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ECA/SERPD/SPPRU/90/2

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF A MISSION TO NEW YORK
ON 4th INTERNATIONAL INTER-
DISCIPLINARY CONGRESS ON WOMEN

W. KARANJA

SERPD/SPPRU

July 1990

Mission Report on 4th International
Interdisciplinary Congress on
Women, New York
June 3-7, 1990

1. Introduction

The mission was undertaken in response to an invitation to me, from the organizers of the 4th International Disciplinary Congress on Women, to attend this Year's conference and to give a short presentation on Different forms of socio-economic participation among African women. The presentation centred around traditional and modern forms of popular participation among West and East African women.

2. The international Interdisciplinary congress on women was founded four years ago. The main objective of this organization is to bring women together from around the world and from different walks of life in order for them to reflect, discuss and exchange ideas on issues that have direct or indirect bearing on lives of women globally. As is to be expected, the ideas and issues covered are indeed extensive, covering the entire spectrum of organizational structures of a vast range of societies around the world. Some of the issues covered include :

- women, development and population issues
- public policy and women : an element of social policy or social policy for women
- gender segregation in public bureaucracy, cultural and structural barriers
- alternative prospectives on Health prevention : Women's organizations in the popular sectors
- women and the global economy
- the impact of economic crisis on poor and peasant women

- changing educational practices to meet women's realities
- immigration, migration and women refugees
- women in political organizations
- migrant women workers
- women, higher education and fertility control
- women and income distribution
- women in the informal sector
- gender issues in the social sciences
- women in agricultural production, political participation and female empowerment
- a gender perspective on domestic production
- factors influencing women farmer's access to production resources and agricultural productivity
- women in religious movements
- gender structures in white-colour workplaces
- women and the law
- the integration of women's matters in government policies
- women, technology and economic development
- sexual violence against women
- problems of illiteracy among women in developing countries
- women in the formal economy
- health, nutrition and women : cross-cultural perspectives
- women in the physical sciences
- gender roles and implications for science and technology education

3. The conference was organized around different workshops, and covered an enormous range of socio-cultural, political economic and religious issues. For example, there were approximately 550 papers presented in the various workshops. consequently, it is not possible to give even a cursory review of the many presentation offered during the Conference.

4. However, there were many issues touched upon which have immediate relevance to our work here at the Commission. For instance, a number of workshops addressed the question of the new international economic order which has characterized the decades of the 1970s and 1980s. In particular, the plum meeting of world commodity prices, adversely affecting the incomes of millions of people in developing countries, who depend on commodities for a large proportion of their export earnings; a deterioration in the terms of trade, declining growth rates in most of the developing countries - a large proportions of which are in Africa - (the World Development Report indicates that in 1989 7 out of the 40 LDCs experienced negative growth rates of total Gross National Product between 1980-87 and another 8 countries had growth rates of under 2 per cent); increasing indebtedness and dependency as spiralling interest rates and contracting markets made it impossible for most countries to meet their foreign debt obligations; decreasing food production as most of these economies become progressively more extroverted with a greater emphasis on cash cropping (e.g, Coffee, tea, cocoa, etc) for external markets; reduction in government expenditures in health, education, social security, housing, welfare, and the like, consequent to the implementation of the IMF-World Bank structural Adjustment Programmes.

5. It is now generally accepted that structural Adjustment Programmes have had a disproportionately more negative impact on vulnerable groups, such as women, children and the poor generally because of their undue emphasis on macro-economic imbalances, as eloquently demonstrated by e.g., The Khartoum Declaration (1988), the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP, 1989) the UNICEF's studies entitled Adjustment with a Human Face, the various studies by ILO, et al.

6. In relation to women in particular, analysis of this orientation indicated, unequivocally, that the global economic crisis of the 1980s had a devastating effects on lives of women in third world countries which underscored the fact that the situation or position of women cannot analytically or otherwise, be separated from that of their countries' economic structures.

7. My own contribution, which was not based on a structured paper, but rather on my long and wide experience with female entrepreneurs in West Africa and my ethnographic knowledge of East Africa, Centred primarily on West African Women's traditional participation in market - place trade and the absence of East African women in such places. The main argument was to bring to the fore the contribution of West African women to the larger economy and to compare this to East African Women's confinement to the domestic production (i.e., in traditional structures) and to point to the ramifications of the differential participation to women's socio-economic and political autonomy.

8. In addition, I attempted to compare different modes of popular participation in traditional and modern structures and argued that the introduction of capitalist mode of production together with colonial penetration had undoubtedly marginalized women in practically all spheres of African socio-economic life. This is particularly evident in the agricultural sector where the preponderance of women, especially their vast contribution in domestic or subsistence food production is now undisputed, and yet, national crop statistics rarely record the sex of farmers, farm management or workers, as indeed there is generally a lack of appreciation of women's contribution to national economies.

9. In recognition of this fact, it is argued in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (1990) that, "in view of the critical contribution made by women to African societies and economies and the extreme subordination

and discrimination suffered by women in Africa, it is the consensus of the participants that the attainment of equal rights by women in social, economic and political spheres must become a central feature of a democratic and participatory pattern of development ... [thus] the attainment of women's full participation must be given highest priority by society as a whole and African Governments in particular. This right should be fought for and defended by society, African non-governmental organizations and voluntary development organizations as well as non African governments and United Nations system in due recognition of the primary role being played by women now and on the course to recovery and transformation of African for better quality of life".

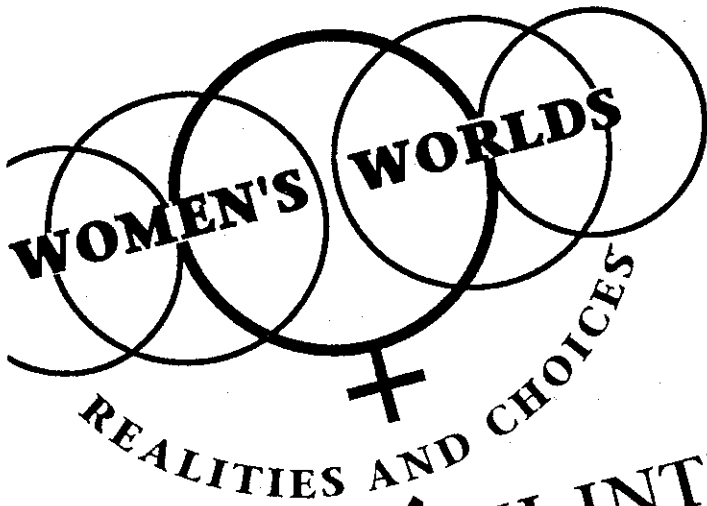
THE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS,

DIRECTORY,

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY

MATERIAL



**4TH INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY
CONGRESS ON WOMEN**

**Hunter College • City University of New York
New York City • USA • June 3-7 1990**

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS ON WOMEN

HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

JUNE 3-7, 1988

THE PROGRAM:

BE SURE TO CONSULT THE FOLLOWING
CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1990, 12:30PM

ARTS RESCHEDULED: From: Wednesday, **Grotesque Needlecraft** 0217 HW

ARTS ROOM CHANGE: Postscript: **A Voyage through Women's Eyes (Ritual)** to 0514 HW

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1990, 14:30PM

101A PII NEW WORKSHOP **Growing Older, Growing Bolder?: The Aging of Women Activists (Workshop)**

Facilitators: Berenice Fischer, USA
Linda Nathan Marks, USA
Dagmar Schultz, FRG

105 PI RESCHEDULED to THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 11:00AM 0404 HW

108 PI TITLE CHANGE: **Cross-cultural Opportunities Abroad for U.S. Women Academics: A Fullbright-Hays Case Study in India (Workshop)**

109 PII PAPER ADDED: Rhoda Lois Blumberg, USA
Women's Leadership in Social Movements: Myth, Realities, and Choices in the Civil Rights and Welfare Rights Protest in the US

109 PII PAPER ADDED: Jacqueline V.D. Pol,
Female Leadership: Old Values in a New Culture

110 GE COUNTRY CORRECTION: Christine Clason, THE NETHERLANDS

113 PII PARTICIPANT WITHDRAWN: Jan Peterson, USA

113 PII RESCHEDULED: From Sunday to MONDAY, JUNE 4 11:00AM 0509

116A PI NEW PANEL JUNE 3, 14:30PM 0507 HW (REMOVED FROM 147)
Integrating International Perspectives into American Women's Studies
Facilitator: Janice Monk, USA

Participants:
Anne Betteridge, USA
Amy Newhall, USA
Judy Lensink, USA
Vella Evans, USA

118 PI TIME/ROOM CHANGE: From Sunday to MONDAY, JUNE 4 11:00AM 0509C

119 EH PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Lily E. Clerckx, THE NETHERLANDS

122 IR PANEL WITHDRAWN: **Seeking Herself in America: The Struggle of Women Writers**

124 PII TITLE CORRECTION: **Socio-political Contradictions and Women's Power: A Comparative Analysis (Workshop)**

129 GE PANEL WITHDRAWN: **The Voices of Women From a Dislocated Landscape: Making Sense of It All (Roundtable)**

132 IR ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0509C HW

133 VM COUNTRY CORRECTION: Veena Talwar Oldenburg, USA/INDIA

- 135 PI PAPER ADDED Gillian Marie
Bridging the Gaps: Preparing Women and Minority Groups for University Study
- 139 IR ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0206 HW
- 139 IR CHAIR CHANGE: Kazuko Watanabe, Japan
- 139 IR PAPER ADDED: Rosette Lamont, USA, **Charlotte Delbo: A Voice from the French Resistance**
- 142 GE ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0424 HW

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1990 16:30PM

- 147 PI PRESENTATION CHANGE: Margaret Allen will present her paper on panel 303 PI, Tuesday, JUNE 5, 9:00 AM, 0217 HW
- 147 PI ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION: Rosi Braidotti, **Internationalization as a Feminist Topic in Western Europe Today**
- 147 PI PAPER ADDED Yesim Arat
The Question of Difference and its Relevance for Feminist Studies on the Middle East
- 157 PII PARTICIPANT WITHDRAWN: Beatriz Schmuckler, Argentina
- 158 PI PAPER ADDED Veronica Rentmeesters, USA **Traditional Customs that Oppress Women in Eritrea**
- 160 GE CHAIR CHANGE: Kim Reed, USA
- 161 IR ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0206 HW
- 163 VM PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Nina Lopez-Jones, ARGENTINA
- NEW FORMAT: (Workshop)
Facilitators: Margaret Prescod, BARBADOS /USA
Ruth Todasco, USA
- 166 IR PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Corry F.M. Bosch, THE NETHERLANDS
- 168 PI PANELISTS WITHDRAWN: Mira Kamdar, USA
Leslie G. Roman, USA
- 168 PI PANELIST RESCHEDULED: PRESENTATION BY TINA CHANTER ADDED TO 316 PI
- 169 IR WITHDRAWN
- 172 IR PANEL WITHDRAWN:
- 172 IR PRESENTATION RESCHEDULED: Rosette Lamont to 139 IR Sunday JUNE 3, 16:30 room 206
- 173 EH PAPER ADDED: Eunice A. C. Okeke, USA/NIGERIA
Genderized Roles and Implications for Science and Technology Education in Africa
- 177 EH PANEL WITHDRAWN: Julie Lyonn Liberman, USA
- 177A EH NEW PANEL: Sunday, JUNE 3, 1990 16:30 0217 HW

Women's Housing Activism in Low Income Communities
Chair: Susan Saegert, USA

Roberta M. Feldman, USA
The Extension of Women's Organizing in Chicago Public Housing to Community Issues

Jacqueline Leavitt, usa
Women's Organizing in Los Angeles Public Housing

Leith Mullings, USA
Public Housing and the Form of African American Households

Jan Peterson, USA
Organizing Grassroots Women Locally and Internationally

Susan Saegert, USA
Gender Differences in Leadership in New York City Housing Cooperatives

178 EH NAME CORRECTION: Patricia Prendiville, IRELAND

179 ARTS TITLE/ROOM CHANGE: **A Musical Evening, Sonic Creations** ROOM: Hunter Playhouse

183 IR PAPER ADDED Carol Bagey, USA/NAVAHO
The Social Roles of Navaho Women

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1990 11:00AM

185 GE PRESENTATION CHANGE: Julie Sutphen-Weschler will present her paper on panel 225 GE, Monday, JUNE 4, 14:30 PM, 0615 HW.

185 GE PANEL CHAIR CHANGE: To: Helen Safa, USA

186 GE PAPER ADDED: Karen Houser, USA **Refugee and Displaced Eritrean Women**

189 EH ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0404 HW

189 EH PARTICIPANTS CHANGES: WITHDRAW: Elizabeth Ngugi, KENYA
ADD: Adul de Leon, PHILIPPINES

190 GE NAME CORRECTION: Should read: Debra Bowland, USA

199 VM PAPER WITHDRAWN: Cathy Winkler, USA

199 VM CHAIR CHANGE: Mary Hawryshkiw, USA

204 IR PAPER ADDED: Farojini Shintri, INDIA
Indian Women Writers Perception of REality and Choice

205 IR TITLE CHANGE: **Some of Us are Mothers, All of Us are Daughters: Prose and Poetry about the Mother-Daughter Bond**

206 IR PANEL WITHDRAWN: **The Body in Context** REPLACED BY: 113 PII **Feminist Organizing Principles and Practice: A Presentation and Workshop for Community Organizers, Planners, and Developers (Roundtable)**

207 EH REMOVE FIRST PRESENTATION LISTING

208 PI ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0116 HW

210 PI ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0509B HW

213 IR PANEL WITHDRAWN:

215 GE NEW PANEL: Monday, JUNE 4, 1990 11:00AM 0507 HW
Women in Caribbean Agriculture (WICA) Project
Facilitator: Joan French, JAMAICA

Participants:

Joan French, JAMAICA

Ancelma Morgan, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Martha Joseph, COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

216 GE PAPER ADDED: Maire Bradshaw, IRELAND
Work: Formal and Informal, Paid and Unpaid

223 EH TITLE CHANGE: Kerreen Reiger, AUSTRALIA, **Reclaiming Reproduction**

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1990 14:30PM

N.B. TIME CHANGE TO EARLIER SESSION:

PROGRAM CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

363 VM TO MONDAY 14:30 0706 HW

225 GE NAME CORRECTION: Kathy Rivas should read: Cathy Ribas

NAME CHANGE: Claudette Werleigh should read:
Claudia Magones

PRESENTATION ADDED: Julie Sutphen-Weschler, USA
Crisis and Challenge in Genderizing Cooperation Programs for the Caribbean

PANEL CHAIR CHANGE: To: Carmen Diana Deere, USA

PARTICIPANT WITHDRAWAL: Ira Lowenthal, USA

PRESENTATION ADDED: Mildred Robins Leets, USA
Organizing Support for Grassroots Enterprises in the Caribbean

235 PI PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Judy Eisley, USA

243 IR PANEL WITHDRAWN (NORTH AMERICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN COMMUNITIES) IN RELIGIOUS

REPLACED BY NEW PANEL:

243A EH "Aids is About Secrets" (Video / Discussion)
Convener: Sandra Etkin

244 PII REMOVE FIFTH PRESENTATION TO CREATE SEPARATE PANEL AS FOLLOWS:

Monday, JUNE 4, 1990 14:30 PM 0610 HW

244A PII **Women in Rural Communities: A Case Study of Tribal** **Women in Pathalgarha (Roundtable)**
Facilitator: Janaki Sinha, INDIA

Participants:
Janaki Sinha, INDIA
Sulekha Das, INDIA
M. Mitra, INDIA
R. Sharan, INDIA
P. Mehta, INDIA
M. Srivastava, INDIA
Aditi, INDIA

245 VM PRESENTATIONS WITHDRAWN: Joan Bennett Ross, USA
Trojan Women; Their Place in the Explanation of 'Tribal' Warfare
Asoka Bandarage, USA
The Roots of Violence: Global Crises and Feminist Responses

245 VM PAPER ADDED: Ligia Prieto de Centurion,
Militarism, Nationalism, Imperialism, and Peace

250 EH PARTICIPANT REPLACED: Chair: Elva Bishop, USA
Elva Bishop, USA
Nobody's Business If I Do: Ms. Etta Baker, A Southern Blues Women: Strategies for Negotiating Marginality

252 VM PANEL WITHDRAWN: **Stories and Rituals for Survivors of Sexual Violence (Roundtable)**

253 GE ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0509C HW

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1990 18:45-18:45 0217 HW

Meeting to Discuss the Fifth International Interdisciplinary Congress at the University of Costa Rica in 1993
Chair: Mirta Gonzalez-Suarez

260 EH TITLE CHANGE: Maren Bak, DENMARK

PROGRAM CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

323 GE PARTICIPANT CHANGE: Remove name of Maria Durvalina Fernandes, BRAZIL

326 GE PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Sharon Farley, USA

327 VM PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Maria das Bracas Lucena de Medeiros, BRAZIL

331 EH TITLE /PRESENTATION CHANGES: **Through Thick and Thin: Women and Weight, Women and Physical Challenges**

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION: Susana Brenna, ARGENTINA
Regaining Personal Power from Disabilities: Some Strategies to Get Personal Power and Confidence Back

332 IR TITLE CORRECTION: Publishing A Tradition

333 VM PARTICIPANTS WITHDRAWN: Lloydena Hayden, USA
Terell A. Northrup, USA
Margaret M. Riordon, USA

338 PI ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0407 HW

341 PII CHANGE OF CHAIR: Should read: Charlotte Morgan, USA

342A PII PRESENTATION CHANGE: Barbara Matiru's paper has been placed on a new panel:
Political Behavior and Women's Empowerment, Tuesday, JUNE 5, 11:00AM, 0509C HW

342 PII ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0117 HW

PRESENTATION ADDED: Cathy Ribas, Cuba
Margarita Flores, Cuba
Challenges and Prospects for Cuban Women After 31 Years of Revolution

PRESENTATIONS REMOVED: The papers of Lucia Avelar, Ndeye Sow, and Alision E. Woodward are now part of new panel 342A below.

342A PII NEW PANEL: Tuesday, JUNE 5, 11:00 AM 0509C HW

Political Behavior and Women's Empowerment
Chair: Barbara Matiru, KENYA

Barbara Matiru, KENYA

Women's International Network of ICDE: Strategies for Women's Involvement and Change

Lucia Avelar, BRAZIL

Conservatism and Apoliticism in WKomen's Political Behavior in Brzil: An Analysis of Female Voting Patterns in the 1989 Presidential Election

Alison E. Woodward, BELGIUM

Learning from Affirmative Action? The Belgian Experience in Private and Public Organizations

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1990 12:30PM 0217 HW

COUNTRY CORRECTION: Meena Alexander, USA/INDIA

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1990 14:30PM

346 IR PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Anamarie V.A. Medina, BRAZIL

346 IR PAPER ADDED: Renu Ohri,
Sex Role Orientation as a Determiner of Adjustment among Tribal Women

354 IR ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0417 HW

354 IR PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Claude Safir, FRANCE

355 GE ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0714 HW

PROGRAM CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

356 PI PAPER ADD Christina Gonzalez, ARGENTINA Perspectivas Feiministas Latinoamericanas

363 VM RESCHEDULED FOR MONDAY JUNE 4, 14:30 0706 HW
363 vm PRESENTER CHANGED: From Naomi Shihab Nye, USA
To: Jasmin Adibi

368 PI PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Fijgie deBoer, THE NETHERLANDS

368 PI ADD: A.E. Komter, THE NETHERLANDS
Gender, Morality, and Power: Gilligan's Tehic of Care and the Perspective of Power in Gender Relations

368 PI CHAIR CHANGE: From: Sydell T. Carlton, USA To: Joan Tronto, USA

369 PII PAPER ADDED: Saba Issayas, USA/ERITREA **Mobilizing Eritrean Women for Social Change**

375 VM TIME/ROOM CHANGE: From Tuesday 14:30
To Tuesday 11:00 0424 HW

377 PI ROOM CORRECTION: To: 0415 HW

TITLE CORRECTION: Cecelia McCall, USA
The Next Century and the Defeminization of Teaching

380 EH PAPER ADDED: Junko Wada Kuninoba, JAPAN
Gender Role Conflict of Japanese Working Mothers

381 IR COUNTRY CHANGE: Valentine M. Moghadam, FINLAND

382 PII CHANGE OF PRESENTER: From: May L. Renon, PHILIPPINES
To: Gulita Go-Opilena, PHILIPPINES
Community Development, Organizing, and Planning

385 GE TITLE CHANGE: Nancy O'Rourke, CANADA
The Reconstruction of Custom in Africa: Defining Gender Relations and Rights to Resources

386 PI PRESENTATION WITHDRAWALS: Brenda Millette, USA
Lita Linzer Schwartz, USA
Natalie Isser, USA

388 EH TIME/ROOM CHANGE: To Tuesday, JUNE 5, 9:00AM 0224 HW

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1990 9:00AM

393 IR PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Amy Kaplan, USA

401 EH ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION:
K. Chandrasekhar, INDIA
The Role of Women in Combating the Hazards of Modern Scientific and Technological Developments

403 PII PANEL PARTICIPANT CORRECTIONS:

Issues of Gender Equality and Politics of Changing Regimes

Chairs: Najma Chowdhury, BANEGLEDESH
Barbara J. Nelson, USA

Sonia de Avelar, BRAZIL
Women and the Working Class Movement in Democratizing Brazil

Barbara J. Nelson, USA
Nancy J. Johnson, USA
Political Structures and Movement Tactics: The Women's Policy Agenda in the United States in the 1990s

Amal Kavar, USA
Palestinian Women

PROGRAM CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

(Workshop)

462 GE ROOM CORRECTION: Should read: 0406_HW

469 GE PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN: Lily E. Clerkk, THE NETHERLANDS

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on animal rights.”—Publishers Weekly**

**THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF MEAT
A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory
by Carol J. Adams**

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