper role in economic decision-making. There was also a critical need to work to eliminate female illiteracy, to improve health and family planning services and to provide social support measures. Optimal use had to be made of human resources, with the full inclusion of the female population, if a country wished to maximize its potential for growth.

5. Canada's firm commitment to the integration of women in development was demonstrated by its work within the United Nations and by the activities of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). All CIDA programmes and projects incorporated mechanisms to consult with women and heed their concerns. In addition, Canada had supported projects to provide credit for women, such as the five "women and credit" projects forming part of the "Africa 2000" global strategy of aid for Africa. It was also a major donor to UNIFEM and other relevant agencies. Its domestic policies reflected an awareness of the needs and concerns of women, and aimed to ensure equality of access to education and work and the full participation of women in decision-making.

6. Her delegation supported the recommendations for the next update of the World Survey, in particular regarding harmonization with the preparation of the World Economic Survey, the international development strategy, and the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development. The issues of environment, health and population, housing, refugee women and women in agriculture, industry and the informal sector merited particular attention.

7. Women had an important role to play in working for sustainable development, and in designing development goals to promote the prudent management and conservation of vital natural resources. Her delegation was satisfied with efforts being made at intergovernmental and inter-agency co-ordination levels to integrate women in development, and looked for a further strengthening of those efforts, particularly at national level.

8. Where sub-item 82 (h) was concerned, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 had stressed the need to ensure that shelter provision and urban development respected the environment. If sustainable cities were to be achieved, urban development would have to aim at improving the overall performance of national economies as well as reducing their impact on the environment.

9. Sustainable development would be significantly promoted by the use of appropriate technology by the urban poor, resulting in more productive citizens, reduced pollution and disease, reduced resources consumption and less strain on social welfare programmes. For sustainable development to succeed, economic, social and environmental decision-making had to be co-ordinated at government level.

10. She commended the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) for raising awareness of global shelter issues and encouraging Governments to help implement the Global Strategy for Shelter. Noting Canada's commitment to shelter both at national and global levels, she announced her country's renewal of financial assistance, totalling \$750,000, to the UNCHS Information Centre for North America and the Caribbean.

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11. Mr. QUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso) said that the question of the effective participation and integration of women in development had been accorded priority status by his Government. In view of the deterioration of the economy due to the pernicious international economic order, it was essential for women, who constituted a majority of the population and produced most of his country's foodstuffs, to take an active part in its political life.
12. To promote the integration of women in development, steps were being taken to overcome three primary obstacles. The first was in the area of education, where the Bantaré operation had been designed to enhance opportunities afforded to women, by organizing literacy programmes in the national languages and setting up rural training centres. Although the situation was still far from satisfactory, significant advances had been made.
13. The second obstacle to the development of women was the lack of water. A programme was under way to sink wells, build dams and other water reservoirs and to instruct women in the operation and repair of water pumps, in order to alleviate their burden as providers of water.
14. Thirdly, steps were being taken to ensure the better representation of women in decision-making. His country's new family legislation would give women new responsibilities, and several ministries were already headed by women. Encouraging progress had been made in the promotion of women to managerial positions, particularly in the rural areas, and in the formation of women's action groups at village level.
15. Thanks to the strong matriarchal traditions in Burkina Faso, women had themselves been the initiators of certain development projects, notably the NAAM women's groups. Efforts by NAAM and other NGOs had contributed significantly to the effective participation and integration of women in development.
16. In conclusion, he commended the excellent co-operation between his country and such institutions as UNDP and UNIFEM, and emphasized that the United Nations and its organizations had a central role to play in the advancement of women. His country would continue to work for the full emancipation of women, but still relied heavily on assistance from friendly nations and international institutions.
17. Mr. LOQS (World Bank) noted the need to ensure the full integration of women in development programmes as a prerequisite for a favourable environment for growth in the developed and the developing countries alike, and for the campaign against poverty in the developing countries. Economic change had altered the traditional division of labour at women's expense, and as a result women made up a disproportionate number of the poor.
18. As women were responsible for preparing children for life, the health and education of mothers were crucial factors in ensuring the quality of the labour force and a more effective use of human resources. Development programmes would be more productive and more responsive to the poor if they paid closer attention to women. Women constituted 50 per cent of the adult world population and one third

(Mr. Loos, World Bank)

of the official labour force, but performed nearly two thirds of all the work, while receiving only one third of the world income and owning less than 1 per cent of the world property.

19. The World Bank had identified women's concerns as a priority area in development programmes. It was making Governments more aware of the importance of women and in the growth process, and was designing programmes and projects more responsive to the issues identified through its economic dialogue with Governments. In determining questions of funding policy, the Bank was considering factors of importance to women, including the impact of macro-economic policies on their lives and the need to support activities and institutions which promoted their self-sustaining social, economic and political development.

20. In addition to the important agricultural sector, the Bank's plans also sought to promote women's education. Despite legal safeguards in most countries giving boys and girls equal educational rights, cultural and economic factors had limited educational opportunities for women, leading to their lower productivity with wide-reaching adverse effects for the economy.

21. The health of women was a basic prerequisite for communal and social progress. Improved maternal health care was an affordable and productive investment in development. The Bank's population, health and nutrition programmes aimed, in conjunction with other agencies such as WHO and UNFPA, at overcoming obstacles to the improvement of maternal health care in developing countries.

22. The fight against global poverty required a concomitant commitment to environmental protection. Poverty was a major cause of environmental degradation, which destroyed assets vital not only to the quality of life, but to life itself, and programmes that helped to reduce it by improving income, introducing new skills, fostering family planning and educating women about harmful environmental impacts were all means of environmental protection. Sustained development depended on managing resources, not exhausting them. The common priority should be co-ordinated intervention against environmental degradation, and women could play a significant role in that effort.

23. Families headed by women represented a significant proportion of the poorest urban households, and many of the Bank's urban projects had households headed by women as their target population. However, women in many developing countries tended to be economically invisible, particularly in the urban informal sector, and it was therefore essential to upgrade that sector's productivity.

24. An increasingly important item in the Bank's lending instruments was structural-adjustment lending, a phrase applied to the rapid disbursement of balance-of-payments support to countries that agreed to alter specific economic policies. These adjustment programmes had sometimes been accompanied by a reduction in living standards, income and consumption. However, most of those social costs were transitional. Furthermore, many of them were unavoidable, since adjustment was inextricably linked with economic development. Two areas offered

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(Mr. Loos, World Bank)

the greatest scope for minimizing the difficulties experienced by low-income and deprived groups, such as women: ensuring that social expenditures were cost-effective and focused on the poor; and compensating the poor directly. The Bank's role in such circumstances could be to help countries develop the analytical ability to understand the short-term trade-offs between growth and equitable distribution, identify the size and characteristics of the beneficiary and losing groups, and devise strategies to assist the most vulnerable. By reducing subsidies for many services, Governments could free resources for more socially productive programmes, including those that provided greater benefits to the poor and underprivileged groups such as women. Compensatory programmes to cover food costs and improved nutrition could also help reduce the social costs of adjustment.

25. The main way in which the Bank's adjustment-lending had a direct impact on the poor was through reviews of public expenditure. Rationalization of such expenditure and investment could help reduce wasteful programmes and redirect social spending towards the poor.

26. The Bank's concern with the implications of its activities for women complemented efforts for the advancement of women by other organizations, multilateral and bilateral. The need to optimize the resources available and co-ordinate the activities of all those concerned with women's issues was urgent and critical.

27. Mr. ZIARAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of) stressed the need for due attention to be given to the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. While such issues as stagnation of growth and development, indebtedness, reverse transfer of resources and low commodity prices were important to the developing countries, it must also be borne in mind that that situation was one of the effects of the anarchy existing in the economic relations among States. The existing international economic system was structured to the disadvantage of the developing countries, and in order to pave the way for their revitalized growth and development, there must be an environment conducive to transfer of technology, reduction of indebtedness and flow of financial resources. To create such an environment, it was necessary to work on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which provided an appropriate instrument for restructuring international economic relations.

28. His delegation welcomed the new spirit of co-operation and willingness to seek mutually acceptable accords in the economic and social spheres, as reflected in agreement on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly and the discussion on the outline of the international development strategy.

29. With regard to the question of human settlements, more than 1 billion people were homeless and living in poor conditions, and the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 was thus vital. In that connection, he noted that one of the significant tasks before the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session had been the establishment of monitoring facilities for the implementation of the Strategy. Moreover, the Commission had adopted a resolution

(Mr. Ziaran, Iran, Islamic
Republic of)

on economic growth in developing countries as an essential factor in attaining the objectives of the Strategy. In his delegation's view, implementation of the Strategy in the developing countries also required international support, including financial resources as well as technical assistance.

30. While the international community had recently been concerned with the improvement of human settlements and countries were adopting special measures to meet the goals of the Global Strategy for Shelter, a reverse trend was taking place in occupied Palestine, where the bulldozers of the Zionist régime were destroying the homes of Palestinians. Moreover, the Zionist régime intended to change the demographic composition of occupied Palestine, and to that end had established non-nomadic settlements and undertaken activities that would lead to the exodus of the Palestinian people from their homeland. The adoption by the Commission of a resolution on the housing conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories illustrated the concern of the international community about the brutal actions of the Zionist entity. The international community must discharge its responsibilities by forcing that régime to cease its collective punishment policies and indiscriminate revengeful practices.

31. His Government, adhering to the teachings of Islam, had undertaken many measures to ensure the participation of women in social and economic fields. For example, the legislative branch had adopted a series of regulations and laws to facilitate the active and full participation of women in development. Since the majority of the population in developing countries lived in rural areas, priority should be given to improving the well-being of women in those areas.

32. Mr. TSHITAMBWE (Zaire) said that the national and international trends indicated in the 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development should be the subject of evaluation on a regular basis. It was clear that the economic crises confronting the developing countries impeded the integration women in the development process. Furthermore, in many developing countries families were increasingly headed by women, whereas society did not grant them a status identical to that of men, in particular with regard to employment and social and vocational advancement. The international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade should therefore firmly tackle the problem of the integration of women in development.

33. In Zaire, that problem was a major and constant concern of the Executive Council. The 1967 Constitution embodied the principle of equality of men and women before the law. In 1967, the first woman had become a member of the Executive Council. The Executive Secretariat on the Condition of Women and Family, which co-ordinated efforts to ensure the advancement of women, had greatly contributed to their increasing access to posts of responsibility and jobs traditionally held by men. Zairian women were increasingly becoming economic agents. In the villages, they played a predominant role in agricultural production and their contribution to the Government's programme for food self-sufficiency in foodstuffs had also demonstrated the need for their effective integration in the economy. Mention should also be made of the recent establishment of the Permanent Advisory Council

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(Mr. Tshitambwe, Zaire)

for Development, in which women were free to put forward their views on development problems to the same extent as men.

34. With regard to the question of human settlements, his delegation took note of the pessimistic outlook concerning the problem of the deterioration of human settlements and housing in the 1990s. To meet that challenge, Governments must demonstrate the political will to implement the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

35. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly had adopted the Draft World Charter for Nature establishing a number of principles for the protection and conservation of nature. The right to adequate housing was a corollary to the right to a healthy environment. In that connection, housing was a major concern of Zaire's Executive Council. In 1987, the Department of Town Planning and Human Settlements had been established; the positive achievements in that field included the construction of housing developments, particularly at Kinshasa, and the preparation of an integrated urbanization project at the national level.

36. In conclusion, he said that the housing sector was an area in which international co-operation should play a predominant role in favour of developing countries.

37. Mr. SISOUVONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, owing to a lack of political will on the part of developed countries, the current favourable political climate had not yet adequately influenced economic relations among the developed and developing States. The economic crisis continued, and indebtedness constituted a considerable burden on developing countries. Certain industrialized countries still imposed coercive measures and applied discriminatory policies against imports from developing countries, a situation which represented a serious threat to the international trading system. As a result of those measures, which ran counter to the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the gap between the developed and developing countries continued to widen. In order to cope with the phenomenon of negative growth, the developing countries had undertaken domestic policy reforms and adjustments. Despite those measures, in 1988 42 countries were classified as least developed, as against 31 in 1981.

38. His Government believed that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States remained relevant, and that only a multilateral and concerted approach could solve international economic problems. There was also a pressing need for constructive dialogue between North and South. Developed countries should use their economic, scientific and technological potential to provide assistance to the developing countries in a wide range of areas. Major steps towards restructuring international economic relations based on justice and equity could be achieved if relations among States were demilitarized, and disarmament released funds for economic and social development.

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(Mr. Sisouvong, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

39. His Government had adopted an open-door policy which had led to the promotion of good-neighbourliness and co-operation on the basis of the mutual interest of States in the region. It would continue to lead its support to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and considered that the international community had a duty to monitor its implementation and unequivocally to condemn all unfair practices. All countries, developed and developing alike, should make joint efforts to work out multilateral solutions to the acute economic and social problems facing the entire world.

40. Mrs. KODIKARA (Philippines) said that the International Women's Decade had highlighted the various problems and issues confronting women in countries at various stages of development, and in most instances had given rise to measures to improve their situation. The Decade had produced the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The response of the United Nations system to the challenge to institutionalize those strategies had been encouraging. The response of countries, in particular the developing countries, was no less gratifying.

41. The Philippine Constitution explicitly stipulated the fundamental equality of men and women and recognized their role in nation-building. In the belief that enduring promotion of the status of women required a national policy that provided a favourable atmosphere for the development of Women, her Government established the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and in February 1988 had adopted a comprehensive Philippine Development Plan for Women.

42. The time had come to take stock of what had been done at the international level and to reflect on how that international support could best be pursued. The problem of promoting the status of women had not yet been resolved, and the international community should make every effort to sharpen its approach, drawing on the wealth of experience available and on the collective wisdom of countries.

43. The difficult circumstances facing the developing countries were hampering their efforts to promote the status of women. The situation had been further aggravated by the negative social consequences of economic adjustment, and in particular the excessively rigorous adoption of stabilization policies in a number of developing countries. The international community must work harder to promote the status of women and their integration in development. Collective efforts had to be made to guide the international community to a correct course of action and towards enduring solutions to the problems.

44. Her delegation was encouraged by the activities and initiatives of various members of the United Nations system, in particular UNICEF and UNFPA, to promote the status of women and to facilitate their integration in development. While women, particularly those in the developing world, were at the centre of the process of change, many of them belonged to the so-called "disadvantaged and

(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

vulnerable group". That situation had led the Philippines to support international efforts and, in UNICEF, to come forward with an initiative entitled "protecting the vulnerable and promoting growth".

45. The Philippine Development Plan for Women addressed the basic socio-cultural, economic and legal framework. In the economic sector, the Plan dealt extensively with agriculture and agrarian reform, environment and natural resources management, industry, trade and industrial relations and the service sector. On 31 October 1989, the Philippines, together with UNIFEM, would organize a forum to present the Philippine experience in formulating that Plan.

46. The update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development emphasized the factors which had contributed to the deterioration in the status of women in developing countries. The insights provided should encourage individual countries to undertake or intensify their own appropriate measures, and the international community to integrate its approach, in order to combat that global malaise affecting efforts to promote the advancement of women.

47. Ms. SAAD (Egypt) said that her delegation shared the concerns expressed in document A/44/290 regarding the lack of a formal institutionalization of the interface between the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Commission played only a marginal role in the consideration of the substantive and operational aspects of work of UNIFEM, INSTRAW and the UNDP unit which dealt with women in development. The fact that women's issues were dealt with in separate forums was not conducive to complete or comprehensive information and often resulted in repetitive and similar resolutions. Egypt therefore believed that the Commission should be able to study and analyse the work of other bodies dealing with women's issues and then provide other intergovernmental organs, including the Council and the Assembly, with streamlined, analytical and action-oriented recommendations and draft resolutions, so as to avoid repetition and contribute to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

48. Egypt was not in favour of highlighting the items dealing with women by referring to the relevant parts of reports submitted by the various bodies in the annotation of the agenda of the Economic and Social Council. Such treatment should not be selective. Moreover, any proposal to change the allocation of the item on the advancement of women in the Council's programme of work should be viewed in relation to other items.

49. Mr. GOPINATHAN (India) said that, in several parts of the world, the socio-economic contribution of women to the development process was inhibited by their limited access to capital and credit, equipment and transportation and the right and opportunity to function as contributing members of society. In many cases, women's co-operatives and saving groups had provided an effective answer by offering credit. Women's access to production inputs could be enhanced by removing the institutional and social biases against women, and by providing them with extension and training courses and opportunities and facilities to operate

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(Mr. Gopinathan, India)

mechanized farm equipment and handle input, supply, marketing and personnel matters. Education, training and improvement of skills were essential to the creation of a flexible female labour force capable of responding to the constant changes resulting from technological advances.

50. In India, the Ministry of Human Resources Development was responsible for the overall implementation and co-ordination of programmes dealing with women in development. Programmes were implemented by both the central Government and the state or provincial governments. Women's development corporations had been set up in all provinces with a view to providing better employment opportunities for women and to enable them to become economically independent and self-reliant. Special schemes to benefit poor women in rural areas and women from less privileged sections of society and from socially disadvantaged groups had also been introduced. The voluntary, non-governmental and informal sectors played an important role in the implementation of many of those projects.

51. During the past decade, stagnation and low growth in developing countries as a whole had had a negative impact on their efforts to integrate women in the development process. Unfortunately, women were often the last link in that process and suffered the most, especially in agriculture-based economies. The role of women in development was one of the major components of developing countries' efforts to achieve substantial progress in human resources development, and it was important to identify areas for international co-operation in that vital area. A supportive international economic environment was an important complement to appropriate national policies to improve the role of women in economic development.

52. His delegation appreciated the work of the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat). The solution of housing problems was a Herculean task for many countries, especially the developing countries. It was therefore imperative that the housing sector should be treated as an integral part of development policies and plans. In addition to their substantive role in that area, Governments could provide infrastructure and services and take steps to enable the private and informal sectors to play their respective roles in the common objective of providing shelter for all.

53. The international community's heightened awareness of the problem of housing had led to the observance of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and to the adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-third session of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. His delegation supported the work of the Centre (Habitat) in the monitoring and implementation of the first phase of the Strategy. However, India was somewhat concerned at the lack of adequate funding, and it called upon all those in a position to do so, in particular the developed countries, to contribute sufficient resources for the successful implementation of the Strategy.

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54. Mr. KING (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, all over the world, women were faced with an inverse relationship between the proportion of work done and the percentage of total remuneration received. There was no country in which economic development had successfully resolved the inequity often found in the division of responsibilities and benefits within the family. Studies in North America had shown that married women were far more involved in child care and housework than their husbands, even when both spouses worked, and that the participation of women in economic activity outside the home had not resulted in a concomitant reduction of their domestic responsibilities. In the developing world, many women combined their domestic tasks with domestic agricultural labour and also work in the formal or informal economic sector.

55. Another concern was the increasing number of women who were assuming the responsibilities of head of household. In both developed and developing countries, single-parent families were likely to be on the periphery of the economy. Such families constituted the poorest segment of populations and were therefore more likely to be affected by imbalances within national economies.

56. The majority of women throughout the world who were engaged in gainful employment worked in the agricultural sector. In Latin America and the Caribbean, women were employed mostly in the service sector. Employees in those sectors were among the first to be affected by an economic downturn. In the 1980s, much of the pain experienced by developing countries in the wake of depressed commodity prices, the resurgence of trade barriers and the debt problem had been felt by women. That had no doubt contributed to the emerging phenomenon of the feminization of poverty.

57. Trinidad and Tobago was in the process of carrying out a structural adjustment programme. Nevertheless, his Government remained firm in its commitment to take progressive measures to eliminate the remaining obstacles which hindered the development of women in society and to promote their full participation at all levels of national life. Trinidad and Tobago would endeavour to remove the traditional barriers which discouraged women from pursuing certain programmes so that they could become part of the mainstream of the development process.

58. Women constituted approximately 50 per cent of the population of most developing countries, and they might outnumber men in areas which had recently suffered the ravages of regional conflicts. Women therefore comprised a significant proportion of the human resources of developing countries, while their contribution to development had been generally undervalued and unrewarded. That problem must be addressed within the framework of human resources development, a process in which the United Nations and its bodies involved in operational activities for development must play a pivotal role.

59. Miss TROYA (Ecuador) said that it was regrettable that so few countries had responded to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General to facilitate elaboration of his report on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/44/266 and Add.1 and 2). In future, all countries should endeavour to co-operate by responding to such questionnaires in a timely manner.
60. Ecuador vigorously supported any proposal to ensure the greater participation of women in all national and international activities through the adoption of legislation which guaranteed the true equality of women. Ecuador was endeavouring to harmonize its legislation in order to ensure the full application of the United Nations recommendations on the subject. For example, the Act of August 1989 reforming the Civil Code contained a series of changes aimed at ensuring the legal equality of spouses. In August 1988, Ecuador had set up a Commission in the National Congress to deal with women's issues.
61. The external debt of developing debtor countries had had negative repercussions on the status of women. The Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Guatemala City in September 1988, had emphasized the difficult conditions of peasant women as well as women in the informal urban sector. Plans and policies must be adopted which provided for the effective integration of women in development by ensuring equal opportunities in the areas of employment, training and vocational education.
62. Housing was a major objective of Ecuador's National Development Plan. The Ecuadorian Government was endeavouring to provide a basic infrastructure for its homeless population, and co-ordinated its policies with the private sector, municipalities and communities in order to arrive at a global solution to the housing problem.
63. International co-operation could contribute to the solution of national housing problems, and Ecuador welcomed the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session, which established the Latin American and the Caribbean Centre for the Exchange and Promotion of Human Settlements Technologies. Another resolution adopted at that session dealt with a programme for the eradication of poor housing conditions and for the urban rehabilitation of historic centres. Ecuador wished to thank the countries and multilateral agencies which had co-operated in the reconstruction and maintenance of the historical heritage of Quito.
64. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece) said that the representative of Egypt had pointed out that separate forums submitted many unnecessary resolutions on women in development and that the substantive discussion of that issue should take place in the Commission on the Status of Women. In the last two years, the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee had brought forward useful resolutions on the economic aspects of women in development. Thanks to the efforts of Greece and Canada, the World Economic Survey had included a section on women.

(Mr. Papadatos, Greece)

65. A number of speakers in the Second Committee had recognized the merits of treating the issue from an economic perspective, since the efforts of the Second Committee were complementary to those in other forums. In fact, it had been Egypt which, a few years ago, had introduced the item in the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.