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Integration of Women in Development

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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AFRICAN TRAINING
AND RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WOMEN

April 1986-April 1987

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INTRODUCTION

The progress report presented by the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in this document is part of the efforts to co-ordinate and harmonize programmes of activities relating to the integration of women in development. It covers activities carried out at the regional, subregional and national levels at ECA headquarters as well as in the Gisenyi, Lusaka, Niamey and Yaoundé MULPOCs. Since ATRCW does not have a women's programme Co-ordinator in the Tangiers MULPOC, the progress report on activities initiated by the Bureau of the Subregional Committee for North Africa will be introduced by the Chairperson of the Committee.

As the report shows, ATRCW fully fulfilled its role as a catalyst, co-ordinator and disseminator of information while seeing to it that the resolutions of the Seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) as well as the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies for the Advancement of Women Beyond the End of the United Nations Decade for Women were implemented.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (ARCC)

At its Seventh meeting, ARCC appealed to the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) of ECA to do its utmost to ensure that the Special Session of the General Assembly recognized the key role that women could play in solving Africa's economic and social crisis. The Committee also urged ECA to promote and strengthen the participation of women in development planning and programming. In order to ensure the continuity of sub-regional programmes for the integration of women in development, the Committee recommended that the funding sources for those programmes should be diversified. It also requested ECA to give member States more information on the United Nations system so that national machineries for the integration of women in development could fully benefit from the services and resources available within the system. The Committee urged the United Nations to promote African women within the system.

ATRCW did not spare any efforts to respond to that appeal. This chapter covers all the activities undertaken at the regional, sub-regional and national levels to give effect to the resolutions of the Seventh ARCC meeting.

1. Participation of women in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990

In conformity with the desire expressed by the Seventh ARCC meeting, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, recognized the role of women in the agricultural sector particularly in foodstuffs production and urged the countries to give women the attention that they deserved in that key sector. The General Assembly also requested ECA member States to ensure that women were involved in development planning and were taken into account when the resources allocated to the Priority programme were distributed.

2. Participation of women in the planning exercises

During the period under review, ATRCW devoted considerable efforts to the participation of women in national, subregional and regional planning and programming **exercises**. Support and advisory services were provided to member States and training seminars were organized in order to improve the technical skills of women responsible for planning and assessing women's programmes and projects.

2.1. At the national level

The assistance provided to member States at the national level focussed on including women's components in national development programmes and projects. ATRCW sent experts to the member countries to organize round tables, national programming exercises and National Technical Co-operation Assessments and Programmes (NATCAPs). The role of the experts was to advise national machineries on how to determine the priority needs of women, prepare multisectoral projects to meet the identified needs of women and to participate in the programming exercises proper. Experts of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) assisted the ATRCW experts in their work.

Eighteen countries namely Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Congo, Djibouti, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, the Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Togo and Zambia benefitted from such assistance during the period under review. Ten of these countries carried out national programming exercises, four organized round tables and the four others had NATCAPs.

The assistance of ATRCW experts to the national machineries made it possible to draw the following conclusions :

- (a) National machineries for the integration of women in development should improve the technical skills of their staff;
- (b) Each national machinery should designate a focal point to make communications easier with the technical ministries and financing organizations and agencies;
- (c) The experts designated to supervise the national machineries during national programming exercises should be highly qualified in project design and preparation so as to be able to present viable projects that reflect the actual needs of women in the countries concerned.

In the Great Lakes subregion where no planning exercises had been envisaged, ATRCW organized a national training seminar on project planning and evaluation in Bujumbura and a seminar for women political cadres on the integration of women in development and on the action programme of the national women's machinery in Kigali.

Seminar on project planning and evaluation held in Bujumbura
from 15 to 11 December 1986

In response to the priorities set by the ninth meeting of the Council of Ministers and State Commissioners of the subregion, ATRCW organized a national seminar on project planning and evaluation in Bujumbura. The aim of the seminar was to introduce women of Burundi to project planning, preparation and evaluation techniques. The 52 participants in the seminar were officials of the (Union des femmes burundaiss) Union of Burundi Women (UFB), women's development centres, Civic centres, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

There were five items on the seminar's agenda :

- (a) The designing and various phases of planning;
- (b) The resources of machineries for the integration of women in development;
- (c) The fourth five-year development plan of Burundi (1983 1987) and the participation of women in development;
- (d) The presentation of a project document;
- (e) The usefulness and objectives of project monitoring and evaluation.

At the end of the discussions of the seminar, the participants resolved to :

- (a) Promote the establishment of small development projects for women;
- (b) Encourage and support the spread of women's associations and groups for the production or marketing of goods and services;
- (c) Begin without delay to identify the requirements of rural women in order to include such requirements in the fifth five year development plan (1988 1992);
- (d) Launch information campaigns on machineries responsible for matters relating to the integration of women in development.

The participants also recommended :

- (a) The organization of similar seminars focusing on the problems of women in the rural areas;
- (b) The mobilization of resources for women's projects particularly projects designed to ease the work load of women.

2.2 At the regional and subregional levels

At the regional and subregional levels, ATRCW improved the skills of women in planning by organizing, subject to the funds available, training programmes tailored to the requirements of member States. During the period under review, a training seminar on project development techniques was organized for women from Portuguese-speaking countries and training courses in planning were organized for the officials of national machineries.

- (a) Training seminar on project development techniques for women from Portuguese-speaking countries organized at Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, from 20 November to 20 December 1986

The aim of the seminar was to teach participants how to identify, prepare and implement projects in order to include the women's component in national development plans. The seminar was organized in pursuance of the recommendations of the Arusha Strategies which called for ECA assistance to member States in the preparation of viable projects, the mobilization of resources and the acquisition of appropriate technical know-how. The seminar also met the expectations of women's organizations of Portuguese-speaking countries that had on several occasions requested urgent training for technical officials responsible for identifying, preparing, implementing and following up women's projects.

Twenty two women from Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe participated in the seminar.

The main subjects of the seminar were :

- (a) The planning, strategy and integration of women in development;
- (b) MATCAPs and round tables, a fresh approach to the integration of the women's component in development planning;
- (c) The notion of projects;
- (d) Project cycles (identification, preparation, implementation and assessment) using project case studies drawn from industry, agriculture, transport infrastructure, social service and integrated projects as illustrations.

The final assessment of the seminar showed that participants were satisfied with the practical approach and duration of the seminar which enabled participants to thoroughly discuss the topics presented. There are plans to organize a second seminar in Sao Tome and Principe with UNIFEM financing in the course of 1987.

(b) Training course in planning

Eight women from Ethiopia, Botswana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia were sent to the Pan-African Institute for Development, in Kabwe, Zambia to participate in a training course in planning, management and assessment of rural development projects from February to August 1986. The aim of the course was to strengthen the technical skills of national machineries of those countries in development project formulation, planning, management and assessment as well as their ability to mobilize appropriate resources for implementing the projects thus formulated.

(c) Participation in the preparations for the fourth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

As indicated earlier on, ATRCW did its utmost to ensure the active participation of women in the national programming exercises that paved the way for the fourth UNDP programming cycle. ATRCW provided assistance to 10 countries.

As far as regional and subregional projects were concerned, ATRCW was assigned the responsibility of co-ordinating projects relating to production, planning and management activities. ATRCW was also requested to assess the importance and impact of projects for African women submitted to UNDP for financing under its fourth programming cycle by other United Nations agencies such as FAO, the International Labour Office, UNIFEM as well as projects submitted by the World Bank. It should be stressed that UNIFEM always asks for the opinion of ATRCW in selecting projects to be financed on the African continent.

ATRCW submitted to UNDP for financing two regional projects entitled : "Training African Women in Production, Planning Management for Development" and "Promotion of African Women in Scientific and Technical fields".

ATRCW also played a key role in the preparation of the inter-agency integrated project on "Improving African Women's Role in Informal Sector Production and Management".

Details on the preparations for the fourth UNDP Programming Cycle can be found in document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC VIII/INF.1 which will be submitted under agenda Item 7.

3. Diversifying the financial resources of the MULPOC programmes for the integration of women in development

UNDP is the main source of financing for the activities of the MULPOC Programmes for the integration of women in development. The attempts to diversify the sources of financing focused on encouraging member States to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) for women's programmes and projects. So far, six

countries, Botswana, the Congo, Gabon, Lesotho, Nigeria and Zaire have made specific contributions to women's activities implemented in their respective subregions. That example should be emulated by all member States.

ATRCW has also tried to interest donor governments and agencies in the activities of the MULPOCs. For example, ECA has just received funds from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) for financing a project designed to facilitate the access of women to credit; under the project, two pilot projects will be set up at the Lusaka and Gisenui MULPOCs.

4. Information on the financing mechanisms of the United Nations system

In line with the ARCC resolution which requested ECA to prepare for the national machineries for the integration of women in development an information document on its financing mechanisms and the other sources of funding of the United Nations system and on how to get access to such funding, ATRCW prepared two documents that provide a comprehensive view of programming and planning within the United Nations. The documents shall be presented under agenda item 8 entitled "Planning for Women in the United Nations : (a) ECA 1988-1989 Work Programme related to Women; and (b) System-wide Medium-Term Plan on Women and Development".

The various sources of financing for women's projects, are listed in the Information Kit for Women in Africa published in May 1982 by ATRCW in collaboration with the International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC). The Kit contains detailed information on donor organizations and agencies, their financing policies, their preferred areas of operation and any other information available on how to make requests for financing. Any one interested in this Manual can get a copy from ATRCW.

5. Advancement of African Women in the United Nations system

The financial crisis that the United Nations system is going through has also affected women. Thus, following the measures to reduce the financial deficit of the United Nations that recommended among other things a recruitment freeze, no African women have been recruited on the regular United Nations budget during the period under review. However, ECA used the skills of African women experts for specific research and training work. ATRCW has prepared a directory of African women experts to facilitate their identification; it will be published in the near future.

II. OTHER ATRCW ACTIVITIES

ATRCW continued its activities to improve the technical skills of women and strengthen national machineries for the integration of women in development.

During the period covered by this report, special emphasis was placed on the rural development and agricultural sectors and on activities to promote business women.

1. Improving the technical skills of women

Seminars were organized on the marketing of foodstuffs, the promotion of co-operatives and the improvement of the management skills of women. ATRCW also continued to provide assistance to the countries affected by drought.

1.1 Seminar on the role of women in the marketing of foodstuffs, Bangui, the Central African Republic, 27-31 October 1986

In view of the predominance of women in the production and distribution of foodstuffs, it became necessary to take a very close look at foodstuffs distribution channels, identify the problems of such channels and put forward appropriate solutions to them. The subregional seminar on the role of women in the marketing of foodstuffs which was held in Bangui was meant to address that need.

Six countries of the Central African subregion, namely Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe were represented at the seminar. United Nations agencies such as UNDP and FAO and non-governmental organizations such as Vita-Africare, USAID project 676 on assistance to village groupings and UDEAC also attended the seminar. A total of 40 participants and observers took part in the discussions of the seminar whose objectives were :

- (a) To identify the problems hampering the proper operation of foodstuffs marketing channels in the countries of the Central Africa I subregion;
- (b) To define ways and means of improving the marketing system;
- (c) To develop and reduce the work of women through a policy of price incentives and the introduction of appropriate technologies in order to increase the productivity of women's work;
- (d) To make women aware of their role as economic transactors and hence make them more responsible;
- (e) To put forward recommendations most likely to help women in their daily tasks and make their work less tiring and more productive.

The main conclusions and recommendations of the seminar were meant to :

- (a) Intensify the programmes for building and maintaining foodstuffs collection tracks in order to open up some food growing areas and promote communal systems of foodstuffs collection, transportation and marketing;
- (b) To expand and properly allocate selling space and improve commercial and health facilities;

- (c) Improve the system of foodstuffs storage and preservation in order to maintain the quality of foodstuffs;
- (d) To set up women's co-operatives or pre-co-operatives;
- (d) Intensify the training of women farmers and traders in accounting, management and banking techniques as well as in foodstuffs conservation techniques;
- (f) Adopt government measures to reduce the adverse effects of price fluctuations and to open a credit line for promoting women's activities;
- (g) Provide subsidies for purchasing agricultural inputs by village groupings;
- (h) Develop the exchange of experiences at the subregional level on foodstuffs conservation, storage and processing technologies.

1.2 Seminar on the role of co-operatives as a means of integrating women in development, Cotonou, Benin 1-10 December 1986

The seminar brought together participants from the following countries : Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. It was jointly organized by the Centre Panafricain de Formation Coopérative and the Direction de l'Action Coopérative du Bénin.

Discussions of the seminar focused on the following points :

- (a) The relevance and usefulness of co-operatives as compared to other types of organization in involving women in the development of their countries;
- (b) The phases to be followed and mistakes to be avoided in setting up co-operatives;
- (c) The foodstuffs activities that could be covered by co-operatives;
- (d) The access of women to training;
- (e) The problems involved in applying and adopting co operative principles to every day issues.

The seminar's recommendations covered :

- (a) The incentives and promotional measures to be taken in order to get rural communities and women in particular to come together to form pre-co-operatives and then co-operatives;

- (b) Training women on how to run co-operatives with emphasis on functional literacy and management;
- (c) National policies aimed at reducing the workload of women;
- (d) The promotion of women's co-operatives in the food and agriculture sector.

1.3 Subregional seminar on measures to improve women's management skills, Nairobi, Kenya, 19-23 January 1987

The aim of the subregional seminar held in Nairobi from 19 to 23 January 1987 was to improve the management skills of women and to promote projects and enterprises managed by women. The seminar was a follow-up to a programme for training women as entrepreneurs implemented by ATRCW from 1983 to 1986.

The seminar was attended by trainers and people responsible for promoting the training of women from the following 10 countries : Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. There were also observers from the University of Nairobi, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Kenya Women Finance Trust, the Women's World Banking, the Bethlehem Training Centre for Young Girls, the Swedish International Development Authority and the First National Bank of Chicago.

Twenty-two experts considered the obstacles that impeded the activities of business women, ongoing training programmes in the 10 countries and participating agencies and came up with the following conclusions and recommendations :

- (a) The approach to the problem of training in management should vary depending on whether it is for rural or urban women;
- (b) Language barriers should be taken into consideration particularly for the training of rural women;
- (c) ~~Community assistance programmes for small enterprises~~ should be established to encourage women to set up their own businesses;
- (d) Women should be involved in the formulation of policies for training entrepreneurs;
- (d) Each national machinery should have a section responsible for promoting the training of women in management;
- (f) National machineries should **identify** the needs of women entrepreneurs to be able to better solve their problems;

- (g) National machineries should ensure that the business women of their countries benefit from the support of national bodies established to promote small and medium sized enterprises.

A study on women entrepreneurs of small enterprises in Zambia, Ghana and Cameroon prepared for the seminar will be published this year by ATRCW.

The seminar was financed by the Swedish International Development Authority. There are plans to organize a seminar for French-speaking countries in 1987.

1.4 Workshop for trainers of women entrepreneurs held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania from 30 June to 11 July 1986

The aim of the training workshop organized at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), in Arusha, was to make training institutes aware of the training needs of women entrepreneurs and to develop the capacity of training institutes to prepare and to organize training programmes for women entrepreneurs. The seminar had on its agenda the following major items :

- (a) Consideration of the constraints faced by women entrepreneurs;
- (b) Assessment of women entrepreneurs' needs in training and available technical and financial assistance;
- (c) Developing training modules for different target groups.

Sixteen participants from Botswana, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe took part in the work of the seminar. They identified the economic, legal and institutional constraints to the promotion of women entrepreneurs in the four countries. The participants then developed various training modules for different target groups, i.e., women members of income generating groups, the directors of such groups, trainers of women entrepreneurs or women aspiring to be entrepreneurs.

The seminar was financed by the government of the Netherlands.

1.5 Management seminar for women entrepreneurs held in Nairobi, Kenya from 21 July to 1 August 1986

The seminar was attended by 20 participants from Botswana, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The idea of inviting fewer countries and having more participants from each country was a deliberate design of the programme to encourage participants to consult with each other in applying the knowledge they acquired during the seminar.

The participants reviewed the following questions :

- (a) The role of entrepreneurs of small scale enterprises in economic development;

- (b) Training needs in the four countries;
- (c) The constraints faced by women entrepreneurs;
- (d) Training and technical assistance;
- (e) Financial management and credit;
- (f) The phases in the establishment of small enterprises;
- (g) The basic qualities of entrepreneurs.

Follow-up strategies and action plans were developed for each country. Participants in the seminar recommended inter alia the organization of similar seminars in the future and visits to the four countries within six months or a year following the training. Such visits would make it possible to assess the impact of the seminar on the attitude of women who had participated in it and on their enterprises as well as implementation of the strategies and plans of action developed during the seminar. This seminar was also financed by the Netherlands Government.

1.6 Training in optimal nutritional use of food donated for Relief and Food-for-work activities

The implementation of the project was begun in July 1984; its aim is to ensure that the drought stricken people in Wollo, Bale and Gamo-Goffa in Ethiopia receive better food and are in good health. Today, the project covers 18 settlements. It should be recalled that it is in such settlements that the people are taught notions of health, nutrition and agriculture. So far, the people have been enthusiastic and accepted the introduction of new crops and changes in food habits without too much opposition. However, crops are still subject to changes in the weather. Indeed, although there has been an increase in the quantity of foodstuffs produced by households at certain periods of the year, agricultural production varies according to the ecological and climatic conditions of the areas concerned.

An internal assessment of the project carried out in June-July 1986 in Bale and Gamo-Goffa regions showed that the experiment had been a success. A video film was produced on that occasions.

2. Strengthening national machineries for the integration of women in development

In addition to the advisory services and training activities mentioned in the first part of this report, ATRCW organized studies and a subregional symposium and national seminar aimed at strengthening national machineries for the integration of women in development.

2.1 Subregional symposium on the legal status and the situation of women in the Great Lakes countries

From 2 to 8 July 1986 a subregional symposium on the legal status and the situation of women in the Great Lakes countries was held in Goma, Zaire. The symposium was in pursuance of the conclusions of the Arusha Strategies for the Enhancement of Women in Africa beyond the United Nations Decade for Women which stressed that one of the fundamental obstacles to the integration of women in development was the negative image that society had of women. To change that situation, the Arusha Strategies recommended that member States should draw up policies that would give women representation on decision-making bodies. Thus, women could exert greater influence on decision makers in order to avoid any discriminatory attitude towards women. It was within that context that the symposium was given the aim of considering the legal status of women in the three member countries of the subregion, i.e. Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire in order to persuade decision makers to amend legislation in areas where there was still discrimination against women.

The symposium's discussions focussed on statements covering : the political, economic, social and cultural status of women in the CEPGL countries; possible constraints that were delaying the implementation of legislation concerning women in CEPGL countries and the listing of customs that impeded the integration of women in development. Three studies that had been carried out prior to the symposium were used as background documents. They were on the legal status of women in Burundi, the rights and status of women in Rwanda and the rights and status of women in Zaire.

The 20 participants in the symposium recognized that despite the fact that, all three States had legislation on the equal status of the sexes, some customs and practices continued to consider women as inferior to men and thus impeded the total integration of women in the development process. Examples of unequal treatment of women were in the areas of politics, civil and economic rights. The indicators used in the discussions were the work of women, access of women to factors of production, training and income and the role of women in production organizations.

The recommendations put forward by the symposium for decision-making bodies requested the political authorities to continue their efforts to :

- (a) Make women politically conscious and aware of their contribution to the economies of their countries ;
- (b) Integrate women in all levels of political bodies;
- (c) Protect the rights of women with regard to work and their role in the household;

- (d) Train women in order to make them more competitive on the job market.

The symposium also requested the carrying out of a study on women's profiles in the CEPGL countries so that the extent to which women were involved in development in the subregion could be assessed.

2.2 Brainstorming seminar for women political cadres on the integration of women in development and on the action programme of the national women's machinery held in Kigali from 17 to 20 December 1986

The seminar, which was jointly organized by ATRCW and the Mouvement révolutionnaire national pour le développement (MRND) was attended by 68 women political cadres and senior civil servants of Rwanda; its aim was to discuss how Rwandese women could contribute to the development of their country and to draw up a programme of action for the national machinery on the integration of women in development, i.e. the Union des femmes rwandaises pour le développement (URAMA).

Participants in the seminar thoroughly discussed the role of Rwandese women in society, their legal status, needs and the obstacles that prevent them from fully playing their role. They then analysed the role and functions of machineries for the integration of women in development and prepared a draft action programme for URAMA should it be created.

The programme defined by the seminar put a strong emphasis on the fight against ignorance and illiteracy that prevented women from understanding any innovations and getting more places at all levels of decision-making bodies.

At the end of its discussions, the seminar made recommendations for a much greater participation of Rwandese women and young girls in the economic and social development of their country.

2.3 Study on current needs to strengthen national machineries for the integration of women in development projects

The study is part of a global INSTRAW/ECA study on current needs to strengthen national machineries for the integration of women in development projects. It is part of the activities carried out by ATRCW to provide support services to African States that would catalyse the implementation of the various recommendations of major international bodies as well as those of regional, subregional and national bodies involved in the integration of women in development.

The study carries out an indepth analysis of the structural and organizational aspects of national machineries and a sectoral analysis of the programme of activities within the global context of national development plans.

In principle, the study will cover six countries; for the moment it has covered only Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

2.4 Study on the implementation in Africa of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Five case studies effected in Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, and Rwanda were used to carry out the study. The findings of the study are the subject of a separate document which is submitted to the eighth meeting of ARCC under agenda item 6.

2.5 Directory of National, Subregional and Regional Machineries for the Integration of Women in Development

The directory of National Subregional and Regional Machineries for the Integration of Women in Development which has just been published by ATRCW was sent to all the persons and organizations on the ATRCW mailing list. It provides key information on the texts and resolutions adopted in connection with machineries for the integration of women in development, the background and basic information of existing machineries, the various types of national machineries and a list of African training institutes that have activities of interest to women.

3. Participation in the meetings of other organizations

3.1 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic from 2 to 6 February 1987

ATRCW participated in the seventh session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW; the Board had the following main items on its agenda : Implementation of the work programme for 1986-progress report on the Institute and programme directions for 1987; analysis of information programme, co-operation between regional commissions and INSTRAW; long-term perspectives for the INSTRAW programmes; and network building correspondents and focal points.

Ten members of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees were present at the meeting : Bulgaria, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Senegal and Spain.

The Board recommended that :

- (a) Ties and exchanges of information and documentation on activities related to women and development should be increased;

- (b) Priority should be given to indicators and statistics on women and on research work on machineries;
- (c) The use of training materials and modules of the Institute and their dissemination to member States and non governmental organizations should be facilitated;
- (d) The costs of joint activities should be shared out equitably in order to meet the general shortage of financial resources;
- (e) Provision should be made in the 1988-1989 programme budget for a meeting of experts of regional commissions devoted to the implementation of common programmes and programming under the system-wide medium term plan with respect to women in development.

3.2 Special Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York from 12 to 16 January 1987

During the Special Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, one of the main items for discussion was the implication of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the advancement of women for programme planning in the United Nations. The reason why the Commission introduced that subject in its meetings was to ensure a co-ordinated implementation of activities by the United Nations system utilizing the Nairobi Strategies.

The members of the Commission focused their discussions on the following items :

- (a) The draft system-wide medium-term plan for women and development;
- (b) The medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995;
- (c) The measures taken by the Secretary-General for the integration of the needs and concerns of women in planning and programme activities of the United Nations system; and
- (d) The programme of work for the 1988-1989 biennium.

Inter-agency meeting on women, New York, 19 to 20 January 1987

Following the meeting of the Commission on the status of women, the various United Nations agencies including the regional commissions met to consider three main points :

- (a) Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

- (b) Up-dating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development;
- (c) The system-wide medium-term plan for women in development.

With regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, it may be recalled that last year ECOSOC passed resolution 1986/65 on "strengthening the work of the United Nations in integrating women effectively in economic development programmes and activities". This resolution requested the Secretary General to focus on chapter II of the Nairobi Strategies which related to the programme of the United Nations in the economic field and chapter V which was concerned with international and regional co operation. The resolution requested that serious effort be made to reflect these chapters in the 1988-1989 work programme of the United Nations and that arrangement worked out to make the necessary preparations for the effective system-wide implementation of the Nairobi Strategies. It also urged that the performance, achievements and effectiveness of the work of the United Nations needed to be assessed in relation to the advancement of women.

Agencies participating in the inter agency meeting gave reports on how they interpreted resolution 1986/65. ATRCW, which represented ECA at the meeting reported on efforts made at the Commission to reflect the Nairobi Strategies in the 1988-1989 work programme and the effort made to provide guidelines for such an exercise. With regard to monitoring, there was some debate as to whether the provisions of the resolution applied to monitoring the work of the system or that of member States. The consensus was that the resolution addressed itself mainly to the United Nations system. The meeting recommended that appropriate methods for monitoring be developed by the Centre for Social Development in Vienna in co operation with relevant United Nations bodies.

In the course of the discussions the following facts emerged :

- (a) Most United Nations agencies had not reflected adequately women's concerns in their 1988-1989 work programme;
- (b) ECA was one of the few organizations which had made adequate provisions for the Nairobi Strategies in its draft work programme for 1988-1989;
- (c) A strong reminder should be sent to all the agencies to revise their programme for 1988-1989 so that the needs of women were taken into account especially in those programme related to economic development.

It was recommended that the World Survey on the role of women in development be updated on the basis of some fundamental principles :

- (a) It should be based on more abundant, reliable and consistent data which may require case studies;
- (b) It should focus less on describing the global situation of women and the economy and concentrate on identifying crucial obstacles to the advancement of women;
- (c) It should establish priorities among problems and identify policies to address such problems.

All United Nations agencies were asked to contribute and ECA expressed interest in contributing to the chapter on the informal sector agricultural and food production, women and industrial development. The survey is to have nine chapters as follows :

| | | |
|-----------|------|---|
| Chapter I | | Overview of the main issues and policies in the field of women and development. |
| " | II | Role of women in food systems and agriculture. |
| " | III | Women and industrial development. |
| " | IV | Women and services. |
| " | V | Women in the informal sector of the economy. |
| " | VI | Effects of adjustment policies on women. |
| " | VII | Technological innovation and women. |
| " | VIII | Social and cultural factors affecting women's productive work. |
| " | IX | Statistics and indicators on women's participation in the economy. |

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SEVENTH MEETING OF ARCC

1. Resolution on women and development in Africa

The seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, which met at Yaounde from 3-5 April 1986,

Recalling Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers resolution 535 (XX) on women and development, adopted in April 1985,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/108 dated 13 December 1985, on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

Recalling, finally, resolution E/CN.6/1986/L.24 of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Arusha Strategies,

Still aware of the urgency of including the women's component in national development projects, programmes and plans,

Resolved to maintain and develop the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Concerned by the gravity of the economic crisis which is affecting more severely the African countries and bearing in mind the pressing need for subregional and regional machineries established to promote, reinforce and develop the equitable participation of women in development in Africa,

Concerned also by the financial crisis now besetting the United Nations which seriously affects the United Nations programmes and staff,

Aware of the importance of UNDP financing of the Programme for the Integration of Women in Development in Africa,

Considering the expanded mandate of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, set forth in resolution A/Res/39/125, and its African Investment Plan serving as a framework for its activities in Africa,

Appreciative of the effective contribution of the ECA women's programme to the advancement of African women,

1. Appeals to the African Governments to do everything possible to include the women's component in national development plans, programmes and projects, while encouraging the implementation of specific programmes and projects for women, whenever this seems possible;

2. Requests the African Governments to do everything within their power to mobilize and release the funds with a view to implementing the Arusha Strategies and the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

3. Requests the African Governments to associate national women's machineries with national planning and programming exercises and with negotiation exercises with the international, intergovernmental, regional and subregional financing institutions so as to ensure more ways and means of integrating women in development;

4. Requests the African Governments to do everything possible to appoint an official in charge of women's affairs in their missions and embassies accredited to the United Nations to ensure that all meeting resolutions and recommendations capable of having an impact on global or sectoral actions for the integration of women in development are transmitted to the national women's machineries with a view to follow-up;

5. Calls upon the African Governments to take all possible action within and outside Africa in order to ensure, on the one hand, that the number of African women recruited to posts is increased in the United Nations regular budget and, on the other hand, to ensure the promotion of African women to decision-making posts in the Economic Commission for Africa and at the United Nations;

6. Urges national machineries for the integration of women in development:

(a) To do everything possible to be present at the different stages of the preparatory and programming exercises of the fourth UNDP programming cycle;

(b) To organize national information sessions with the relevant technical services and with the non-governmental organizations on the contribution of women to national planning and to the fourth programming cycle;

(c) To exercise continuous vigilance in order to participate in decision-making activities relating to the formulation of plans and to the allocation of resources in this context; and to ensure that resolutions concerning women in development are taken into consideration and followed up;

(d) To ensure that technical programming, follow-up and research units are established within their machineries to collect, process and disseminate pertinent data concerning women and their activities with a view to their better integration in development.

7. Expresses its thanks and profound gratitude to UNDP for its financing of subregional and regional women's programmes;

8. Appeals to UNDP through both its Africa and its Arab Bureaux:

(a) To continue providing its support to the programme at all five ECA MULPOCs for integrating women in development, to ESAMI and ARCC during the fourth programming cycle 1987-1991;

(b) To prepare, or assist ECA in preparing, for national machineries for integrating women in development an information document on its financing machineries and on the other sources of financing of the United Nations system as well as the procedures for gaining access to such financing;

(c) To release funds for the training and technical specialization of experts of national machineries in order to enable these experts to present project documents which will meet the needs of governments and requirements of the financing institutions, and to give priority to projects that include women's components;

(d) To assist national machineries for women in obtaining the allocation of part of the IPF in the projects and programmes for integrating women in development;

(e) To give a new impetus to the women's programmes of the Gisenyi and Tangier MULPOCs by maintaining the outstanding balance of the funds of the previous cycle and appointing new co-ordinators;

(f) To co-operate in the recruitment of African national consultants for the purpose of formulating and implementing programmes for the integration of women in development and thus contribute to enhancing the planning and programming capacities of national machineries;

9. Requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in the context of its strategy for implementing its expanded mandate, particularly through its participation in the donor round-table process and in UNDP country programming exercises, to continue its activities in collaboration with the activities of the MULPOCs for the integration of women in development;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to take appropriate measures to ensure that ARCC and ATRCW participate in the meeting of planners, statisticians and demographers in order to sensitize them on the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies concerned with the problems of women in development;

11. Urges the Executive Secretary of ECA to do everything possible to mobilize new financial resources both from the African Governments and from other sources of funds with a view to diversifying and increasing the resources of the MULPOCs programmes for integrating women in development;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary and the Chairperson of ARCC to report to the eighth meeting of ARCC on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution at the national, subregional and regional levels.

2. Resolution on the United Nations Special Session on the Economic Crisis of Africa

The seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) held in Yaounde, Cameroon from 3 to 5 April 1986,

Conscious of the current economic and social crisis facing the African continent, and the potential for women in agriculture and food production to alleviate the crisis,

Having examined the preparations being made by the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the African economy and social crisis,

Concerned that the special session of the General Assembly will yield positive results for Africa,

Convinced that the improved participation of women in the agriculture and food production is a major part of the answer to Africa's economic crisis,

1. Notes with appreciation the decision of the United Nations to convene the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to formulate strategies that will be intended to resolve the present economic and social crisis in Africa;

2. Calls on the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, even at this late hour, to ensure that the African presentation to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly scheduled to take place in May 1986 reiterates the key role of women in African development as highlighted in the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

3. Calls upon member States, the United Nations and its agencies, donors and development organizations to allocate a specific percentage of funds made available for the economic recovery of Africa towards the special and specific needs of women as food producers, such special and specific needs including:

- (a) Access to farming land;
- (b) Access to financial credit;
- (c) Decision-making regarding usage of land;
- (d) Appropriate education and training of women in order to equip them adequately with the skills required for their multiple roles, particularly in the area of food production;

4. Calls upon the member States of OAU and ECA to ensure that any structures or machineries that may be established as a follow-up to the implementation of the Priority Programme for the Economic Recovery of Africa include women;

5. Urges African member States to include representatives of women's organizations in their delegations to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, not only at ministerial level, but at the level of technical experts as well.

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