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UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT
AND PEACE

World Conference of the United Nations Decade
for women

Report of the Secretary-General

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Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. This information will be reported to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session, to be held in February-March 1982.

2. Measures taken at global and sectoral levels pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 35/136 3/

(a) United Nations

Human rights

11. Advancing the status and the rights of women is an integral part of the efforts undertaken within the United Nations human rights programme to promote and to protect the rights of every human being. At the same time, human rights organs are mindful of, and pay particular attention to, the needs of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, such as women and children. The activities of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its Working Group on Slavery at its annual sessions include consideration of the exploitation of the prostitution of women and examination of traditional practises affecting women, and also consideration of the sale of children and the exploitation of child labour, matters which affect the rights of women. Similarly, the convention on the rights of the child, which is currently under preparation in the Commission on Human Rights, is relevant to the concerns of women and of the rights of mothers vis-à-vis their children.

12. The rights of migrant women and the families of migrant workers continue to receive attention in the Commission on Human Rights and in the General Assembly, which is now engaged in the drafting of a convention on the human rights of migrant workers.

13. In the course of their activities, fact-finding bodies in the field of human rights pay particular attention to the situation of women and children. Thus, the treatment of women in South Africa and Namibia receives regular attention from the Commission on Human Rights' Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on human rights in southern Africa. Similarly, the Working Group on Disappeared Persons is mindful of the situation of the wives, mothers and children of persons who have involuntarily disappeared.

3/ For relevant activities undertaken by WFP, ICAO, IMCO and IFAD see the note of the Secretary-General transmitting information on financial and technical support activities (A/36/485). For the relevant activities undertaken by the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, see the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of resolution 2 of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development entitled "Women, science and technology" (A/36/591). For activities of the World Food Council, see the report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations agencies and organizations in assisting Governments to facilitate the integration of women in rural development (A/36/475).

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Anti-apartheid activities

14. The Special Committee against Apartheid continues to pay particular attention to the plight of women and children. During 1980, it co-sponsored two seminars on women under apartheid and was represented at a seminar in the Netherlands organized by the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement. In its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, the Special Committee made a number of recommendations concerning women. 4/

15. In order to mobilize world public opinion in support of women and children in their struggle against apartheid, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, has put out large quantities of publicity material which were widely disseminated through United Nations Information Centres, anti-apartheid movements and non-governmental organizations actively engaged against apartheid, the media and educational institutions.

16. In November 1980, the following issues of Notes and Documents were published in English and French: "Apartheid as a collective form of slavery" (26/80), "Mass population removals in apartheid South Africa" (27/80), and a special issue on the impact of apartheid on family life. A printed brochure on women and apartheid will be issued shortly in English and French by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. A 16 mm colour film entitled "You have touched a woman: you have struck a rock", a pictorial documentary on the women's anti-pass campaign in South Africa, is now being completed. The Secretariat continues to co-operate with national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparation and wide distribution of exhibitions, pictorial facsimiles of exhibitions, booklets and leaflets, television spots, films and radio programmes both in the official languages of the United Nations and also in other languages.

17. On the basis of the proposals of the Special Committee, and taking note of the recommendations on assistance to women in southern Africa contained in the Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 5/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 35/206 N of 16 December 1980, which was concerned specifically with the question of women and children under apartheid. The Special Committee and its Task Force on Women and Children under apartheid is implementing these recommendations.

United Nations Council for Namibia

18. As the legal administering authority for Namibia until independence, the United Nations Council for Namibia has initiated two major programmes: the United Nations Institute for Namibia and the Nationhood Programme for Namibia. In addition, the Council maintains a scholarship programme for Namibians. These

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/35/22), paras. 401-408.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum, paras. 241-243.

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programmes take into account the need for the complete integration of women and provide an ongoing framework for activities leading to a substantial improvement in the status of women. In each of these educational programmes, which have group training or scholarship components, a variety of formal and non-formal educational experiences for both women and men are available in a wide range of fields. The Nationhood Programme for Namibia, a comprehensive assistance programme within the United Nations system, provides a focal point for questions and project activities relating to Namibian women. It has among its 46 pre-independence projects one specifically devoted to women (SWP/78/004-Participation of women in development) which is financed under the UNDP indicative planning figures for National Liberation Movements.

Report on General Assembly resolution 35/136 suggested
for insert on page 10

Development issues and policies

19. In the context of the objectives and policy measures recommended in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Secretariat will continue to study the current and emerging aspects of the situation of women in relation with other development issues of international concern. The 1981 Report on the World Social Situation and its annex on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development will provide a review of sectoral trends and an analysis of elements of socio-economic changes which bear upon the status and living conditions of women seen as agents and beneficiaries of the development process. This report will include in particular a discussion of the current problems confronting the welfare State and the process of allocation of resources among various competing groups. It will also include an analysis of current policies in health, education and employment. In other reports and publications pertaining to income distribution, to emerging social issues of international concern and to social aspects of rural development, the Secretariat will consider the effects of various policies on the socio-economic status and role of women in countries at different levels of economic development.

Statistics

20. The Programme of Action of the World Conference calls for development and dissemination at national, regional and international levels of improved statistics and indicators on the role and status of women, including measures of inequalities between men and women and women's participation in the development process, and for improvement of concepts and methods for collecting and disseminating these statistics and indicators.

21. The 1978 United Nations Demographic Yearbook and the 1977 Compendium of Social Statistics provide detailed statistics on women in a wide variety of fields, including urban and rural populations by age; life expectancy and death rates; marriage; literacy enrollment and educational attainment; and economically active and inactive (by industry, occupation and status in employment and urban and rural). Greater coverage of statistics on women is being provided in the Demographic Yearbook as the statistics become available from countries. A special effort to

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obtain more comprehensive statistics and indicators will be made in the course of preparation of the next Compendium of Social Statistics (to be completed in 1983). The 1981 issue of the United Nations Statistical Pocketbook will contain several series with data shown separately for men and women for the first time.

22. In 1978, the Secretariat initiated a long range programme for the improvement of concepts and methods suitable for collecting statistics on the role and status of women. ^{6/} This programme is being substantially strengthened in the 1982-1983 biennium. Concepts which are being reviewed include head of household, household and family, economic activity, age reporting, marital status, education and literacy, migration, fertility and mortality. A revised and extended technical report on this subject will be prepared in 1982. In 1982 a technical report on the use of household surveys to collect data on women will also be prepared.

23. The treatment in the United Nations System of National Accounts of productive activities often undertaken in large part by women in the household sector is also under review. In addition, one of the important sources of data bearing on the participation and impact of women in productive and related activities is considered to be statistics of the use of time. A progress report on this subject was considered by the Statistical Commission at its nineteenth session (E/CN.3/519) and a revised and expanded report, which is in preparation, will explore this use of these statistics in more detail.

24. In order to consider these and related developments in all fields of statistics concerning women, it is planned to convene an expert group on improving statistics on the role and status of women in 1983 (see A/36/485).

Population

25. The Secretariat is currently engaged in multiple research projects which relate to concerns expressed in the Programme of Action. In paragraph 257 of the Programme of Action, it is stated that "emphasis should also be given to fuller and more systematic analysis of all the interrelationships between women's roles in development and demographic phenomena". Many current projects, which are enumerated below, reflect this concern:

(a) A study of the relationship between women's work history and fertility using data from the World Fertility Surveys. This is an ongoing project which will be expanded as data from a growing number of developing countries becomes available.

(b) A study of the demographic impact of status of women policies with emphasis on the interrelationship between policy motivation and effective implementation in the context of a country's over-all development strategy. This will be done both for developed and developing countries and certain hypotheses will be explored in more depth using well-chosen case studies. This study aims to identify the conditions under which status of women policies are more likely to be adopted and effectively implemented.

^{6/} An overview of potential sources of sex biases in statistics was issued by the United Nations as a technical report in 1980 entitled "Sex-based stereotypes, sex biases and national data systems" (ST/ESA/STAT/99).

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(c) A study of sex differentials in mortality which will focus on different critical points in the life cycle and compare patterns across regions and between countries at different levels of development.

(d) A study of patterns of labour force participation by sex in primate cities of developing regions. Attention will be drawn to different indicators of development and demographic change which may affect patterns of occupational distribution in large cities.

Social development and humanitarian affairs

26. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is the focal point of the United Nations Decade for Women, and the Branch for the Advancement of Women is the responsible substantive unit within it, acting also as the secretariat on substantive matters for the Commission on the Status of Women. The Branch undertakes activities concerning co-ordination within the United Nations system and strengthening the Commission on the Status of Women (see section C below), including monitoring of implementation of the Programme of Action (A/35/556; E/1981/32).

27. In response to the Programme of Action, General Assembly resolutions 35/136 and 35/78 of 5 December 1980 and to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade revisions were made in the relevant subprogrammes in the programme budget for 1980-1981, and the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 and the draft medium-term plan for 1984-1989 have been prepared accordingly. The greatest care was taken to emphasize the over-all international economic situation and the establishment of the new international economic order as the fundamental context of the Secretariat's activities. Clarification of the nature of the mutual relationships between international economic processes and policies and the role which women play in development, and the formulation of appropriate policies, is a major objective of activities concerned with information collection, analysis and research, and the monitoring, review and appraisal of international strategies.

28. Procedures for the 1982-1983 round of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action to achieve the objectives of the International Women's Year and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women have been designed to emphasize the relationships between the objectives and policy measures of the Programme of Action and the International Development Strategy. The Data Bank on women's status is being expanded and made more effective. In co-operation with INSTRAW, social indicators applicable to studies of women are being further developed, pursuant in particular to ESOSOC resolution 1981/11.

29. An Expert Group Meeting on Women and the International Development Strategy will be held in November-December 1981. Its function will be to advise on action which may be taken in relation to hitherto only partially understood aspects of underlying factors influencing women, notably international trade, monetary factors and developments in science and technology. Attention will be given also to the design of policies for rural development, industrialization, energy and tourism which will have most beneficial implications for women, and which are likely to have the least negative effect. This will to some extent meet the request made in

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paragraph 7 of resolution 35/78. The Expert Group Meeting will recommend future research on these matters.

30. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 35/78, an interdisciplinary and multisectoral world survey on the role of women in over-all development is being prepared (see A/36/5.90). A compendium of information on women's status, containing entries for all countries, and a series of country studies on national experience in formulation and implementation of policy designed to improve women's status and effective participation in development, complement this survey.

31. Preparations are being made for an expert group meeting on technical and organizational aspects of policy formulation and planning for women's effective mobilization in development to be held in 1982. A manual on this subject will be prepared.

32. Throughout the period, inputs will be made to world conferences on the formulation of strategies, policies and programmes as required to ensure that the mutual relationships between women's status and the processes of development are fully taken into account.

33. With regard to the recommendations of the Programme of Action in its paragraphs 252-256 and of resolution 28 of the World Conference concerning international instruments and standards, the Secretariat will service the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and will monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. During 1982-1983, reports will be made to the Commission on the Status of Women and a compendium of international conventions and recommendations will be published. Monitoring of ratifications or accession to international legal standards concerning women and their implementation by Governments will continue during 1984-1989. Inclusion of the needs of women in the formulation or improvement of international standards will be ensured throughout the period by means of studies and inputs.

34. In the area of human rights, and the protection of women from crime, the relevant recommendations of the Programme of Action and resolutions 5, 17, 20, 23 and 43 of the World Conference will be implemented. Pursuant to paragraph 225 of the Programme of Action, inventories of comparative national legislation aimed at sex equality are being prepared for publication in 1983, with publication thereafter of reference work on new or improved legislation. During 1984 and 1985, special efforts will be undertaken to help facilitate enactment of national legislation guaranteeing women's suffrage by 1985. In the area of the participation of women in political affairs and in international co-operation and peace, the recommendations of the Programme of Action (paras. 69-82 and 241-251) and resolutions 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 31 and 45 of the World Conference will be implemented during 1982-1983.

35. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women gained its initial operational impetus through co-operation with the regional commissions, and continues to depend upon their substantive assistance with project development, monitoring and evaluation. Fund resources have been used to support two senior

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women's programme officer posts at three of the four concerned commissions, namely ECA, ECLA and ESCAP (ECWA accepted the assistance only temporarily and has backstopped Fund activities from a regular budget post). Co-operation with and support of the regional commissions has effected both the augmentation of activities and the initiation or strengthening of regional and subregional programmes for women. While the Fund now reaches country level through the Resident Co-ordinators of the United Nations, following a 1980 agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in respect of the fact that some 70 per cent of its projects are country ones, the regional commissions continue to execute regional projects of technical co-operations among developing countries and to provide substantive backstopping to country ones.

36. Through numerous projects the Fund has intensified the dissemination of information within regions. In total it has supported 15 country and regional projects on information and communication, including publications. Through earmarked grants, the Fund has also financed information and communication activities of the Secretariat such as the publication of a press kit, the Plan of Action, the Bulletin of the Decade, an NGO Booklet and the preparation of a television programme promoting women.

37. The Secretariat undertakes collection of information research and preparation of policy guidance in regard to young women, migrant women and aged women. The draft Programme of Measures and Activities for the International Youth Year includes a substantial references to the problems of young women, and recommends actions which Governments may wish to take. Preparation for the World Assembly of the Aged have included analyses of the demographic aspects of the situation with regard to the aged, a high proportion of whom are women. Policy guidelines on the subject of disabled women, and recommendations concerning their special problems, are being included in the programme of action currently being prepared.

38. In accordance with recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.87/14/Rev. 1) as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/171 of 15 December 1980, a new programme element "Crime Prevention and Women" has been proposed in the programme budget for the period 1982-1983. Expected out-puts will be reports on the fair treatment of women by the criminal justice system and on the relationship between socio-economic factors and the exploitation of and traffic in persons, with policy and planning implications. The Latin American Regional Institute on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has organized a regional Seminar on "Women as preparators and victims of crime", at San José, Costa Rica.

Public information

39. The Secretariat will continue to produce a weekly radio programme in English, providing additional raw material for those broadcasting organizations that also produce local language adaptations. Monthly French, Spanish and Arabic radio programmes will also be produced reflecting the same themes, based on the priorities of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Programme of Action, resolutions of the World Conference and other issues of concern to women. All these programmes are broadcast widely, over national networks and other independent stations. An animated film will be completed by March 1982, in co-operation with

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Kratky Films in Czechoslovakia, on the double work load of working women. A film vignette on family planning in Indonesia has been completed. Within the very limited funds available, DPI will (a) prepare a proposal for a television series on women and development, mandated in paragraph 269 of the Programme of Action; (b) update and streamline the mailing list on women; (c) include in its future updates the new international economic order press kit information on issues relevant to women; (d) include regularly in Development Forum articles on women; (e) update and reprint the bibliography produced by the United Nations Library in 1975; (f) produce feature articles on women. The General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, allocated \$US 147,500 for the continuation and expansion of the weekly radio programmes on women in 1981. However, the publications programme, study tours and other information activities called for in paragraph 270 of the Programme of Action cannot be undertaken unless other activities of lower priority can be identified and discontinued so as to release the necessary resources.

Transnational corporations

40. No mandate has been given by the Commission on Transnational Corporations to undertake any specific work with respect to transnational corporations and women and the basic tasks mandated by that Commission afford very little opportunity to deal with this matter. However, the Secretariat will complete before the end of 1981 a technical paper on the social and cultural impact of transnational corporations. Prepared entirely on the basis of published materials, this would include a short subchapter on the impact of transnational corporations on the role of women in the developing countries. As regards the formulation of a code of conduct, there are no provisions which deal specifically with women, even if some of the provisions, for example, those concerning social and cultural impact of Transnational Corporations as well as those relating to consumer protection, relate to matters of interest and concern to women. In addition, reference will be made in the provisions relating to employment, working conditions, and industrial relations to the ILO Tripartite Declaration which contains many provisions of importance to women.

Trade and development

41. The attention of the Trade and Development Board was drawn to the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 35/136, but the Board had, not taken action on the matter. At the secretariat level, the measures which might be taken were under study and certain actions were already being planned by the Technology Division. This comprised plans for studying the measures needed to ensure the equal integration of men and women in the development process in the agro-food industry and for a wider study of the role of women in technological transformation in general.

Industrial development

42. The contents of the Programme of Action and resolutions of the World Conference had been analysed and relevant sections brought to the attention of the appropriate Divisions in UNIDO. Most of the recommendations relate to the importance of guarding against the adverse effects which technology transfer and

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redeployment may have on women; the need to take women into account at the early stages of planning; and the need to provide women with opportunities for employment and mobility and, through appropriate technology, alleviate the traditional burdens of child care and food production. An effort was being made to incorporate these recommendations, in particular in UNIDO's technical assistance programmes, by means of a circular (ID/B/256, annex II) which has been addressed to field staff involved in development programmes and distributed, also to programme officers at Headquarters. The financial implications of other recommendations, such as setting up training courses in co-operation with INSTRAW and undertaking joint studies on rural women in co-operation with UNCTAD, ILO and FAO would be assessed after discussion with those agencies. The secretariat was in the process of assessing the possibilities of incorporating the question of integration of women in development within the current and future work programmes of each individual Branch and Section. (ID/B/256, annex I, paras. 7-10 and 18-21.)

Human settlements (Habitat)

43. The draft medium-term plan for 1984-1989 contains action-oriented proposals designed to ensure a concerted and sustained effort for the implementation of plan of action adopted by the Habitat Conference, two Women's Conferences and goals specified in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Work will emphasize the development and maintenance of the built environment as a means of accommodating and integrating the growth of population and economic and social activities in urban and rural areas. This policy which involves improvement in the status of women by complete integration with over-all settlement development includes: the improvement of shelter, infrastructure and community services with a view to accommodating the existing and future population, increasing labour productivity including rural women, stimulating public participation in particular greater participation by women; improving health and educational facilities and ensuring greater equity in the distribution of income and the benefits particularly to women.

United Nations Children's Fund

44. Co-operation, because of the special relationship between women and children, has been directed towards the needs of both. Women's needs in health care, nutrition, schooling and skills training, in child rearing and home improvement and, more recently, training and other activities related to increasing family income have been the focus of UNICEF's policies. Special support has been directed to women heads of household (see A/36/485/paras. 51-56). At its 1980 session, the Board considered a report on UNICEF policies of co-operation with respect to women and girls, programme guidelines, and an assessment of selected programmes. The Board agreed that UNICEF should: advocate a broad perception of women in society and in the development process, taking the view that women were not limited to motherhood or domestic roles; give priority in its co-operation in programmes for low-income women in developing countries to those activities that had the strongest positive effects on the well-being of children; help develop income-generating programmes for women that derived from manufacturing, trading and food production activities; strengthen social support services for women engaged in income-generating activities; continue to support individual and organized participation of women as active initiators, leaders, and managers in the provision of basic services; encourage serious attention in programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the possible impact of programme

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activities on the situation of women and girls; collaborate with Governments in the eradication of the practice of female circumcision; draw on the interest and experience of non-governmental organizations in programmes relating to women, children and development; sustain a high level of consciousness among UNICEF programme officers and other UNICEF staff of the importance of enhancing the situation of low-income rural and urban women and girls in developing countries; and recruit more women into the professional staff of UNICEF, especially in senior positions, recognizing also the need for more women from developing countries.

United Nations Development Programme 7/

45. In its efforts to implement the recommendations for action in respect of technical co-operation contained in the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, UNDP is intensifying its special programme to promote women's participation in development, which was started in 1974. As part of its continuing education and information activities about women's role in development, UNDP has, for example, prepared a new issue paper on "Northern Women and the NIEO" (No. 16) and commissioned a paper on "Promoting and Accelerating Women's Participation in Development Programmes in the Caribbean through Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries" (TCDC/2/13). In addition, a pamphlet outlining policies and procedures for all funds administered by UNDP has been published. On the basis of the findings and recommendations for action that emerged from a joint Agency /UNDP action-oriented assessment of Rural Women's Participation in Development (UNDP, Evaluation Study No. 3), which were endorsed in full by the Governing Council of UNDP, detailed instructions have been issued to UNDP staff and, for information, to the Participating and Executing Agencies (UNDP/PROG/79 and UNDP/PROG/79 Add. 1). The possibility of obtaining special programming assistance from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women is emphasized as one aspect of the increasingly close collaboration between the Voluntary Fund and UNDP.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees

46. Within the framework of its dual function of providing legal protection to refugees and promoting durable solutions to their plight, UNHCR is increasingly devoting attention to women refugees in view of their numbers, their social and physical vulnerabilities and their frequent difficulties in adapting to different surroundings. Programmes have been organized specifically for women refugees aimed at enhancing their social and economically useful skills, thereby increasing their participation in camp or settlement life and facilitating their eventual integration into new communities. These programmes include training in handicrafts, agriculture-based activities and training in such fields as hygiene, sanitation, pre-natal and child care, nutrition, food preparation and storage. Research projects have also been proposed to study the conditions which

7/ Further information on UNDP activities designed to promote women's participation in development is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of resolution 2 of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development entitled "Women, science and technology" (A/36/591); and the role of United Nations and organizations in assisting Governments to facilitate the integration of women in rural development (A/36/475); and the note of the Secretary-General transmitting information on financial and technical support activities (A/36/485).

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specifically hinder women refugees from achieving durable solutions to their problems, and the role of refugee women in development.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities

47. UNFPA has taken specific actions aimed at the increased participation of women in projects which it supports. In order to ensure that the specific situations of women as well as the possibilities for their increased participation are taken into account in preparation and appraisal of all UNFPA-supported projects, in May 1980 Guidelines for UNFPA Policies and Programmes in the Field of Women, Population and Development were prepared. This document was sent to all UNDP Resident Representatives, UNFPA Field Co-ordinators, Participating and Executing Agencies and other relevant organizations, with the recommendation that the suggestions provided therein be considered in development of project requests for the UNFPA's support. The Guidelines also refer to specific activities required in order to make the increased participation and integration of women in such programmes possible. Furthermore, they provide examples of such programmes which could be assisted by the Fund. A specific chapter on Women, Population and Development has been included in the UNFPA's Manual for Needs Assessment and Programme Development. The UNFPA-conducted needs assessments serve as the basis for programme development in population-related areas in developing countries.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency

48. UNRWA is charged by the General Assembly with providing services to the Palestine refugees in the Near East. These services include education, health and relief programmes, all of which take into consideration the special needs of women. These are described in detail in the note of the Secretary-General transmitting information on the technical and financial support activities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations (A/36/485).

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

49. UNITAR uses a comprehensive approach aimed at ending the narrow confinement of matters affecting women to social and humanitarian issues. It integrates a component in the situation and role of women in each of its research activities.

50. All UNITAR training programmes are open to women, who participate in them as both discussion leaders and participants on a basis of equality with men.

51. In an effort to diminish any adverse effects of the redeployment of industry and technology on women, UNITAR recently produced a series of studies addressing the impacts of scientific-technological change on the role of women in development.

52. Considering that a new international economic order is unlikely to be achieved unless the inequality between men and women is eliminated, the UNITAR project on progress in the establishment of the New International Economic Order includes several studies prepared by women on such subjects as the status of women and the exercise of political power in the context of the new order. UNITAR intends to establish an independent international commission on alternative development with women utilizing a modus operandi similar to that of the Brandt Commission. The proposed commission will analyse problems and propose solutions to unequal power relationships between the sexes; bring women to the forefront of international

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debate such as the North-South dialogue; explore and promote measures, especially those that focus on the needs of the poorest women, and integrate these new perspectives into the development strategies of the 1980s and beyond.

53. UNITAR includes information of interest and relevance to women in its publications. The most recent issue of UNITAR News (volume XII, No. 2, Autumn 1980) carries an article on "UNITAR and the United Nations Decade for Women - Equality, Development and Peace" together with related articles.

United Nations University

54. The University is exploring a proposal that it undertakes studies of the historical experience of human and social development of children, women, men, the elderly, and families in all regions of the world, and evaluate current or contemporary models of economic and social development and accompanying gender and age roles as these have emerged from civilizational traditions in the light of that historical experience. It plans to continue its action-oriented research concerning "Women and Food Systems". The University is also exploring the possibility of establishing an institute for mother and child with particular emphasis on the problems of developing countries.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

55. UNRISD has been undertaking since 1978 research on the impact on women of socio-economic changes in Africa south of the Sahara. Further information is provided in the Secretary-General's report on the integration of women in rural development (A/36/475).

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

56. The objectives of the Institute are 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. The Institute pursues these objectives in the context to the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, regional plans of action and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations. In the implementation of its programme, the Institute works in close collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat and co-ordinates its activities with all other relevant organizations within the United Nations system. The Institute also maintains close collaboration with national and regional centres and institutes which pursue similar objectives.

57. The first contribution of INSTRAW was made to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held in Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980, as requested by its Board of Trustees. The Institute prepared inventories of existing data and research activities carried out within the United Nations system and on ongoing training activities for women within and outside the United Nations system. It published booklets on selected successful national machineries for the advancement of women and on selected successful activities achieved by women, as well as a special issue of an information bulletin.

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58. The Institute is operating on an interim basis at United Nations Headquarters, pending its installation in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. The programme of work of the Institute will be submitted for approval to the next session of the Board of Trustees, scheduled for the end of January 1982.

(b) International Labour Organisation

59. The Governing Body has discussed the Conference results twice, in November 1980 and March 1981. Programme proposals on women's workers for the biennium 1982/83 have been revised in the light of the decision and results of the World Conference. During this process the subject areas of ILO competence were strengthened and textually revised. Analytical research on trends and projects for women workers are to be generally expanded, including the strengthening of women's bureaux by means of improvements in labour administration. After the World Conference more attention has been given by Governments and trade unions to working women's questions and their participation at all levels. The focus has been on long-term planning to involve women in development, especially through national institutional machinery. Several countries, including Jordan and Luxembourg, established women's bureaux during 1980/81. The ILO is currently updating its directory of Government bodies dealing with women workers' questions.

60. New statistical activities include the classification by sex of employment and unemployment data and the formulation of additional questions on women's work, income and welfare for use in household surveys. New concepts of women's participation rates in labour force are also being examined.

61. The ILO standards relating to women workers are also receiving attention. These include Conventions 3 and 103 concerning maternity protection. Their revision in whole or in part is envisaged. The International Labour Conference was held in June 1981 and examined the problem of workers with family responsibilities. It adopted Convention No.156, confirming equal opportunities and treatment for men and women workers with family responsibilities.

62. With regard to research, additional projects include preparation of a volume on the employment of women in industrialized countries and the impact of micro-electronic technology on women's jobs. Also being planned are a series of studies associated with the ILO projects concerning the promotion of employment of rural women, 8/ and the role of women and demographic change. 9/

63. Technical co-operation activities include increasing women's access to non-traditional training and strengthening national institutional schemes to

8/ This anthology will appear under the title "Women and Development and the Sexual Division of Labour in Rural Societies".

9/ A volume on women's role and population trends in the third world will appear shortly.

include women. The ILO technical units are also considering a further strengthening of ongoing programmes by including components on improvement of women's status.

64. Dissemination of information on ILO standards, national legislation and social policies contributing to the better integration of women in development will continue in the form of studies, working papers and briefs. The Office for Women Workers' Questions will continue to publish biennially, in English and French the ILO news-bulletin Women at Work.

(c) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

65. The Organization's programme of work has been oriented so as to give particular attention to disadvantaged groups and to promote equity and people's participation in the development process. Within this framework, increased resources are directed towards programmes for women in rural development.

66. The problems of rural women are dealt with under all activities in the follow up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Special attention is, however, given to the need to improve their social and economic conditions and to integrate them as decision makers in development. This is done in a number of ways. For example, there is an FAO project entitled "Community Action for Disadvantaged Rural Women", the aim of which is to increase rural women's ability to meet their basic needs and those of their dependents and to increase food production. It is also designed to assist Governments in providing rural women farmers and their families with the services they need, to increase their awareness of possible resources for assistance and to stimulate their participation in the improvement of their own living and working conditions.

67. FAO field projects are currently being reviewed to ensure that adequate attention is focused on the rural poor and vulnerable groups, and on such aspects as people's participation and women's involvement. As part of this review, country programme officers have been asked to assess whether women would benefit from all project activities.

68. Assessment of agricultural and rural development projects to ensure that nutritional considerations are taken into account is also being made and it is likely that women will be one of the largest groups to benefit from this assessment.

69. The role of rural women will be one of the areas to which the ACC Task Force on Rural Development will continue to give attention in the future as part of its joint action at the country level in promoting people's participation in development and monitoring and evaluating rural development.

(d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

70. UNESCO has continued its long-standing work in this area. Substantial expansion has followed the World Conference of the International Women's Year in 1975, and the recommendations and resolutions of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women has been fully taken into account in the preparation of

the organizations's 1981-1983 Approved Programme and Budget in which substantial activities to achieve the objective (6.B) of improving the status of women will be undertaken within the programme areas of education, social sciences and culture and communications. The General Conference of UNESCO, at its twenty-first session, held at Belgrade in September-October 1980, adopted resolution 13 on the status of women, which called for a substantial number of action by UNESCO and by Governments.

71. Activities to promote equality between women and men in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities within the community will be continued with consultative panels meeting in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab States in 1982. National endeavours will be encouraged to take practical action on the conclusions of the series of studies carried out in 1979-1980 on the access of women to scientific education and training, and to the related careers.

72. A meeting of experts on the role of women in the education of young people for peace, mutual understanding and respect for human rights will be organized in 1981, in co-operation with the National Commission of a Member State. The promotion of equality between women and men in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities within the community will be undertaken by means of four studies on the economic, political, social and cultural obstacles to the exercise of fundamental rights by women and on the implementation of innovative legislation. Studies will be undertaken on the attitude of women to political and public life, as a preliminary to the convening of a committee of experts on ways of encouraging and increasing the participation of women in the political and social life of the community, including their participation in activities associated with the strengthening of peace.

73. With regard to improved use of quantitative analytical instruments for measuring and evaluating the role of women in development, training material will be made available to planners and other public servants concerned, and seminars will be held. A symposium on the condition of women in countries of Islamic culture is likely to be held in Africa in 1981.

74. In the programmes relating to culture, the arts and communications, action will be taken to stimulate interest in issues concerning women. Research which contributes to the historical and cultural assessment of relations between the sexes will be synthesized. Comparative studies will analyse the cultural variants which impede the complete fulfillment and creativity of women. Statistical analyses will be made of women's participation in artistic and cultural activities.

(e) World Health Organization

75. WHO's programmes are developed to achieve health for all by the year 2000 by promoting primary health care (PHC) - a new approach to health requiring the integrated actions of all development sectors based on social justice and equity. The PHC strategy increases community-based resources so that people participate actively in the management of health care. PHC is prevention oriented, giving priority to health education and care which is socially relevant to the needs of communities.

76. In general women are not explicitly identified in WHO's programme; however, since PHC is based on the recognition that the social injustices of people's lives create conditions of ill health, the need to change women's status is closely related to improving women's health. Women's working and living patterns, their income and educational levels and the social traditions and customs which define their status are some of the important factors influencing the transmission and control of the major communicable diseases, the extent of non-communicable diseases, and other health problems of world-wide concern. The social elements of the PHC approach give priority to health issues specific to women, e.g., nutrition, fertility and reproductive health and infections. The active participation of women and women's organizations based on traditional women-to-women health care networks is the key to mobilizing community health actions and to developing support for women's role as the main agent of health care in the family. All PHC efforts interrelate with women's significant role in other development sectors.

77. WHO implements specific attention to the issues of women, health and development in three main areas: health needs specific to women; increasing women's role as health care provider; and developing social support measures. Further information is provided in the Secretary-General's note transmitting information on technical and financial support activities (A/36/485).

(f) World Bank

78. The Bank ensures that the design of projects which it finances appropriately reflects women's concerns and interests; that projects respond to women's needs, make use of their capacities, and develop opportunities for women to share in the project's benefits; and identify potential constraints on women's access to services and to funds, with the purpose of eliminating any direct or indirect project consequences which might be detrimental to women. Bank documentation and working papers are widely distributed to organizations within the United Nations system, and the Adviser on Women and Development participates in a growing number of international and academic fora on the issue of women in development.

(g) World Intellectual Property Organization

79. WIPO noted that the augmentation in the number of women trained in industrial property and copyright was, in its opinion, a contribution to the advancement of women, given the important role that intellectual property plays in economic and social development. Further details are provided in the note of the Secretary-General transmitting information on technical and financial support activities (A/36/485).

3. Measures taken at the regional level

(a) By the United Nations apart from the regional commissions and other organizations to carry out paragraph 11 of resolution 35/136

(i) United Nations Statistics

80. United Nations Headquarters, within the framework of international statistical co-ordination, co-operates with the regional commissions in the development of

regional programmes to disseminate data on women. An example is the Economic Commission for Latin America project, "Research for promoting the integration of women into Latin American development: improvement and utilization of census data and exchange of information".

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

81. It is the policy of UNIDO to send representatives to all regional meetings on integration of women in development and provide information on UNIDO's potential for assistance in this field.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency

82. UNRWA issued a special edition of its quarterly Newsletter, Palestine Refugees Today (vol. 93, July 1980), devoted to the problems and education of Palestine refugee women. The Newsletter is circulated world-wide in Arabic, English, French and German. A special exhibition of photographs of women, prepared for the 1980 World Conference, is now circulating throughout the Nordic countries under the auspices of the United Nations Information Centre in the region. It will afterwards be available for display elsewhere.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities

83. As in other sectors, UNFPA's assistance to women's programmes at the national level has mainly been allocated directly to governmental or non-governmental organizations. The majority of the regional, interregional and global programmes have been assisted through the executing and participating agencies.

(ii) International Labour Organisation

84. Regional directors met on 25 May 1981 to consider initiating projects of direct benefit to working women and the allocation of resources for this purpose.

(iii) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

85. At the regional level, the FAO Regional Home Economics Officers work closely with women's organizations in their area and contribute within the countries for which they are responsible to the regular dissemination of information and exchange of experience.

(iv) World Health Organization

86. At the regional level, WHO supports women's organizations in health care programmes. In the African region, a Primary Health Care plan views women as entry points to develop village activities for improving family health within the context of rural development, including a programme to involve women in dispensing essential drugs.

(v) World Bank

87. The Bank has sought to strengthen its collaboration with the regional

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commissions, and to bring to their attention relevant information and issues of special interest in Bank-financed projects.

(b) By the regional commissions to carry out paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of resolutions 35/136 10/

(i) Economic Commission for Europe

88. ECE has undertaken thorough-going research on certain demographic aspects affecting women. A study is being completed under the title "Monitoring of Nuptiality and Fertility Trends in Europe in the 1970s". Moreover, additional work on fertility levels and trends, family planning and other aspects affecting women's life and work is being carried out in the course of preparation of the ECE/WFS "Comparative Fertility Study". Both studies are intended for publication in 1982-1983. Apart from this, the ECE secretariat may make available its research findings on a wide range of economic topics which are relevant to the issues of women's employment and women's education and training. The Economic Commission for Europe is paying particular attention to assemble separately statistical information on women in the process of data collection and to treat women separately in the course of economic analysis intended for presentation and discussion at the meetings, seminars and symposia organized by ECE within the framework of the activities on its agenda, whenever this topic is appropriate.

(ii) Economic Commission for Africa

89. Within ECA the major arm for implementation of the Programme of Action is the African Training and Research Centre for Women of the Social Development Division. One of its first actions to implement the Programme of Action in the region was the preparation of a paper, The World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women: Its implications for the African Region, (E/CN.14/787, E/CN.14/TPCW/11/3) which was presented to the Second Meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (the advisory body to the African Training Research Centre for Women, meeting in Addis Ababa in March 1981) and to the seventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, (held at Freetown, in April 1981).

90. The Subregional Committees on the Integration of Women in Development all held their second meetings in the period since the Copenhagen Conference, with the exception of the subregional committee of the Tangiers Multi-national Level Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) which held its Inaugural Meeting in Addis Ababa in March 1980. The subregional committees each elected Bureaux which together comprise the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee. This Co-ordinating Committee is the advisory arm to the African Training and Research Centre for Women

10/ In order to enable the regional commissions to undertake effectively measures to implement the Programme of Action, and to strengthen their reporting methods to the Economic and Social Council on the situation of women in their respective regions, the General Assembly approved one additional P-5 post to be funded by the regular budget on a temporary basis in 1981 in the secretariats of each of the four regional commissions (ECA, ECWA, ECLA and ESCAP). Attention is drawn to paras. 3, 4 and 5 of a resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 29 April 1981, during its first regular session of 1981 on a draft of its Second (Social) Committee (E/1981/C.2/L.10).

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and held its second meeting in Addis Ababa in March 1981, at which time it gave its full support to the Programme of Action and urged Governments of member States to implement it with all possible resources. The secretariat of each of the Subregional Committees is the Co-ordinator of Women's Programmes at the MULPOC and each of these training and research programmes are being carried out.

91. Since the World Conference, the African Training and Research Centre for Women has undertaken several programmes which fall under the mandate provided by paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 35/136. In co-operation with FAO, a workshop on fuel and energy was held in West Africa. A similar workshop for English-speaking participants will be held at the Lusaka subregion (east of southern Africa) in the second quarter of 1981. A workshop on Improving the Quality of Rural Life for Women trainers and leaders from Portuguese-speaking African countries was held in Addis Ababa in 1981. It was co-hosted by ECA/ATRCW and the Revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association.

92. The African Training and Research Centre for Women is sponsoring a three-month training course, to be held semi-annually, on women, management and development planning for men and women in middle- and upper-level training posts. The first course was held from June to August 1981 at the East and Southern Africa Management Institute in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. Another three-month training programme in optimal use of foods donated for relief and food for work activities, which includes agricultural training for women, is ongoing in Ethiopia. It is a joint project of the African Training and Research Centre for Women and the Ethiopian Nutrition Programme. A national-level workshop on income-generating activities was recently held in Niamey, Niger (February 1981). A study tour of innovative projects for women designed for women from commonwealth countries, was held in October 1980. Other training and meetings scheduled for 1981 include a workshop on food processing and storage and a subregional meeting on the needs of out-of-school girls for French-speaking participants of the subregion.

(iii) Economic Commission for Latin America

93. The activities to disseminate information on the status of women in Latin America constitute a particularly important assignment for ECLA under the mandates it has received; such activities have been structured around three central elements:

(a) Diagnostic reports prepared within the Commission provide the input for the periodic evaluations carried out by the Regional Conference. Using an interdisciplinary and sectoral approach, these documents contain information, from the legal, economic, political, social and cultural angles, on the status of women in the rural and urban areas of the various countries of the region;

(b) The second information dissemination system is prepared by ECLA's information unit. This unit produces periodic notes on the economy and development of Latin America. According to the information needed, these notes focus on questions relating to Latin American women. ^{11/} On the occasion of the World Conference, this unit also prepared, in co-operation with the Social Development Division, a paper on the role of Latin American Women in economic and social development;

^{11/} Note No. 326 (September 1980) is a good example.

(c) The third line of action involves the various projects which have received financial support primarily from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and which have also received support, at one stage, from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). ^{12/}

94. It should be pointed out that the resources which have been available and are now available in this area are inadequate and have been rather sporadic. The region's information dissemination activities need to be strengthened substantially.

95. Some of the activities carried out in this area involve documentation listing institutions, information centres, research projects and human resources in fields related to women and their participation in the development of Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1102).

96. All these publications have been widely disseminated in the region to Governments and to various kinds of institutions. In response to the publications, ECLA began receiving a number of requests for information on various aspects of the item; it has dealt with them effectively despite the limited human resources available for such a task.

97. ECLA monographs on the integration of women in development have also been circulated at conferences, technical meetings and other events. For lack of funds, further publications and projects that were planned have not yet materialized.

98. As far as meetings are concerned, there have periodically been in-house meetings, as well as meetings with United Nations specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, planning experts and others, with a view to exchanging experience and co-ordinating future activities.

(iv) Economic Commission for Western Asia

99. ECWA has identified five priorities for co-operation and co-ordination on the regional and international levels: (a) to form an interagency co-ordination committee composed of ECWA, regional offices of United Nations specialized agencies, regional office of UNDP, and League of Arab States to co-ordinate women's programmes undertaken in region; (b) to establish a special unit for women's programmes as parts of ECWA's organizational structure to undertake studies, collect data and formulate necessary indicators for monitoring progress in women's participation in development, assist in planning and executing technical co-operation and Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women projects, expand its provision of consultative services to member States, and organize and participate in technical meetings and seminars relevant to women in development; (c) to organize a regional meeting in 1982 and thenceforth every three years to review implementation of the Programme of Action, evaluate achievements, identify

^{12/} Documentation activities have been carried out in co-operation with the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) and the Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL) of the ECLA system.

United Nations University

109. The University has not undertaken any specific activities relating to information or dissemination of knowledge concerning women, as it is the hope of the University to participate in the implementation of the Programme of Action within the framework of its programme and institutional development throughout the world.

(ii) International Labor Organisation

110. Reports, studies, documents and information are supplied by area offices which also receive post-Conference information through normal channels from headquarters.

B. Co-ordination within the United Nations system

1. Measures taken to promote a concerted and sustained effort for the implementation of the Programme of Action and other relevant resolutions pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 35/136

111. Within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters), at its first regular session of 1981, considered the interagency aspect of the follow-up to the World Conference. The Committee recognized the need for effective interorganizational co-ordination in view of the intersectoral and multidisciplinary nature of the activities involved. It was agreed that there was no need to set up any new formal arrangements for co-ordination of activities but that co-ordination could be ensured through informal contacts and, where necessary, ad hoc meetings of organizations to discuss specific matters or questions of broad interest. In addition, inter-agency mechanisms, such as the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistics, would include a dimension reflecting the participation of women in their substantive discussions. The CCSQ (PROG) will continue to keep these questions under review.

112. The United Nations Secretariat, working through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, and the Statistical Commission, is the focal point for the co-ordination and review of international statistical activities, including international data collection and dissemination, international work on the development of statistical concepts and methods and technical co-operation in statistics. As it is essential to ensure an integrated approach to the development of statistics and indicators on women, and pursuant to the conclusion of the Statistical Commission at its eighteenth and twentieth sessions that the Statistical Office should serve as a focal point to ensure co-ordination of international work on social indicators, the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities has agreed to add this topic to the agenda of its next session, to be held in Vienna in the second quarter of 1982. In co-operation with the concerned agencies and other offices, a report on this subject will be prepared for the meeting.

2. Measures taken to establish focal points pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 35/136

113. The majority of specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations having substantial responsibilities with regard to women's issues have now focal points formally designated within their secretariats. These focal points vary considerably both from the points of view of their functions and staff resources. A number of organizations having long-established programmes in this field and arrangements for co-ordination have, since the World Conference, taken steps to strengthen these.

114. It must be noted, however, that even in some of the organizations which have long established specialist substantive units responsible for women's issues, staff resources for operation of focal points are quite limited. In some organizations whose activities have most important implications for women in development, these functions are undertaken by a single staff member on a part-time basis.

115. A system-wide guide to the focal points existing in all organizations, together with information on associated arrangements, such as task forces, working groups and an indication of the substantive units engaged in implementation of the Programme of Action, will shortly be published. It will contain a supplement devoted to information on similar arrangements within inter-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system. If the guide proves useful, it will be revised at regular intervals.

C. Measures taken with regard to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 35/136

116. To a substantial degree, measures which may be proposed to meet this request comprise arrangements whereby the Commission on the Status of Women continues and refines its present functions with regard to monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation by Governments, and also by all organizations of the United Nations system acting in their support of the following: the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the World Plan of Action to implement the Objectives of the International Women's Year, and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. The reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women will, under the Convention, be transmitted to the commission for its information, and it is anticipated that the Commission may take them into account for policy formulation purposes when planning its programme of work.

117. Recent mandates have called for such continuation and refinement: Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/3 and 1980/38, 1981/11, 1981/12 and 1981/26; paragraphs 253, 273-275 and 280 of the Programme of Action; resolution 40 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

118. In order to facilitate the Commission's work, and in response to the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and the World Conference and in consultation with many specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations,

the Secretariat has further revised the decentralized and regionalized procedures for the 1980-1981 and 1982-1983 rounds of the Integrated Reporting System on the Status of Women which it had submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session. Revised procedures for the dissemination of the results of the Commission's consideration of these reports are being devised for the Commission's consideration at its twenty-ninth session. In consultation with all concerned specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, procedures will be revised whereby reports on their activities are made by them to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council. These procedures, while responding to the mandates provided by General Assembly resolution 32/138, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/3, 1980/38 and 1981/12 and paragraph 280 of the Programme of Action will avoid duplication in reporting and excessive documentation. Each of these procedures is intended to strengthen the functions of the Commission on the Status of Women in regard to implementation of the Programme of Action, both by Governments and by the United Nations system of organizations.

D. Preparations for a World Conference in 1985 at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Women

119. In paragraph 17 of its resolution 35/136, the General Assembly decided to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Women, a world conference to review and appraise the achievements of the Decade.

120. It is expected that this Conference will constitute a major forum for reviewing and appraising progress made during the Decade, and will offer an opportunity for the formulation and recommendation of a strategy which will continue the work of the United Nations system in this field for an appropriate subsequent period. The Secretariat is giving preliminary consideration to the preparation of the 1985 Conference. Attention is being given to the most appropriate preparatory procedures, documentation and organization. A report on this matter will be circulated to specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations for their suggestions. On the basis of their comments, a final report will be prepared for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session, to be held early in 1982.

121. Preliminary arrangements are also being made to ensure that the procedures for undertaking the 1982-1983 round of monitoring, review and appraisal of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and other international instruments concerned with the advancement of women are adapted to the need to provide the Conference with up-to-date information on the matters with which it will be concerned. It may be noted that this round will be utilized also for the preparation of reports which, pursuant to paragraph 275 of the Programme of Action, will form part of procedures for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the first of which will be carried out by the General Assembly in 1984, pursuant to paragraph 180 of that Strategy.