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AFRICAN TRAINING AND RESEARCH
. CENTRE FOR WOMEN
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION
' FOR AFRICA

No. 10

June 1988

This is the tenth issue of ATRCW
Ugate a newsletter on women and develop-
ment, primarily on the African Region,
but it covers other areas as well. This issue
focuses on news of ATRCW activities and
programmes as well as information on what
her organizations, institutions and individ-
als are doing. Ugate can be 'obtained
free 'of charge by individuals, organizations
and institutions interested in women and
development upon request. We hope that
you will take advantage of the blank page
at the end of this issue to send us news and
items of interest for possible inclusion in
later editions. Any suggestions you may
wish to make will be welcome.

Ugate No. 10 among others, gives
attentions to Women and Health. Concerns
on Women and " Health in the context of
the Arusha and Nairobi Forward-Looking
Strategies for the Advancement of Women
have been brought out. Conferences and
or meetings related to Women and Health
have been sighted for the attention of our
. Ugate recipients and readers;

NEWS FROM ECA/ATRCW

The Impact of the Economic Crisis on: Women
An International Conference on the
Human Dimension of Africa's Economic
Recovery and Development was held in
Khartoum, Sudan 5-8 March 1988 as part
of the follow-up to the implementation
of the United Nations Programme of Action
for African Economic Recovery and Develop-
ment 1986-1990 ZUN-PAAERDS and Africa's
Priority Programme for Economic Recovery
1986-1990 (APPER). Among other objectives,
the conference sought to critically assess
the central role that the human dimension
plays both 'as a means to and an objective
of development, in Africa's efforts towards
achieving economic recovery and accelerated
self-sustaining and self-reliant development.
A good number of papers were presented
among these was a paper on The Impact
of the Economic Crisis on Women.
The paper highlighted elements of
crisis such as drought and desertification,
African economic recession, food crisis,
debt crisis and structural adjustment and
the impact these have had on women in
various sectors of development. It was
noted that structural adjustment measures
have had ramifying' consequences on women.
Examples of such consequences on women
as pointed out include: cuts in government
expenditure particularly as regards to employ-
ment and social services (education, health
etc.); budget retrenchment has created
unemployment among many are the women;
and deregulation in internal markets with
the absence of price control, prices have

gone up making it difficult for the majority of women with limited resources to meet the ever demanding basic needs of the family. Reduction in male wage employment as pointed out has also led to increased dependence on women's earnings in poor rural households and an increase on women's participation in the informal sector. To ensure women's participation (as part of the human resources) in the economic recovery programmes, the paper concluded that the role of women in development must

be taken seriously into account in development planning and policy and in the disbursement" of resources, both as contributors to and beneficiaries of development efforts as recommended in the Arusha and Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Development.

Among the recommendations giving attention to women issues and as elaborated in the Khartoum Declaration adopted by the Conference were: (i) in the design of adjustment and development programmes, explicit attention must be paid to gender issues so as to accelerate the integration of women in the whole development process. With the clear awareness of women's major contribution to development, there is a new opportunity for making major progress in this direction; and (ii) opportunities should be given to women for greater participation in the nation's political and decision-making processes at all levels, especially at the national centre of power. Where necessary, appropriate training should be given to them to ensure this.

NINTH eMEETING OF ARCC: A CONCERN FOR WOMEN PROGRAMMES

The Ninth Meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the Integration of Women in Development was held in Niamey, Niger 3-5 April 1988. Eleven out of the 15 member States of the Committee attended. The bureau of the meeting was as follows: Ghana as Chairperson, Tunisia - First Vice Chairperson, Zimbabwe - Second Vice Chairperson and Rwanda as Rapporteur. Six member States of the Commission namely: Algeria, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Lesotho, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania attended the meeting as observers. Other organizations in the United Nations Systems, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were also represented as follows: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Inter-eAfrican Committee on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children (IAC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO).

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During the opening session, statements were made. In a statement read on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, the ECA Representative acknowledged the role and efforts ARCC had played and still playing in monitoring the socio-economic changes taking place in the region. National machineries, he stated, had been instrumental in many African countries in sensitizing governments, non-governmental bodies, institutions, groups and individuals to the role of women in development, and that there were some changes taking place: national policies on women's roles were being adopted and increasing attention given to the informal sector. Noting the critical role of women, he stressed the need to continue to cater for the special needs of agricultural producers.

On women's concern, he informed the Committee of the Commitment of the UN Secretary-General to the advancement of women in the secretariat, and of the steps he had taken to increase the number of women professionals in the secretariat. The Secretary of State for Public Health in charge of Social and Women Affairs and who officially declared the meeting opened stated that the lessons drawn from the last decade proved, if further proof were needed, that African women were capable of planning for their future. With support from the United Nations, they had formulated the Arusha Strategies and contributed extensively to the formulation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. After the United Nations Decade for Women, she continued to state that time had come to ask what had happened to the issue of women's integration in the world at large and in Africa most particularly. She said that evidence indicated that much remained to be done before African women could affirm their right to full citizenship?and work with their male partners on an equal footing that would give substance to the Charter of the United Nations. She concluded by recommending that agencies of the United Nations System should see to it that Africa's priorities expressed in the Arusha Strategies were respected

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and their activities harmonized in order to make the various development projects and programmes more efficient and effective. The agenda included among other items: report of the 'President of ARCC, - reports of the Subregion Committees on the integration of Women in Development, programme of work and activities of ATRCW 1987-1988, programmes for the integration of women in development through the MULPOCs, implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies." for the Advancement of women and the United Nations Programmes of Action for African economic recovery and development (1986-1990), Measures for collaboration between ECA/WID programme and the NGOs and Fourth Regional Conference on the integration of women in development (11-23 September, 1989) - proposed agenda.

Q Since the termination of the UNDP support to the women programmes at the MULPOCs, terminal reports presented by members of the subregional committees for the various MULPOCs highlighted major activities undertaken, implementation of the programmes, achievements gained, problems and constraints encountered during the implementation of the programmes. The UNDP/ARCC/ECA Evaluation Mission of August 1987 was also reported and discussed.

- The UNDP termination of financial support to the MULPOCs in terms of the core cost of the women's experts' salaries, the administrative contribution to the MULPOCs raised a heated debate. ARCC committee expressed greater concern on women programmes at the MULPOCs and appealed to member governments and the UNDP to explore ways and means to ensure continuity of the women's structures that have been established at the subregional and regional levels in accordance with the recommendations of the ECA/UNDP/ARCC evaluation mission.

ARCC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In presenting the report, she recalled the several resolutions that had been made on women issues not only in Africa but all over the world and the impact these resolutions have had on African women. She referred to the attempt that had been made to take stock of the situation as seen in the papers that were presented at the ARCC meeting. She also reported on some of the achievements that had been made in various sectors such as health, water, sanitation, education; agriculture and the like. Despite some of these notable achievements she said, there were gaps which needed to be filled.

INTEGRATION OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN TRADE AND COMMERCE

A Regional Workshop on Integration of African Women in Trade and Commerce the first of its kind ever organized by ECA was held in Niamey, the Republic of Niger from 31 March to 2 April 1988. The workshop was organized by the International Trade and Finance Division in collaboration with the African Training and Research Centre

for Women (ATRCW). The workshop recognized the important role African women play in economic development and more specifically in trade expansion including the continuous development of their skills through long term training. Problems and constraints encountered by women traders were highlighted and that there was an urgent need to change the situation to make it favourable to women traders.

Among the critical measures in this direction were highlighted and agreed as follows: full recognition by the government and local authorities of the critical role women play in trade and commerce and a firm commitment to improve the conditions under which women Operate; the improvement, rationalization and strengthening. of the traditional "market place" through the provision of new and adequate facilities Such as water, storage, etc.; the provision of adequate access on equal conditions with men to banking, financial assistance, loans and- credit- facilities for African traders and business women; the development of full information on demand and supply conditions, trading and marketing opportunities at the national, subregional, regional and international levels; and the development of appropriate training programmes for women in import/export management techniques.

Based on the discussion, the a workshop adopted among others the following recommendations: women traders should have better access to education and second that their trading skills should be upgraded as a matter of priority; working conditions in traditional markets, both urban and rural, where women mostly operate, should be significantly improved; the government and local authorities, with the support of development finance institutions, should assist financially the women traders to improve their transportation and storage capabilities so as to reduce the losses arising from the perishable nature of the goods; governments should persuade commercial banks and financial houses to provide credit facilities to women traders on better terms; development finance institutions such as the African Development Bank group, the World Bank group, the Arab for Economic Development in Africa, the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should intensify their efforts to channel more resources towards women traders and business enterprises on more favourable terms in order to encourage a smoother integration of women in the development process. A Resolution on Integration of African Women in Trade and Commerce was also adopted.

CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA

A paper entitled changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies or the Advancement of Women was presented to the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Niamey, Niger in April, 1988. Based on a desk study, the paper attempted to provide a coherent regional picture on the situation of African women since the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. It reviewed measures and activities that African governments and the United Nations bodies and agencies had taken to translate the strategies into concrete action as far as the African region was concerned and the impact these measures have had on the socio-economic conditions of women in Africa. These measures/activities were pointed out as follows:

At the ECA secretariat level, the African Training and Research Centre for Women had been the focal point for the integration of women in development programme. At the national level, initiatives had been taken by the national machineries and/or structures to sensitize governments and non-governmental bodies on the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. At the sub-regional level, a series of conferences had been held to set up machineries to facilitate communications and the dissemination of information on women and women's activities in the region. The MULPOCs had also spearheaded and promoted women's activities at the subregional level. At the regional

level, the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) had vigorously pursue the goals of integrating women in the mainstream of economic, social and political activities by harmonizing and co-ordinating the subregional programmes on women in development, mobilizing resources for the implementation of programmes agreed upon at the regional and subregional levels and monitoring the programme on behalf of African women.

A large number of governments had taken action to increase and improve the role of women in several areas of economic life. However, the participation of women in national decision-making process still left much to be desired. There was a need to improve the conditions of work for women in the informal sector not only with respect to increasing their access to improved technologies but, also by bettering their work environment and welfare. Opportunities available to women to participate more fully in the industrial sector also needed substantial improvement. As regards education and training, while women's enrolment at all levels had been increasing in some countries, an equitable balance between the sexes had yet to be reached in many others. There was in particular, a need to increase the number of women and girls entering scientific and technical fields of

education. In the areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, there had been increased efforts to strengthen the maternal child health, primary health care, family planning programmes, immunization programmes as well as programmes designed to bring water within women's reach.

The paper also reviewed historical obstacles and serious current challenges such as the economic recession in the region and other constraints hampering ' the implementation process of the Arusha and Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies.

SUBREGIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THE PRODUCTION OF TUBERS AND CEREALS IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN

The above paper was presented to the Ninth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The paper consisted of four parts: first a general background on the ecological and socio-economic conditions in the subregion; second an analysis of the production and consumption of basic goods, namely cereals and tubers, which formed the prime objective of the study; thirdly detailed consideration of the role of women in the agro-food sector, whilst part four summarized the development programmes and"- projects in the subregion concerned with the cereals and tubers sub-sector. The paper ended by making recommendations aimed at promoting subregional co-operation in matters of food security in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

Among others, the paper recommended the following sectors which could probably form the basis of future co-operation between the 9 countries of ' the subregion: complementarity in food production; specialization in production where for example ' a country which is a net exporter of rice could play an important part in the satisfying subregional demands for rice; agricultural research, in areas such as soil conservation and irrigation, genetic improvement, pre and post harvest losses particularly among tubers; information exchange e.g. on conservation and , agricultural product processing at regional and subregional levels; the creation of agroindustry and improvement of existing :plants t producing agricultural inputs (e.g. fertilizers, improved seeds etc.); and the creation of regional food reserves to be used in crisis situations and to maintain food security at both national and subregional . levels in emergency conditional

In conclusion, it was stressed that the role of women in the production of tubers 'and cereals must be enhanced and that women's programmes would have to be considered at the same level as men's. Women should be given greater access to inputs, and that women's share of the produce should be proportional to their contribution to production.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN: APPER
and UN-PAAERD 1986-1990
Africa's Priority Programme for

Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 underlines the role which the African women must play in the implementation of measures to speed up the process of recovery of the African economies, most particularly in the agricultural sector. Similarly, the International Conference on the Challenge of Economic Recovery and of Accelerated Development in Africa, which took place at Abuja, Nigeria in June 1987 to evaluate the reactions of member States and the international community to the economic recovery programmes, insisted on the necessity for all groups within the population to participate in the recovery process. In its final declaration, the Conference reiterated the fundamental role which Africa women ought to play in the implementation of the programme, both as the agents and beneficiaries: of development. 3

As a follow-up to the Abuja Conference, in June 1987, an International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development was held in Khartoum in March 1988.

participated and presented a paper on the "Impact of Economic Crisis; on Women". During the conference, women's concerns were brought out and elaborated in its Khartoum declaration.

ECA/ATRCW .

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H: On its part, ., ECA has monitored the active and efficacious participation of women in the drawing up of national plans and programmes, in order to ensure that women's concerns are reflected in them; the priorities set at the national level. Hence the stress put on the technical support of national machineries for the integration of women in development, both in the planning and participation, as well as in the follow-up of programming and planning exercises. -

The countries which have benefitted from this assistance are: Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Somalia and Niger. In the case of national machineries which have insufficient data to ensure adequate planning, preliminary studies have been carried out to allow a better appreciation of national conditions and to identify the obstacles which impede efforts for the total integration of Women in development. This was done in Ghana, Mauritius and Somalia.

ATRCW-UNIFEM COLLABORATION

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) held a two days consultative meeting with regional commissions: ECA and Z'flP7eX. Co-operative programmes between ECA and UNIFEM was reviewed and the effective support given by UNIFEM to regional Commissions was recognized. The meeting however, felt the need to systematize this collaboration between UNIFEM and Regional Commissions taking into account current trends and developments. v For the 1988-1989 biennium, it was agreed that ECA and UNIFEM would collaborate and adapt a strategy to incorporate women's concern in the Secretary-General mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD); and the strengthening of national machineries for women in development. ECA/ATRCW proposal for the strengthening of the data bank on African women was reviewed and steps for the realization of this project was agreed upon. Furthermore, closed collaboration between ECA and UNIFEM; was explored in order to take place in the areas, of management training and fellowship programme for young women in specified fields.

NEWS FROM THE SUBREGIONS -

HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

HAMPER WOMEN'S PROGRAMME IN

MULPOCS: A CONCERN FOR ALL

Following the decision of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) not to include in its Fourth Programming Cycle the activities of integrating women in development carried out at MULPOCs level, terminal reports on the Women's Programme at the MULPOCS were presented to the Ninth Meeting of ARCC. The reports created a heated debate as participants expressed a greater concern for the women co-ordinators and for the programme. During the period 1987-1988 and the previous years, activities undertaken at the MULPOCs included: subregional and national workshops, seminars and meetings in various areas of development; study

tours; advisory services; and research studies.
For the Gisenyi MULPOC, the second issue
of the Newsletter on Women and Development
was published. In general, women programmes
and activities undertaken and or being
undertaken had helped to raise the awareness
of the policy and decision makers on the
role of women in development.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS.

SECRETARIAT AND OTHER UN AGENCIES

WOMEN ISSUES DEBATED' '

The forty-second session of the General
Assembly held at the end of 1987 debated
women issues extensively. As a result of
the deliberations, the Assembly adopted
seven resolutions related to the advancement
of women. Among the resolutions and most
comprehensive was resolution 42/62 on the
implementation of the Nairobi Forward-
Looking Strategies for the Advancement
of Women.

On resolution 42/62 The Assembly:
endorsed the decisions of the Economic
and Social Council to improve the effective-
ness of the Commission on the Status of
Women by authorizing it to hold annual '8
sessions from 1988 until 2000, streamlining
its agenda and establishing a long-term

programme of work organized around priority themes. These Priority themes for the Commission on the Status of Women include: for 1988 - EQUALITY: National machinery for monitoring and improving the status of women; DEVELOPMENT: Problems of rural women; and PEACE: Access to information, education for peace and efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society. For 1989 - EQUALITY: Equality in economic and social participation; DEVELOPMENT: Women and education, eradication of illiteracy employment, health and social services, including population issues and child care; PEACE: full participation of women in the construction of their countries, and in the creation of just social and political systems.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT: NEW FIVE-YEAR TARGETS CALLED 00R

The Forty-second session of the General Assembly called on the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies to establish five-year targets for the percentage of women in professional and decision-making positions. For each level in the secretariat, the target should be 30 percent by the end of 1990. t

INSTRAW: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The 8th session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was held in Santo Domingo its headquarters in February 1988. Substantive items of the agenda discussed during the meeting included: implementation of the work programme for 1987 - ' progress report of i the Institute; INSTRAW training strategies on women in development (WID); new communication technologies as applied to women in development; and proposed INSTRAW programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

INSTRAW has carried considerable work in the area of statistics consisting of expert project meetings, research and training. Its main objective has been at clarifying women's role and contribution to the informal sector with a view of promoting understanding and use of these statistics in development planning and policy-making at the national and international level. While its primary focus has been research, training and information activities with a view of integrating women in the mainstream of development particularly in developing countries.

Some examples of the programmes carried out by the Institute which are of special interest to the African region were pointed out as follows: the improvement of indicators and related basic statistics on women; incorporation of women into development planning and programming; the role of women in the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and in new and renewable sources of energy; the strengthening of the role of women in agriculture and food systems; and training

packages prepared by the Institute in specific subjects which can be adapted according to the needs of the regions.

BRAINSTORMING: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

A three day brainstorming seminar on women in development hosted by ADB Director Mary Okelo was held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in February 1988. The seminar was attended by distinguished: female leaders in the WID 'field including among others: UNICEF'S Dr. Mary Racelis, UNDP'S Ingrid Eide, UNECA'S ATRCW Chief Mary Tadesse, USAID'S Pauline Goodard, UNIFEM'S Jacqueline Ki-Zerbo, Senegalese MP Mme Fadiop Gueye Sall, the Ivory Coast Minister of Women's Affairs Mme Aka Angui, Zimbabwe Minister of Community Development and Women's Affairs Mme J. Mujuru, University of Sussex Mme Kate Young, Equator Bank Mme Ellen J. Sirleat and Mme Aminata Traore of Ivory Coast. Participants contributed to the design of ADB'S first "Position Paper" on Women in Development, a paper which is bound to have a profound effect not only on ADB'S lending policies and practices, but also on Governments and on women as well. "

Ways and means of improving the impact of the bank financial intervention on the integration of African women in development process; and possible avenues of co-operation among external financiers in this programme were also explored and discussed.

WOMEN AND HEALTH

FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES

With particular regard to women in rural areas, paragraph 70 of the Arusha Forward-Looking Strategies recommends that governments should undertake concrete programmes in maternal and child health based on the WHO Health for All by the year 2000. Women should be involved in the planning and delivery of public health care services. Health education campaigns should address the need for the involvement of men in family health. Whilst paragraphs 148-162 of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies provide various recommendations on Health. Paragraph 148 of Nairobi FLS recommends in part that the "vital role of women as providers of health care both inside and outside the home should be recognized, taking into account the following: the creation and strengthening the basic services for the delivery of health care, with due regard to levels of fertility and infant and maternal mortality and the needs of the most vulnerable groups and the need ' to control locally prevalent endemic and epidemic diseases...".

In Africa, as in most developing regions, women's health has been given cursory attention, with emphasis on women's reproductive roles and with insufficient attention being given to other health needs of women. Existing health services do not meet the needs of women.

The lack of recognition of women's productive roles and their contribution to economic development influences policies governing health delivery systems. This is evidenced, by the lack of attention given to women's health issues in agricultural, industrial and household work.

Taking into consideration the gap created by the lack of a comprehensive health policy geared to women in their productive and reproductive roles, tremendous inputs need to be exerted to eradicate deeply rooted traditional practices that are detrimental to women's health and to bring about changes in values and attitudes that undermine the role, status and contribution of women to the society.

During the United Nations Decade for Women and beyond, governments have made efforts to implement and strengthen programmes in areas such as immunization, primary health care (PHC) maternal child health (MCH) and family planning programmes. Though these programmes have greatly improved the services of family health and the extent of participation of women, more need to be done to improve the health conditions of men, women and children. Structural adjustment programmes with budgetary cuts in public expenditure

have added negative impact on social services such as health. Health services are a necessity and often badly needed and required as regards special population groups particularly women and children. The Arusha and Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies present concrete measures in the area of Health, hence more attention should be given to the implementation of these measures.

MATERNAL HEALTH IN SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

The Women's International Network

News Vol. 14 No. 2 Spring 1988 reports that at present 9 maternal deaths per thousand births are 6-4 in Africa, 4-2 in Asia, and 2-7 in Latin America, compared with 0-3 in all developed countries and less than 0-1 in northern and middle Europe. One estimate of maternal mortality in a remote rural area of West Africa puts the figure at 24 pregnancy related deaths per 1000 women of childbearing age. Little has been achieved in putting a stop to the waste of maternal lives in Africa. Provision of family planning for the control of high parity do not seem to be helping because, among other things, neither of the measures tackle the matter at its roots.

THE INTER-AFRICAN COMMITTEE (IAC)

The IAC is a non-governmental organization set-up in February at a seminar held in Dakar on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children in Africa. Since its inception, the IAC has established national committees in 14 countries of the region and has grouped countries of Africa into 5 zones. Additionally, there are IAC affiliate groups in France and England who are working to help eradicate the prevalence of harmful traditional practices among African immigrants and refugees. Harmful traditional practices such as cliteridectomy, zur zur, removal of the premolar teeth, cutting of the uvulae and others such as food taboos, early marriage and early motherhood, etc. continue to afflict the health of women and children in Africa rendering them victims of ill-health and untimely death.

Within the past years, IAC has intensified its campaign to eradicate practices such as female circumcision (excision/infibulation) early childhood marriage and early pregnancy, nutritional taboos etc. through organizing and/or supporting local, national and regional workshops/seminars (Khartoum - Oct. 84; Nairobi - July 1985; Addis Ababa - April 1987). The IAC Plan of Action was Unanimously adopted by 29 African countries during the April 1987 LAC seminar. Since then the Plan of Action has generated an immense interest and the IAC is trying to comply with numerous requests for it. The IAC issues a newsletter twice a year to facilitate exchange of information and experiences among national committee and other concerned groups.

It has been conclusively proven that traditional practices have relegated women to an inferior position. On view of this, the IAC wishes to invite all women's organizations in countries that have not yet established IAC national committee and others to discuss, comment and adopt the IAC Plan of Action in ways that can best meet their needs. The IAC takes this opportunity to invite all interested to contribute to the IAC newsletters, on subjects of traditional practices that are beneficial and should be promoted, and others that are harmful and need to be eradicated as well as strategies for eradication.

For more information write to the:
Inter-African Committee
c/o Economic Commission for Africa
ATRCW, Room 627
P.O. Box 3001
Tel. 44-72-00 ext. 374
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
STUDIES
ECA/ATRCW

A study on the present need for strengthening national machineries for the integration of women in development project covering Ethiopia and Zimbabwe was undertaken by ATRCW in 1986 with financing by INSTRAW. The objective was to increase the visible presence of women at the decision-making level and in their participation in

the implementation of those decisions. Matters dealt with in the study include: the characteristics of national machinery; and changes effected in the structures of the machineries since 1975.

The study made proposals for the localization of national machineries for training, information and co-operation with government technical services.

WOMEN AS ENTREPRENEURS IN ZAMBIA,
CAMEROON AND GHANA '

Following the Arusha and Nairobi

Forward-Looking Strategies and as elaborated in the strategies with regard to an increase in the possibilities of employment for women and in their effectiveness and productivity in the agricultural and industrial sectors, the study on women as entrepreneurs was undertaken in Zambia, Cameroon and Ghana in 1986. Among others, the objectives of the study were: to collect empirical data on women in the small-scale business sector; to identify the sectors in which women predominate; to identify the difficulties faced by women in the setting up and management of their business, particularly the problems

which related to their status as women;
and to analyze the present situation and
to formulate recommendations for increasing
the productivity of women in their businesses.
The study analyzed the small-scale
business sector, the needs and constraints
of women in the sector in the three countries.
The study made recommendations for the
attention of member States, training
institutes, international organizations and
credit sources. To mention a few, they include:
governments must turn the emphasis of
production away from export oriente, often
large scale industry in favour of a nationally
planned self-reliant small-scale sector;
as with the modern industrial sector, all
small businesses should be registered for
the purposes of control and planning; and
governments need to institute legislation
that positively discriminates in favour of
women in the various training schemes.

The report
from ATRCW.

is available on request

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

A study on sexual abuse of women
in Cameroon was carried out in 1987 with
a view to: bring up-to-date the data on
prostitution and all aspects of sexual exploita-
tion of women; analyse traditions and customs
which underline sexual abuse of women;
recapitulate on information relative to the
attitudes and psychosocial behavior, for
example, socio-economic factors tending
to perpetuate or suppress the sexual exploita-
tion of women; and recommend solutions
to these problems. Recommendations made
include various government approach to
the problem, educational strategies, economic
strategy and political strategy.

MEETINGS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCES

INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR THE ADVAN- CEMENT OF WOMEN

A seminar on Information Systems
for the Advancement of Women for National
Machineries was held in Vienna in January
1988. Several country case studies were
presented to the seminar highlighting plans
and activities being undertaken to improve
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and enhance information systems for the
Advancement of women. Among the country
case studies presented included: Zimbabwe,
Ghana and Jamaica.

In the case of Zimbabwe, information
activities currently being undertaken fall
under the following categories: seminars,
workshops and conferences; development
of audio-visual aids; preparation of manual
handbooks and rural magazines; mass. educa-
tion campaigns; and radio programmes.
Existing information networks utilized by
the national machinery including regional
global network with which the national machi-
nery is associated include: bilateral; represen-
tation in development committees and regional
networks.

In Ghana, the information within the
National Council on Women and Development
(NCWD) is charged with the responsibility

for the compilation and collation of information on all aspects of the condition of Ghanaian women and males. Specifically the unit: assembles materials and research findings on the situation of women and disseminating information on these findings; preparing annual reports, handouts and other publications; responsible for the procurement of literature, films, educational materials and other functions. Audio-visual aids, radio programmes and video film making are among the activities used for the dissemination of information etc.

Whilst in Jamaica, the existing information gathering and dissemination activities cover a wide range, through utilizing the electronic and printed media, encouraging dialogue and developing a general awareness. Included are: round table discussion, radio call-in programme, lunch hour etc. Information needs currently identified by the national machinery include: data bank containing a directory of services available locally, regionally and internationally, information on the past, present and future to facilitate continuity, guidelines for present action and planning; statistical information on all subject areas obtained from gender based research; and up-to-date properly catalogued information easily retrievable. Closer links with: University of the West Indies Women and Development Unit; various nongovernmental organizations involved in research

projects; inter-ministerial links; and others have been established to facilitate the collection and dissemination of information at national, regional and international levels."

WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES: IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

An Inter-regional Consultative meeting on Women in Co-operatives: Implications for development was organized by INSTRAW and held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria in June 1988. The main objective of the meeting was to analyse from a global and regional perspective, women's participation in the co-operative movement, particularly in developing countries. Among others, issues discussed included: co-operative approach to development, regional experiences in economic and social policies; women's involvement in international co-operative movement; organizational and managerial aspects; research, training and exchange of information; and policy guidelines for long-term action to enhance women's participation in co-operatives. 1

General actions to be taken at national, regional and international levels in order to strengthen the participation of women in the co-operative movement on long-term basis were recommended using the policy guidelines formulated during the meeting.

"GENDER AND EQUITY"

A Pre-Conference Meeting on Women in Development whose theme was "Gender and Equity" was held as part of the Society for International Development (SID) World Conference in New Delhi, India, in March, 1988. Organized by the SID Steering Committee on Women in Development, the preconference meeting focussed on the link between women and poverty and the need to address problems of equity which women face; how value systems influence women's position in society as well as the cultural and socio-economic dimensions of the gender and equity issue. During the conference, 1 simultaneous workshops on how to develop new approaches to poverty alleviation for women were held using case studies for discussions on equity 11

sub-themes such as rights, access to resources, the indigenous knowledge system, value and culture, etc. The main SID Conference also included many women speakers and five panels within the main conference specifically addressed women's issues.

JCGP HIGH LEVEL MEETING

The Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) whose members include UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, FFAD and UNIFEM held a top management seminar on ADJUSTMENT in Arusha, Tanzania in February 1988. Composition of seminar participants included a combination of field staff from JCGP organizations and national counterparts within Eastern and Southern African countries. Among others, the seminar focussed on and recommended as follows: on adjustment policy and goals, the JCGP organizations should assist governments in their efforts to find adjustment policies that support

a more wholistic approach to longterm development; adjustment policies should give special attention to supporting the full productive capacity of small farmers and the informal sector; the social dimensions of adjustment policies must pay greater attention to women's roles both as producers and as recipients; increased attention to developing national statistical capacity .is an' urgent priority, hence, statistical support efforts should emphasize the rapid collection, processing, analysis and release of data on efforts increasingly focus on longer-term trends in employment, nutrition, water, poverty, social dimensions and environment; and that JCGP should endeavour to aSSist in establishing accurate and adequate resource requirements and help to mobilize. the international community's commitment to meeting them.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The commission on the status of women held its 32nd Session in Vienna, Austria in March 1988. Violence against women in the family and inksociety; the role of women in educating for peace; the problems of rural women; and national machinery for monitoring and improving the status of women were priority themes and topics .discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women at it"se'thirty-second session.

The Commission recommended improvements for its functioning to a special commission set up by the Economic and Social Council to review the operation of United Nations bodies in the social and economic fields. The review is being undertaken in the light of the overall reform of the organization. During its thirty-second session, the Commission continued its annual review of the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, adopted in 1985 at the World Conference in Nairobi.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN

An International Congress on Mental Health Care for Women - December 19-20, 1988 will be held at the Congress Secretariat, International Congress on Mental Health Care for Women Koninginneweg 11, 1071 HZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The four day congress will discuss among other topics: therapeutic approaches; therapist client relationship; violence against women; social position; socialization process; strategies and policies; and psychosomatic aspects of health.

WOMEN, DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

An examination of the connection between socio-economic change and women's health in the third world will be made at the 1988 International Conference on Women, Development and Health. This will be held at Michigan State University, Women in International Development, October 21-23, 1988. Topics will include: rural production; migration; international division of labour; the informal sector; transfer of technology; child survival; reproduction and sexuality; women as health care providers; health care and the community; and public policy. For further information, contact:

The WID Office, ATTN: Rita S. Gallen, Director, 202 Center for International Programmes, East Lansing, MI 488-24-1035.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

CODESRIA: SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMMES

The Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa
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(CODESRIA) has announced a programme of social science research grants to graduate students in African universities. CODESRIA seeks to support graduate students in preparation of their theses. To this end, CODESRIA is offering a limited number of grants for field work and for acquisition of research materials necessary for the preparation of a thesis.

The programme is open to African graduate students in African universities in social science fields and other related disciplines involving social or economic analysis. Grant applications must contain a proposal, a budget, a statement of institutional support, letters of reference and curriculum vitae.

Fellows will be selected during 1988 by a pan-African panel of distinguished scholars. Application deadline is July 30, 1988 for the September award. Applications and further enquiries should be sent to SocialT

Science Research Grant CODESRIA B.P.
3304z Dakar2 Senegal.

TECHNGLOGY AND RURAL WOMEN

The British Council has announced its International Workshop on Technology and Rural Women to be held in Nairobi, Kenya 14-24 August 1988. The primary objective of the workshop is to examine technological innovations in the context of the role of women in rural development, considering the social, cultural and economic factors which can affect the application of technology in integrated programmes for the development of rural areas. The programme will focus on the potential contribution of low cost technologies to meet the needs of rural women, and will be based on work currently being done in Kenya. The workshop will include seminars and participants will be expected to contribute examples and materials from their own experience for discussion. Among the topics to be selected will include: food processing? food storage, energy and power, water, building materials and transport. The workshop will be run in cooperation with the Women's Bureau of the Department of Social Services in Kenya. The course

is intended for administrators, planners and trainers of extension workers who are, or: will be involved in the organization of programmes for the development and dissemination of technology for the benefit of rural communities.

For application forms and any other information, contact: Course Department, The British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

The International- Centre .for'Reseai-ch on Women (ICRWVhas'hnnbunceda Fellowship Programme 'for young women' professionals - and graduate students. The objectives of the programme is' to train professionals .from East and Southern Africa in the use . 10f social scienCe research for the development of effective policies and programmes to increase the economic. participation of low-income women' in developing countries. . The programme is struCtured to enablefellows .10 work on' an individual'research project in the field of women in development and participate in ongoing activities at ICRW which currently include areas such as: policy analysis work on policy; relevant research . on women' labour force participation; data ; .analysls, current development issues in. areas such as agriculture, health and nutrition, .small' enterprise development, etc; and communications which include training in all respect of proposal writing, deveiop writing skills, etc. "

Applicatibns Will be accepted from individuals with formal backgrounds in the social sciences, economics, education, nutrition, public health and agriculture. Applicants must send the following information to ICRW: a resume or curriculum vitae describing the candidates educational, research and work experience; two letters of recommendation from . professional colleagues or professors; (optional) a sample of a recent written work which illustrates the candidates research interests and abilities. Candidates should specify preferred starting dates of Fall 1988 or Spring 1989. .

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-been designed to provide an
The programme is made available by a grant from the Ferd Foundation and additional funding from private corporations and foundations. Two pesitions will be available in 1988/89. Fellows will receive transportation to and from Washington, D.C. and a basic stipend to cover living expenses.

For further information write to:

1Director, African Fellows Programme, International Centre for Research on Women, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N .W., Suite -501, Washington, D.C. 20036.

FOOD RESOURCES RELATED TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The University of London is offering a Diploma course in Food Resources related to Community Development. The unique interdisciplinary course leading to the "University of London Diploma in Food Resources

to' Community Development has
introduction

to the issues invOlved in up-grading nutritional
status and the method of overcoming the
Hproblems in helping communities to develop
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their own resources.

This new approach

to community development gives emphasis
to the importance of getting communities
to make their own decisions, to work out
their own needs and ways of fulfilling them,
and of incorporating the enormous experience
of the local social and physical environment
embodied in traditional methods and organiza-
tions of production. .

z The course is held at King's College
London and extends over one academic year
commencing in October 1988. It is designed
primarily for experienced men and women
from overseas who are or hope to be, engaged
in administration and training in agencies
and organizations concerned with Community
Development, Agriculture Extension, Training
and Visit Schemes, Rural Develpment, Techno-
logy of Food Production, Storage and Pre-
servation, House Economics, Health and
Nutrition, Social Welfare, Urban Rehabilita-
tion, and all aspects of Adult Education.

The course is open to: graduates in any relevant pure or applied science of an _approve'd university; other graduates who may be qualified by their previous education and experience; and students who, though "not graduates, have satisfied the University for admission to the course. For further details contact should be made directly to Dr. J.V.S. Jone, Course Supervisor, Food. Resources related to 'Community Development, Department of ' 1' Food and Nutritional Sciences, Kings College London (KQC) Campden Hill Road, London W87AH, UK.

FELLOWSHIPS IN POPULATION SCIENCES 1989-1990

The Rockefeller Foundation has 1' announced fellowships for advanced training and research in reproductive biology/medicine or in demography/social. science. Awards are made for two types of programmes: postdoctoral study awards intended for persons 40. years of age or under with doctoral of medical 'degree (or equivalent) who wish ' to undertake postdoctoral training or reSearch "with a population specialization; graduate study awards for persons 36 years of age or under working on their dissertation towards the Ph.D. degree in one of the social sciences with a specialization in population. Awards are contingent upon admission by a training or research institution with a strong programme in population 9 studies, regardless of geographic location and are made for one year and renewals for up to one additional year. Awards consist of a monthly stipend, tuition payments, transportation expenses and health insurances. All interested applicants should submit the following: a letter stating that he or 'she wishes to be considered for a Rockfeller Foundation in Population Sciences; 51 curriculum vitae; a detailed study proposal in the English Language; letters of recommendations from three scholars; a one- page statement outlining the candidates' ionguterm career objectives; and a letter from the adviser under whose direction the proposed work will be carried out.

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The required documents should be received at the Foundation by Nov. 15, 1988. Inquiries and all materials should be addressed Population Sciences/Fellowships, The Rockefeller Foundation, 11-33 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036.

CURRENT ATRCW RESEARCH STUDIES WOMEN AND THE INFORMAL SECTOR"

A study on the status of women entrepreneurs in the informal sector and on measures for strengthening their participation is currently being undertaken in fOur countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. The study which is being sponsored by Ford Foundation . is aimed at reviewing relevant information and assessing the status of women in the informal sector; identifying factors hampering

facilitating women's participation
and support measures provided by governments
to strengthen 1 women's' participation in the .
sectors. Areas being researched on include:
handicrafts, commodity trading, dress-making
and catering.

, WOMEN IN AGRO-INDUSTRIES

A study on the Role of Women in Agro-
industries and measures for strengthening
, such role is being: undertaken in four countries
of Eastern and Southern Africa and sponsored
by Ford Foundation. The study is aimed
to: establish the extent of women participation
in agro-industries 'in the subregion; identify
factors hindering and or facilitating their
participation; survey current trends regarding
women's involvement in agro-industrial
production and marketing.

WOMEN AND SCIENTIFIC PROFESSIONS IN AFRICA

A research on Women and Scientific
in three selected countries in
Africa is underway with a view to: explore
the extent of girls/women's enrolment and
participation in science-based training pro-
and occupations; explore ways
of increasing and enhancing their enrolment
and participation in science subjects/courses;
review relevant information on structural
and environmental barriers which mediate

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against the enrolment of girls/women in the sciences and their participation in science-based occupations; review conscious efforts being made by Science and Technology Commissions; Ministry of Education etc. to increase and enhance women's enrolment and participation in scientific, and technological fields.

The research study is being sponsored by International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

ATRCW FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The African Training and Research Centre for Women is happy to announce the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development proposed 11-23 September 1989. At the 1984 Arusha Conference, ECA and OAU was requested to jointly organize and convene a conference so as to review and appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies before the year 1990 and another before the year 2000. A provisional agenda for the Fourth Regional Conference was presented to the Ninth Meeting of the Africa, Regional Coordinating Committee (ARCC) in Niamey (Niger) in April 1988. Among other items, proposed topics for the Regional Conference include: implementation of the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women: country reports and regional perspectives; strategies for improving women's access to education and training in science and technologies; implementation of the project: "Improving African women's role in informal sector production and management"; the impact of debt crisis on women and how women could contribute to solving this problem; and the situation of women and children under apartheid. Further details including a complete programme of the conference and venue will be announced in subsequent issues of our U ate.

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PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Circumcision of Women: A strategy for Eradication by Olayinka Koso-Thomas. The book is written by a general practitioner in Sierra Leone. It analyses the implications of circumcision, and sets out a model to eradicate this physically and politically, socially, culturally and politically crippling practice. 1987, 128 pp.

Women Power: The Arab Debate on Women at Work by Nadia Hijab. The book focuses on particular themes-personal status, laws, development policies and political rights. It examines why social changes toward equal rights for women have been slow and uneven in Arab Society. 1988, 200 pp.

Till They Have Faces by Troth Wells and FOO GaiK Sim. The book highlights women's particular needs in seven areas: housing, food, health, technology, fuel and transport, hazardous products, and credit. It illustrates through case stories from different parts of the world what women

consumers can do to better their lives. 1987, 142 pp. Available from: IOCU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, P.O. Box 1045, 10830 Penahg, MALAYSIA.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Child Health and Mortalit in Sub-Saharan Africa an annotated bibliography intended for researchers health practitioners and policy-makers, includes materials from a variety of sources. Available in English or French from: International Development Research Centre, P.O. Box 8500 Ottawa Ontario, K1G 3H9 CANADA.

A selected and annotated biblioggaghy on women and health in Africa draws together resource materials and provides a brief critique on women's health in Africa by analyzing the methodological and conceptual orientation of existing literature. Available from: AAWORD, P.O. Box 3304, Dakar, Senegal.

AUDIOVISUALS

Kumekucha - "From Sun U2" is a new film in Kiswahili with English commentary and subtitles, produced by Flora M'mbugu Schelling. The film describes the invisible daily trials of Tanzania peasant women as they attempt to provide for themselves and their families and their relationship with men. For further information write to: Flora M'mbugu-Schelling, P.O. Box 3616, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Film Guide: Women in Films profile;

37 films which portray the lives of women in the developing world. The films, which cover many world areas, are suitable for information activities, study sessions, and educational seminars. Films are in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. For free catalogue of films, contact: NGLs, United Nations DC2-1103, New York, NY 10017, USA.

INFORMATION SHEET

We would appreciate having news about programmes, activities research in progress, publications, meetings/seminars and personalities related to women in development, especially in the Africa region. Please send your information to ECA/ATRCW, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.