

NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN
UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES

SO

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244 (11) PT.B

REGISTRY FILE CLOSURE FORM

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FILE FOR PERIOD OF 1 JAN. 1968

THROUGH 31 DEC. 1969 CLOSED.

A NEW PERIODIC FILE WILL BE OPENED
IF REQUIRED.

☐

PART _____ CLOSED.

SEE PART _____

☐

FILE NO. _____ CLOSED.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED UNDER FILE NO.

RECORDS CONTROL

26 JUL 1968

SO 244 (11)
X SO 244 (16)
X SO 134 (7)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge his note dated 1 July 1968, concerning the following subjects:

- Unified long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women;
- Participation of women in community development programmes; and
- Role of women in the economic and social development of their countries.

The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representative of Sweden the assurances of his highest consideration.

25 July 1968

SO 244 (11)

RECORDS CONTROL

10 JUL 1968

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of His Excellency's note No.119.L.24.a of 7 January 1968 transmitting information concerning resolution 1133 (XLI) of the Economic and Social Council relating to the establishment of long-term programmes for the advancement of women at the national level.

The Secretary-General regrets that, due to an oversight, His Excellency's note has not been acknowledged earlier.

2 July 1968

Ack. 25 July

RECORDS CONTROL

26 JUL 1968

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14 50244 (16)
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X 50134 (7)

The Acting Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the following Notes from the Secretary-General:

- SO 244(11) of 17 October, referring to ECOSOC resolution 1133(XLI), relating to a unified long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women;

- SO 134(7) of 19 June 1967, referring to resolution 13(XX), adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twentieth session and relating to the participation of women in community development programmes;

- SO 244(15) of 20 June 1967, referring to resolution 14(XX), adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twentieth session under the item "United Nations assistance for the advancement of women".

.....
In response to the requests made in the above-mentioned Notes the Acting Permanent Representative of Sweden has the honour to transmit, herewith, a report elaborated by the Government of Sweden and entitled "Report to the United Nations on the Status of Women in Sweden 1968".

.....
In the report reference is made to the book "The Changing Roles of Men and Women", edited by Edmund Dahlström and published in London 1967 by Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd. A copy of that book is likewise enclosed.

New York 1 July 1968. *[Signature]*

8/7
[Signature]

SO 244 (11)

RECORDS CONTROL

28 APR 1968

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of its note N° NY(PM)353(5)/66 transmitting information concerning resolution 1133 (XLI) of the Economic and Social Council on the long-term programme for the advancement of women.

22 April 1968



ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

APR 18 1968

ACTION

Mr. Schneider
1
2
✓ Action Completed
Acknowledged
No Action Required
INITIALS: P.S.D.

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
3 EAST 64TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

NY(PM)353(5)/66

11 April 1968

50244(11)

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to his note No. SO 244(11) dated 17 October 1966 regarding the long-term programme for the advancement of women, has the honour to transmit to him copy of a note on the Long-term Programme for the Advancement and Welfare of Women in India.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Secretary-General
of the United Nations,
Division of Human Rights
(Status of Women Section)
U.N. Secretariat,
New York, N.Y.



ADVANCEMENT AND
LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE WELFARE OF WOMEN IN INDIA

India is a vast country with an area of 32,60,300 Square Kilometers and a population of 439.2 million. Women constitute 49% of the total population. The history of the freedom movement in India is also the history of the women's movement for becoming equal partners with men in securing national independence and political rights. In the pre-Independence epoch, Indian women were helped to comprehend the significance of a higher role in Society both for freedom and equality.

Political
Equality for
women

2. India became free on August 15, 1947. She has enshrined in her Constitution the cherished goals of Justice, Liberty and Equality. The right of equality to all citizens, irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, has been clearly set forth in Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. No citizen can be discriminated against on the above-mentioned grounds. The principle of adult franchise, incorporated in the Constitution, has further guaranteed political equality for women. In addition, the entire Hindu written and customary law was codified through a number of legislations in succession. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, the Hindu Succession Act of 1956, the Special Marriage Act of 1954, the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, are but a few examples. An earlier Government measure that favourably affected women, was the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, which, while seeking to improve conditions of the workers, did not permit discrimination between men and women workers. For women workers

several types of protective legislations have been introduced. The Factories Act of 1948 prohibits the employment of women in underground in mines. Other laws confer certain well recognised maternity benefits and provides better welfare facilities.

Social
legislation
for women

3. Social legislation relating to women rights has not lagged behind and most of the requisite legislation has been passed. The adoption by the Central Parliament of the main sections of the Hindu Code Bill has been an immense step forward and has brought some very welcome and vital changes in the social status of Indian women. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 enforced monogamy and conferred equal rights of divorce on both men and women. The Hindu Succession Act of 1955 recognised the right of the daughter and her children to succeed equally with the son and his children to all the property of either parents. The Hindu Minority Guardianship Act of 1956 safeguards adequately the mother's right to be the natural guardian of her children and to have say in the adoption of a child. All these steps have gone a longway in raising the status of women in society and in encouraging them to take advantage of education as well as participation in civic and political life of the country.

Education
for women

4. As the development of women's education is integrally bound to the total development of the country, it is appropriate to indicate the contributions of the three Five Year Plans to the subject under consideration. The Plans aimed at laying down the foundations of self-reliant economic growth, providing avenues and opportunities for employment to all those who seek it, and ensuring a minimum level of

Third plan raised the targets and set the achievement of a

-3-

living to every family in the country, while narrowing economic and social disparities between two sexes. ~~The~~ "Good life" for every citizen as the ultimate goal of a Socialist Society in India. The development Plans have helped in raising the national income by 42%, per capita income by 20%, per capita consumption by 16%, and agricultural production by 40% from 1951 to 1961. The expectation of life has increased to 51.25 years in 1961 from 32 years in 1951.

National
Council on
Women's
Education

5. Since Independence, the problem of the education of women in the country has received special consideration. A National ~~Council~~ ^{COMMITTEE} on Women's Education was constituted by the Ministry of Education to examine these problems and make recommendations. An important outcome of the recommendations of this Committee was the setting up of the National Council for Women's Education to advise the Government on issues relating to the education of girls at school level and of adult women, and to suggest policies, progress, targets and priority for the expansion and improvement of the education of girls and women. The National Council has been able to focus the attention of the Government and the public on the problems of girls and women's education in the country.

Progress in
Girls' education
in High School
& College stages.

6. Tremendous progress has been made in girls' education both in the fields of school education as well as University education. From the enrolment of 5.38 million girl students in 1950-51 in primary classes, it has been raised to 10.10 millions in 1965; from 0.53 million to 1.95 in middle classes and from 0.20 million to 0.65 in High School classes. Similarly in the field of Higher education, there are 300 girls colleges, out of which

259 are Art, Science and Commerce Colleges, and 41 Professional Colleges besides one University exclusively for women's education. Other educational institutions for higher education also admit girl students. Out of the 14,88,773 students studying in Universities and Colleges in 1965-66, 3,18,996 are women students, giving 21.4 percentage of coverage. Out of the total of 5,000 students studying for post-graduate and research courses 13,145 are women, giving 23.5 percentage of coverage. The additional funds proposed for special schemes for girls education in the Fourth Plan is more than Rs. 21 millions as compared to IIIrd Plan. Besides, the overall contribution of the various economic and social aspects of the development Plan will help in increasing consciousness, specially, among the rural population, of the usefulness of promoting education among girls and women.

Central Social
Welfare Board
for Women.

7. During the process of development of social services and social welfare services in the country through developmental programmes, an interesting phenomenon has resulted in contributing to the effective promotion of civic, social and political education among women. It was in 1953 that the Government of India established the Central Social Welfare Board to promote social welfare services with the help of voluntary organisations. The awakened leadership among women, resulting out of the experience of struggle for Independence and equality, was utilised to promote the programmes of social welfare. A number of voluntary organisations which were in existence, but neglected, were given new life and fresh incentive. A number of new

organisations came into existence. All of them tried to promote social welfare services for women through the active participation of women members of the Boards of Management and women workers in the field. This, in turn, acted as an added source of providing civic education among the women. They became increasingly conscious of their obligations to the developmental services for needy women. The Social Welfare programme provided a binding force of joint effort throughout the country. More than 6000 voluntary organisations are working actively in promoting social welfare services for millions of needy population. For more than a decade, women's welfare services, alongwith Childrens' Welfare, became synonymous with social welfare. This has facilitated a balanced development of the total programme of social welfare, and has helped in meeting the historical need of promoting women's services, besides providing facilities of education among thousands of women ~~among thousands of women~~ workers throughout India. It has imbued thousands of women with a sense of dedication and devotion to service. From the inception of the Board, in August 1953, one of the functions assigned to the organisation was to promote voluntary efforts through grants to voluntary efforts, through grants to voluntary agencies working for the welfare of women, children and the handicapped groups of persons. In the discharge of this function the Board has, from time to time, been adopting such rules and regulations as are necessary to meet the needs of welfare agencies for development and for improvement of their services, as also for starting new services where these did not exist.

Assistance to women welfare during Plans period.

8. The details of assistance given to organisations working for the welfare of the women, during the First, Second and the Third Five Year Plans, are as below:-

	Women Welfare		Total	
	No. of grants	Amount sanctioned Rs. in lakhs	No. of grants	Amount sanctioned Rs. in lakhs
Ist Five Year Plan (1951-56)	1385	28.93	2849	75.54
Second F.Y.P. (1956-61)	4908	115.68	9691	299.20
Third F.Y.P. (1961-66)	4034	81.05	12721	246.35
	10,327	225.66	25,261	616.09

The total number of organisations which received 25,261 grants till the end of the Third Five Year Plan is 5071. Out of these 1882 were institutions working exclusively for the Welfare of Women, although many of the beneficiaries of assistance for handicapped persons, and also aided under General Welfare Programmes, which are composite in nature, were also women.

9. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, assistance would be continued largely for consolidation and improvement of activities started in the earlier plans. A sum of Rs. 41.98 lakhs was spent on the programme during 1966-67, the first year of the Fourth Five Year Plan, and a provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been earmarked for the scheme during 1967-68. It is hoped that the pattern of assistance to women's Organisations during the Fourth Five Year Plan

would be the same as in the Third Five Year Plan, although Child Welfare Programmes are likely to receive priority over other welfare schemes.

10. During the Second Five Year Plan, it was estimated that a large number of trained women workers like gramsevikas, nurses dais, midwives, balwadi teachers, primary school teacher, family welfare workers, etc. would be required for implementation of the various development schemes. For specialised training, the minimum educational qualification for admission is a pass either in the middle School or Matriculation examination. Even in places where training facilities existed for these types of jobs, experience had shown that suitable candidates, mature in mind and with the minimum educational qualifications, were not available to undergo the training. While, on the one hand, there was the problem of non-availability of educated adult women for undergoing training, on the other, there was the problem of thousands of deserving adult women, in need of employment in order to supplement their family income. Bearing these factors in view, the Central Social Welfare Board started the scheme of Condensed Courses of Education for Adult Women, in 1958.

Activities of Central Social Welfare Board for Women. // The Central Social Welfare Board had decided to continue this programme in the Fourth Five Year Plan ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~Social Welfare Board for Women~~ also with increasing emphasis and wider impact, and it would be possible for the Board to provide assistance to a large number of voluntary welfare institutions and co-operative Societies for taking up schemes with the object of securing economic rehabilitation for needy women (i.e. destitutes, & widows). Through this programme the Board will play a significant role in the promotion of Co-operative

Societies for weaker sections of the women's Community.

During the first year of the Fourth five year plan, grants for setting up 21 units aggregating to Rs. 4.49 Lakhs were sanctioned and 23 more units started functioning during the year bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 2,700 needy women. An amount of Rs. 3.43 lakhs was also released during 1966-67.

12. From the experience gained during the initial period of work, the Board found it necessary to develop the programme of services for the rural areas by starting a series of projects for the welfare of women and children. The basic idea underlying the scheme was:

- (i) to provide basic minimum social services to women and children, which were then of a pioneering nature, in the rural areas; and
- (ii) to create an organisation known as project implementing committee, which could ultimately be covered into local voluntary organisation to take over the programme of the projects.

The Mahila Mandals i.e. voluntary organisations of women, which have taken over the projects and secure grants from the Board for meeting up to 75 percent of their expenditure, according to a schematic budget. The balance of 25 per cent was to be met by grants from State Governments, local bodies and voluntary contributions.

13. During 1966-67, 578 Mahila Mandals (voluntary organisations of women), were running 1530 centres of the erstwhile WEPs, providing craft training, social education, maternity and balwadi facilities to about 32 lakhs rural beneficiaries. A sum of Rs. 142.50 lakhs were spent during the 1966-67, first year of the fourth plan, Mahila Mandals have gained experience and their performances ~~XXXX~~ has improved. While renewing assistance to these organisations, it was ensured that their performances during the previous years, as reported by the Inspectorate staff and the State Board members, was satisfactory.

Mahila
Mandal's
Projects

14. The scheme of Welfare Extension projects has been in operation for about a decade. Many social/political, organisational and economic changes have taken place in the meantime. The committee, on the assessment and review of the scheme of Welfare Extension projects, appointed by the Central Social Welfare Board in January, 1964, under the Chairmanship of Maharani Sahiba of Patiala, has recommended some modifications in the contents of the programmes, its coverage and organisational pattern. These have been accepted by the Board. Provision has also been made for training of young mothers, in home management, child care, nutrition etc. so that the family of the child is utilised more effectively for its growth and development.

15. The importance of involving the women, who comprise half the total population of India in the process of Community Development, has been recognised from the outset. It has also been realised that welfare oriented programmes have to be provided for the young children, so as to facilitate their growth as worthy members of society. The establishment of Mahila Mandals, which provide the institutional base for development activities involving women has, thus, always been an integral part of the Community Development programme; over the years, Balwadis have also been organised, though on a more limited scale. According to reports received from the State Governments, over 60,000 Mahila Mandals and some 20,000 Balwadis were stated to be functioning in the C.D.Blocks at the end of the Third Plan.

The Scope
of Women
Education
in
India.

16. The Ministry of Education, New Delhi, have already set up a National Council for Women's Education. The State Governments in India have also set up similar councils at the State level.

University Grants Commission's Role:-

17. // The U.G. Commission is already providing preferential treatment to women's education in respect of certain projects e.g. construction of hostels and revision of salary scales of college teachers, so as to provide incentives for encouraging Women's education. The Commission is paying grants to Universities/ Colleges for the construction of hostels on sharing basis i.e. 50% in the case of boys hostels and 75% in the case of girls hostels. Similarly for the implementation of salary scales in colleges during the Third Plan Commission provided assistance to the extent of 75% of additional expenditure in respect of women's colleges as against 50% for men's colleges. Further there is complete equalityⁱⁿ all matters relating admission, employment opportunities etc in the field of higher education.

Women Adult Education in India.

18. No distinction is made between men and women as far as the literacy programmes of the Central and the State Governments are concerned and no scheme is exclusively meant for women. Efforts for spreading literacy among adults were started in India in the last quarter of 19th century on a voluntary basis. Soon after India attained Independence in 1947, action to promote literacy was taken up on a more comprehensive scale. In the pre-plan period(1947-51) the Union Ministry of Education and the State Governments had worked out plans for literacy. Literacy work was carried through school teachers. For this purpose organisational and administrative machinery was added to the Departments of Education. Follow-up and supporting services were also provided. After the Five Year Plans were initiated in 1951, Social Education and Literacy became a part of the Community Development Programme. The operational part of social education and

literacy programme thus became the responsibility of the Ministry of Community Development. The authority responsible for administration of adult education is the Union Ministry of Education. Its functions, however, administratively, are to plan, to co-ordinate; and to provide supporting services, and to give financial support. Actual implementation of adult literacy programmes is the responsibility of the State Governments. In so far as the social education for women is concerned, it is imparted through various means e.g. adult literacy, classes, social education centres, Vidyapeethas (educational Institutes) or Janata (peoples) colleges, workers social education institutes, etc. Apart from these, the education of masses is done through other media like radio, press, audio-visual aids etc. mostly through Government (Central or State) resources. Except for a few experimental adult schools, there are no regular schools for adults in this country. Since illiterate adults find time only after finishing the day's work, literacy work is a part-time task. Teachers are also not engaged exclusively for the purpose. Literacy teachers are mostly drawn from the teachers of elementary schools. This is particularly so in rural areas where the largest percentage of illiterates are found. In the urban areas teachers of secondary schools also undertake literacy promotion work. In addition, non-professional teachers and volunteers are also enlisted for the promotion of adult literacy. They are given a short course of training in adult literacy methods and adult psychology. Regular literacy work is carried out by organising a long-term literacy programme which aims at providing functional literacy to adults. After the adults have acquired a standard of literacy which can be used for every day activities like writing letters, reading newspapers, etc, their functional literacy is maintained through a system of rural libraries. The Education Departments of the States have produced a sufficient number of Readers on various topics of adult interest. ~~Copies of these readers are available in a~~

topics of adult interest. Copies of these readers are available in all these rural libraries. The Central Social Welfare Board runs condensed courses for women through the agency of various institutions. These condensed courses enable women, who have attained the level of primary education, to go up to the secondary stage within 2-3 years. The courses prepare women for examinations recognised by the various Board of Examinations.

Labour & Employment of Women:-

19. The Government of India have already ratified the I.L.O. Conventions concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women workers for work of Equal Value (No.100) and Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation (No.111). Law and practice in India are in conformity with the provisions of these Conventions and reports on compliance with these provisions are regularly submitted to the I.L.O. Of other I.L.O. Conventions of specific interest to women India has also ratified Conventions Nos. 4 and 89 concerning Night work (Women) and Convention No.45 concerning Underground Work (WOMEN).

20. Even though I.L.O. Conventions concerning Maternity protection i.e. Nos 3, and 103 could not be ratified owing to reasons of a technical nature, adequate maternity protection is being provided to women workers. The principal laws on the subject are:

1. the Maternity Benefit Act 1961 (Central);
2. the State Maternity Benefit Acts; and
3. the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

Such protection is provided also through administrative orders and through enforcement of Labour Clauses in public contracts.

2/. The principal Labour enactments like the Factories Act, Mines Act, Plantations Labour Act, etc. which regulate the conditions of work also provide for the maintenance of creches for the benefit of working mothers.

.....

SECRET'S CONTROL

SO 244 (11)

28 MAR 1968

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the permanent representative of Ceylon to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge His Excellency's Note No. ESC/UN/28 of 20 March 1968 transmitting information on the establishment of a long-term programme for the advancement of women at the national level, pursuant to resolution 1133 (XLI) of the Economic and Social Council.

27 March 1968



Tel: YUkon 6-7040

PERMANENT MISSION OF CEYLON
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ACTION

TO: *Mr. Schriber*
1
2
3
☒ Action Completed
☒ Acknowledged
☐ No Action Required
INITIALS *L.R. Sheshani*

630 THIRD AVENUE (20th FLOOR)
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 20, 1968

27 March 68 SO 244 (11)

.....

The Permanent Representative of Ceylon to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward herewith two copies of a memorandum prepared by the Government of Ceylon in response to the Secretary-General's Note No. SO 244 (11) of October 17, 1966 concerning the action taken ⁱⁿ pursuance of the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1133 (XL1) regarding programmes for the advancement of women.

The Permanent Representative regrets the delay in forwarding the memorandum, but hopes that its contents would be useful to the Secretary-General.

The Permanent Representative of Ceylon to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED LONG TERM
PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

As integral to general advancement

The Government of Ceylon has noted with great interest Economic and Social Council Resolution 1133(XLI). It has also noted the suggestions made by the Secretary-General relating to Long Term Programmes for the Advancement of Women at the National Level. The principle underlining the need for the advancement of women has been accepted in Ceylon for a long time, but it has not been pursued as a separate programme independent of the advancement of the rest of the country. Women together with men have been considered as an integral part of all the national development plans and programmes pursued by Ceylon and the need for a separate Commission, Bureau or Sections for women's affairs have not been felt in Ceylon.

Basic guarantees

Basic to the position of women in the frame-work emphasised in the preceding paragraph is the existence in Ceylon of universal adult franchise, compulsory and free education for both sexes up to the age of 14, and the pursuance of equal opportunity in all fields of higher education and employment in Ceylon. In consideration, however, of certain traditional and sociological factors that may impede the full realisation by women of their role in society, voluntary women's organizations like the Lanka Mahila Samiti and the All Ceylon Women's Conference and similar Organizations, have worked in collaboration with Government departments, to further the advancement of women's activities in contemporary society.

Special fields

Certain fields of employment and certain vocations have been found to be more suitable for participation in, by women and governmental activity as directed itself towards placing such an emphasis and helping towards the realization of such participation. Two such fields are the nursing profession and the textile industries. In connection with the latter, the Government has

organized ...

organized a large number of Handloom and Textile Centres as well as Handicraft and Needle-Work Centres.

Special amenities

Related to the possibility of subsequent employment of women in certain specific fields, educational curricula have made possible the study of subjects like Home Economics, Child-care and Nutrition, Nursing, Secretarial duties, Office management, Agronomy etc.

The increasing participation of women in public life has brought about the need to establish and maintain facilities for the day-care of children of working women. The Government has adopted a system of subsidies to voluntary agencies to establish and maintain such facilities.

The principle of equal pay for equal work has been accepted in Ceylon and has been the basis for the fixing of wages irrespective of sex, in spite of difficulties that might arise - especially in the private sector of employment where the pressures of unemployment are felt. Wages Boards appointed by the Minister of Labour, however, ensure that women are given minimum adequate fixed wages in most spheres of the private sector. Safeguards against possible exploitation of female labour have been established through Labour Laws which besides proper wage fixing also ensure proper working hours, maternity benefits etc.

Advancement and the family unit

Great value is placed on the family unit in Ceylon and the special role of women in this sphere is recognized together with the need to keep the family unit intact and prevents its break-up. Equal avenues of employment notwithstanding, the government continues through its system of social security and social assistance to provide grants to women with dependant children who need assistance to maintain themselves and their children.

Social welfare facilities for women in needy circumstances are provided through governmental co-operation with voluntary organizations established for this purpose.

A measure of accomplishment

Measures referred to in preceding paragraphs have resulted over a period of time in a very definite manifestation of the advancement of women as an integral part of the advancement of the society in general. Women today are employed at various levels in the public and private sectors; administrative, clerical and professional. They compete on equal basis with men. High offices in the representative organs of the country have been held by women from the post of Prime Minister down to membership in Parliament and membership in various public and Parliamentary Committees and as Representatives abroad. A very high proportion of students in the Humanities and Medical faculties at the Universities of Ceylon, is women.

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LRS/mlb

SO 244 (11)

RECORDS CONTROL
5 MAR 1968

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his Note No. 18/21/22 of 12 February 1968 transmitting information on the establishment of a long-term programme for the advancement of women at the national level, pursuant to resolution 1133 (XLI) of the Economic and Social Council.

20 February 1968

FEB 14 1968

ACTION

18/21/22

50244(11) Mr. Schiebler
 misfiled
 50244(10)
☒ Action Completed
☒ Acknowledged
☐ Action Required
 INITIALS LRS

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note SO 244 (II) of the 17th of October, 1966 inviting Her Majesty's Government to inform him of any action taken pursuant to Resolution 1133 (XLI) of the Economic and Social Council.

20 Feb. 68

The invitation, in operative paragraph 4, to member states to establish long-term programmes for the advancement of women has been carefully considered in the United Kingdom. Her Majesty's Government have, however, concluded that it is preferable for the advancement of women to be regarded, as it is in the United Kingdom, as part and parcel of the task of every branch of government: to promote the interests of the community as a whole.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
 TO THE UNITED NATIONS.



12 February, 1968

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The Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour, with reference to the Secretary-General's note SO 244(11) of 17 October, 1966, concerning a unified long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women, to inform the Secretary-General that the Danish authorities concerned have stated that there appear to be no basis for action on the part of the Danish authorities in relation to Economic and Social Council resolution 1133 (XLI), taking into consideration the development which in Denmark already has taken place as far as women's status is concerned.

The National Council of Danish Women has stated that it has no comments to the above-mentioned note of the Secretary-General.

The Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of his highest consideration.

New York, January 7, 1968.

The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York



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The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York



UNITED NATIONS



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Encl. to Ltr. Dated RM 27/4

From: MCS Bruce 29/6/66

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RECORDS CONTROL RM. 207A
Encl. to Ltr. Dated 29 JUNE 1966
From: MRS. M.K. BRUCE TO MR. LEONARD
File: SO 244 (11)

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEMBER STATES
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

through

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES OF
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

and through

PROGRAMMES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS

This pamphlet is being issued at the request of the Commission on the Status of Women at its eighteenth session held in Teheran, Iran, in March 1965. In asking the Secretary-General to publish the pamphlet, the Commission also invited

"All Member States of the United Nations, as well as all non-governmental organizations, to take advantage of this publication and to have it in mind in the formulation of plans and policies, with a view to effecting a more co-ordinated and integrated programme of United Nations assisted systems and government and non-governmental organization schemes for the advancement of women in their respective countries." 1/

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council:
Thirty-Ninth Session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 142-147.

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INTRODUCTION

On 7 December 1962, the United Nations General Assembly, in Resolution 1777 (XVII), called for a study on the possibility of establishing a long-term programme for the advancement of women, particularly in developing countries. It asked the Secretary-General "to study, in co-operation with Member States, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and appropriate non-governmental organizations, the possibility of providing and developing new resources aimed especially at the initiation and implementation of a unified long-term programme for the advancement of women"; and "within the scope of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the advisory social welfare services programme, to study especially the possibility of expanding the assistance which can be rendered, through seminars, fellowships and the services of experts, for the advancement of women in developing countries".

In 1963, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women agreed that the first step of such a study should be a review and evaluation of existing resources for the advancement of women. The Commission therefore requested the Secretary-General to provide it "with a summary statement of resources available to Member States for the advancement of women, if possible with illustrations, together with an explanation of how the desired assistance may be requested, to be based on information regularly available on all programmes in the United Nations system, and in the case of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, on information submitted by them".

The report on which this pamphlet is based (E/CN.6/435/Add.5) was prepared by the Secretary-General in 1965 in response to this request. The Commission considered that the report, with the necessary revisions, should be printed as a sales publication "in order to effect a wider dissemination of the **useful information**" it contained.

The pamphlet is divided into two parts. Part I contains information on technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations family, with special emphasis on those which may be of interest from the point of view of the advancement of women. Part II contains information on programmes of various non-governmental organizations in consultative status. It is based exclusively on material furnished by such organizations.

It should be noted that United Nations assistance to advance the status of women is by no means limited to the types of technical co-operation described in this pamphlet. Such very important activities as the elaboration of international conventions, declarations, and other instruments relating to the status of women, the preparation of legal and other studies on conditions and problems of particular interest to women, and the adoption by various organs of the United Nations of resolutions addressing recommendations to Governments have not been included. They were considered to be beyond the scope of this report which, in accordance with the request of the Commission on the Status of Women, is **focused principally** on resources available for the advancement of women under programmes of a technical assistance nature.

In preparing the pamphlet, a broad interpretation has been given to the term "advancement of women" in the light of the information received from Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, especially as regards the fields in which they thought that assistance for women might be most useful and the types of assistance which they considered would be most beneficial. It must be borne in mind that programmes designed to meet the special needs of women (e.g. nutrition, maternal and child welfare and urban and rural development), while very important in themselves, will not necessarily effect an improvement in the status of women. The Commission on the Status of Women has emphasized that a long-term programme for the advancement of women, if it is to be effective, must include measures designed to meet their needs, but care must be taken to ensure that these measures do, at the same time, lead to an improvement in their condition and status.

A basic problem, which has been pointed out in a subsequent report relating to the long-term programme for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/450 and Add.1-3), is the apparently low priority which many Governments feel able to accord requests for technical assistance aimed at advancing the status of women. Where resources are limited competition becomes an important factor, and, as ^{mentioned} UNESCO has noted, "the authorities often have to make a heart-rending choice between the various projects for which they desire assistance. In the ensuing competition, activities of interest to women are often the losers".

In this connexion, it may be of interest to recall the recommendations which the Economic and Social Council addressed to Governments and also to non-governmental organizations in resolution 884 E (XXXIV) adopted in 1962. In that resolution the Council

"Recommends to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies that they make full use, for the purpose of promoting and advancing the status of women in developing countries, of the services presently available under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, as well as of the advisory services programme in human rights and the advisory social welfare services, by requesting the advisory services of experts, by promoting the attendance at seminars and other meetings, and by taking advantage of the availability of fellowships and scholarships;"

and

"Urges women's non-governmental organizations in consultative status to co-operate with the Secretary-General, by stimulating public opinion with regard to the programmes of the United Nations which contribute to the advancement of women and by supplementing the efforts of the United Nations on the international and national levels through the holding of regional, national or local seminars, including if possible in the future an international seminar, the provision of fellowships, scholarships and expert advice, and other related activities."

In December 1963, the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on the participation of women in national social and economic development (resolution 1920 (XVIII)) in which it specifically called the attention of Governments of Member States to "the importance of training women so as to enable them to participate fully in all phases of the planning and execution of national development programmes and to the contribution which non-governmental organizations can make in this respect". It also invited Governments of States which are Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations within those States "to collaborate in making full use of the services available under the various technical assistance and advisory services programmes in order to promote the full participation of women in the planning and execution of national development programmes".

PART I

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

1. The Meaning of Technical Cooperation

All programmes of technical co-operation within the United Nations family are aimed primarily at raising the economic and social levels of the population as a whole, especially in the developing countries. Within this general framework, existing programmes of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Children's Fund already contribute in some measure to the advancement of women in various spheres.

Basic Objectives

The basic objective of technical assistance programmes is to help to prepare more people to contribute towards the progress of their countries, either by advising them, showing them, teaching them, or giving them the opportunity to exchange and develop the information which they already have. The various programmes cannot construct a factory, or a school, or a hospital laboratory, but they can, at a Government's request, train the staff for these institutions, consult on technical problems, suggest work programmes, recommend and demonstrate equipment and, in every way required, help to improve methods. They cannot produce more food, or eradicate a disease, but they can mobilize the experience of those who have done so successfully. The programmes are built on the principle that almost every country, regardless of its stage of development, has a contribution to make to the economic and social growth of other countries. Rigid lines of demarcation are not drawn between the activities undertaken under different programmes. These tend rather to be mutually complementary and to reinforce one another.

Assistance Given

Assistance is given only to Governments who ask for it and Governments are expected to establish their own priorities when submitting requests for aid.

The forms of assistance rendered under all programmes are substantially similar, and include: expert advice; training through the award of fellowships or scholarships, and the establishment of training institutes; and the exchange

of information through seminars, workshops, study tours or other groups, generally on a regional basis.

Under most of the programmes, limited amounts of equipment may be provided for the purpose of demonstration, or the training of local personnel in modern methods and techniques - usually in connexion with an expert mission - although generally it is the responsibility of the recipient Government to provide such equipment and supplies. In the case of UNICEF, however, a large part of its assistance may be given in the form of supplies and equipment.

2. The United Nations Development Decade

On 19 December 1961, the General Assembly designated the nineteen sixties as the "United Nations Development Decade, in which Member States and their peoples will intensify their efforts to mobilize and sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining growth of the economy of the individual nations and their social advancement" (Resolution 1710 (XVI)), and set as a specific objective of the Decade the achievement by 1970, of "a minimum rate of growth of aggregate national income of 5 per cent" in the developing countries.

At the request of the General Assembly in the same resolution, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1962 proposals for the intensification of action in the fields of economic and social development,^{1/} outlining the following six major tasks to be accomplished during the Decade:

- (i) The more systematic survey, development and utilization of physical and human resources in under-developed countries;
- (ii) The formulation of true development plans providing for the maximum mobilization of domestic resources and the effective utilization of external assistance;

^{1/} "United Nations Development Decade - Proposals for Action", United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 62.II.B.2.

- (iii) An improvement in the machinery of administration, in institutions and in production incentives in order to meet the new and increased demands arising from these development plans;
- (iv) A redirection of science and technology to increase the attention given to specific problems of low-income countries;
- (v) An increase, and subsequent more vigorous growth, of the export earnings of under-developed countries;
- (vi) An increased and a more assured flow of capital on suitable terms to the under-developed countries.

Following the debate on the Secretary-General's report at its thirty-fourth session (1962), the Council, in resolution 916 (XXXIV), called upon Governments of Member States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, in the first years of the Development Decade, in addition to their endeavours in other fields to give particular consideration inter alia to:

- "3. ... (f) The development of human resources through adequate programmes for education and vocational training, nutrition, health, sound public administration, housing, urban and rural development, including community development and effective land reform, with particular emphasis on their contribution to over-all development objectives and with the co-operation where appropriate of trade unions and other non-governmental organizations in consultative status."

This recommendation has been reflected in the increased rate of training and of assistance to training institutions of all kinds, which are now turning out thousands of teachers, doctors, nurses, technicians, skilled workers, managers and administrators. Another major emphasis of the United Nations during the Development Decade has been on assisting countries in planning for national development.

3. The Various Technical Cooperation Programmes

Broadly speaking, technical assistance is available to Governments which request it under the "regular" programmes of the United Nations and of some of the specialized agencies, under programmes of other agencies such as UNICEF and UNRWA, and under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The latter is the largest and most comprehensive of all the technical cooperation programmes and many Organizations within the United Nations system participate in it. Its component parts consist of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund which, until 1 January 1966, were administered as separate programmes. Further details on these various programmes are given below.

"Regular" programmes of technical assistance and advisory services

The "regular" programmes of technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations, which are financed under the regular United Nations budget, were established under a series of General Assembly resolutions dating back to 1946, and covering the following subjects: social welfare (resolutions 52 (I) of 14 December 1946, and 418 (V) of 1 December 1950); economic development (resolution 200 (III) of 4 December 1948); public administration (resolution 723 (VIII) of 23 October 1953); human rights (resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955); and narcotics control (resolution 1395 (XIV) of 20 November 1959). In 1958, the General Assembly established a programme aimed at providing operational, executive and administrative personnel (OPEX) as a supplement to its existing activities in the field of public administration (resolution 1256 (XIII) of 14 November 1958). The regular programmes that are of particular interest to women are those dealing with human rights, social welfare and public administration. These are described in Chapter 4, Section A.

Several of the specialized agencies (especially ILO, UNESCO, FAO and WHO), through their concern with the economic and social development of all peoples, contribute to the advancement of women, and some agencies have carried out and are planning projects specifically designed to improve the condition of women.

Each of the agencies cited above carries out projects under its own regular budget, and participates in the United Nations Development Programme. A description of the aims and of the particular types of assistance furnished by individual agencies is given in Chapter 4, Section B.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme, which came into being on 1 January 1966, functions under the authority of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. By its adoption of resolution 2029 (XX) (sometimes referred to as the "Mobilizing for Progress Resolution"), the General Assembly created the United Nations Development Programme, consolidating thereby the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) established in 1949 and the Special Fund which dates from 1958. It was the Assembly's view that such a consolidation would go a long way towards streamlining the activities formerly carried on separately and jointly by the two programmes, and would facilitate over-all planning and needed co-ordination of the several types of technical co-operation carried on within the United Nations system of organizations. Thus, the new Programme, while maintaining the special characteristics and operations of its predecessors, is intended to reinforce their effectiveness through unified policy direction, unified headquarters management and unified field facilities. The special characteristics of each part of what the Secretary-General has termed this "dynamic and creative new partnership for progress" are maintained under the new consolidated programme. Today, in partnership with the Governments of 150 developing countries and territories and 12 agencies of the United Nations family, the United Nations Development Programme is carrying out a wide range of important technical assistance activities and major pre-investment undertakings.

General policy guidance and direction, the consideration and approval of individual projects and programmes, and the allocation of funds for the United Nations Development Programme as a whole, as well as for the United Nations regular programmes of technical assistance, are the responsibility of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. Nineteen of the thirty-seven seats of that Council must be filled by developing countries, seventeen by economically more developed countries, and one seat rotates among groups of countries.

The programmes are co-ordinated by an advisory committee known as the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme. Its membership includes the United Nations Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency or their representatives.

The UNDP is financed by voluntary contributions of Governments pledged annually at a Conference specially convened for that purpose. The two component parts of the Programme still maintain separate funds and, as hitherto, the voluntary contributions of Governments may be pledged to each part separately. Such contributions may not be made subject to limitations as to the agency, country or project for which they are to be used, but are pooled for use in accordance with the global needs of the Programme. More than half of the total programme costs are borne by the Governments receiving assistance.

Current UNDP activities include some 2,000 projects ranging in cost from a few thousand dollars to several million dollars each, and in duration from a few weeks to ~~many~~ ^{several} years. Field personnel, both administrative and technical, are drawn from both emerging and industrialized nations.

The Organizations within the United Nations system which participate in the United Nations Development Programme are the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Telecommunications Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Universal Postal Union and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization. Participating Organizations share in the funds contributed and take full operating responsibility for the projects which fall within their specific areas of competence.

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(a) Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance

The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance , now a component part of the United Nations Development Programme, was first established under resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly adopted in 1949 (Resolutions 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council and 304 (IV) of the General Assembly). Under this programme, technical assistance has been and continues to be furnished in the following broad fields: economic and industrial development; statistics; public administration; social development; manpower organization (vocational training); co-operation; handicrafts and small-scale industries; social security; management development and productivity; rural development; labour conditions and administration; land and water development; plant production and protection; animal production and health; rural institutions and services; fisheries; nutrition and home economics; forestry and forest products; agricultural economics; education; scientific research and training; communications and information; civil aviation; public health services; communicable diseases; medical and allied education and training; meteorology; telecommunications; peaceful uses of atomic energy; postal administration and services and maritime safety.

During the first fifteen years of its operation, approximately 70 per cent of all Expanded Programme funds were used for the provision of some 13,500 experts to assist 180 countries and territories throughout the world. Experts may be assigned individually or in teams and have various functions. They advise Governments on administrative or technical problems; organize demonstration or pilot projects; help to establish educational or training institutes and perhaps, undertake instructional duties; organize other forms of group training; or perform operational functions with executive responsibilities.

During the same period 32,000 fellowships were awarded to nationals of 168 countries and territories. Fellowships are given primarily to train men and women at the professional, supervisory or management levels and preference is given to candidates who have already attained a position of responsibility in the life of their countries, and who will be able to apply their knowledge in established jobs when they return home. Candidates must be nominated by their Governments, but

final selection of fellows and arrangements for their placement are made by the United Nations or specialized agency concerned.

Since its inception until the end of 1964, the Expanded Programme has provided technical assistance, amounting to \$448 million. Some 2,500 projects are included in the current programmes for 1965-66 at a cost of \$98 million.

(b) United Nations Special Fund

The United Nations Special Fund, also now a component part of the United Nations Development Programme, was established in 1958 under Resolution 1240 (XII) of the General Assembly to undertake projects of a pre-investment nature.

Criteria and principles for the Fund were established by the General Assembly which directed that Special Fund projects should be: selected to meet urgent needs; capable of producing early and substantial results; integrated with national development programmes; designed for earliest possible transfer of responsibility to the developing countries; and co-ordinated with other multilateral and bilateral programmes.

The Fund seeks to raise the productive capacity of developing nations by demonstrating where investment is feasible, and by creating conditions to make it more fruitful. It produces factual data upon which domestic and outside investors can rely for guidance. It also helps to build institutions and skills essential to self-sustaining economic growth and social advance.

The budget for the Special Fund has more than trebled since the Fund was established in 1958. Contributions pledged in 1964 amounted to \$85.5 million. An essential working principle of the Fund has been that the recipient Governments should themselves make a substantial contribution to the implementation of projects. Thus, of the \$1,406 million total approved to date for assistance to pre-investment projects, \$823 million is being contributed by the recipient Governments themselves.

Special Fund assistance has been given to provide international experts, fellowships for advanced study abroad, and equipment, materials and special services unavailable in the recipient country, but essential to the achievement of the purposes of a particular project. In 1965, 5,633 experts, \$19 million worth of project equipment and over 3,000 fellowships were provided.

The specific areas of Special Fund activity include assistance to Governments: (1) in carrying out surveys and investigations to demonstrate the feasibility of investment in the development of natural resources, agriculture and industry, including power and transport; (2) in establishing and strengthening institutes of applied research to raise productivity, to expand the utilization of local materials and products, and to disseminate technical information which will promote economic diversification and increased output, efficiency, employment and investment; (3) in helping to develop human resources through advanced education and technical training; (4) in the improvement of development planning and implementation through regional and national institutes which provide courses to up-grade the capacities of those responsible for the preparation, evaluation and implementation of development programmes and provide research and advisory services in the field of development planning.

Many of the projects assisted by the Special Fund contain strong elements of training, including fellowships for foreign study, and over 40 per cent of the Special Fund's resources is devoted to projects having education and training as their main objectives. Assistance in various kinds of training has been given, including engineering, industrial management, vocational training, teacher training, civil aviation and telecommunications.

Advanced education and training programmes assisted by the Special Fund are open to women as well as men. Women are, for example, enrolled in civil aviation and engineering courses, as well as in teacher training and development planning projects. They are also actively engaged in a number of Fund assisted applied research institutes.

The Special Fund has recognized that the existence of a substantial proportion of illiterate adults in the manpower potential in a given country can be a bottleneck to its economic development, and it indicated recently that it could consider supporting requests for pilot projects dealing with adult illiteracy particularly when they are a part of a project with a broader objective.

At the first session of its Governing Council, in January 1966, the Special Fund component of the United Nations Development Programme approved the first three pilot functional literacy projects submitted respectively by Algeria, Iran and Mali. At the time of writing, the three project managers had been appointed and the plans of operation and the evaluation manual were being prepared.

Technical assistance on a payment basis (funds-in-trust)

A significant and interesting development in recent years has been the expansion of technical assistance on a payment basis, frequently referred to as "funds-in-trust" arrangements. Broadly speaking, these projects fall into two groups: those which are financed by the recipient countries themselves; and those which are financed by donor governments, and, in some instances, by non-governmental organizations. The Government, or non-governmental organization, deposits funds-in-trust with the United Nations or other agency concerned to cover the entire anticipated cost of the project (as distinct from certain local costs which Governments normally assume under other technical assistance programmes). The contributions can be earmarked for a specific project, or can form part of a general fund to finance assistance in some particular field in which the contributor may be interested.

The United Nations family of organizations has steadily been increasing the scale of its activities of this kind. In 1964, sixty-four countries and territories received \$8.9 million in assistance, as compared with twenty-nine countries which received \$1.8 million in 1961. One of the largest items of assistance financed by sources other than the recipient Governments themselves has been the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign of the Food and Agriculture Organization. In 1965, the figure for assistance under Funds-in-Trust arrangements and the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign reached \$14.3 million and 71 countries and territories benefitted from assistance of this kind.

✓ Chile, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are among the recipient countries which, to date, have had the largest programmes of assistance on a payment basis from the United Nations and its agencies. The projects undertaken include housing, and town planning, community development, technical training, public health, and education in Saudi Arabia; agriculture, housing, social welfare, and nurses training in Libya; training of various kinds in Venezuela; and technical education and economic planning in Iran.

An example of particular interest to women is the arrangements made in connexion with the Community Education Training Centre in Fiji, which are described below in Annex I. An example in another field of particular interest to women is the assistance rendered by the Swedish Government for the education and vocational

training of girls and women in Africa under an arrangement with UNESCO to provide funds-in-trust. Particulars of this project are also given in Annex I.

A more recent development is the construction of a training centre for women in the highlands of New Guinea (Australia) which is being financed under funds-in-trust deposited with the United Nations by the United Church Women's Organization of the United States of America.

The Economic and Social Council, acting on a recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its eighteenth session in 1965, called the attention of Member States and interested bodies to the possibility of funds-in-trust arrangements which might be utilized for the advancement of women (Resolution 1068 E (XXXIX)). In 1966 the Commission asked the Secretary-General to initiate preliminary studies on: "the possibility of establishing a fund to finance a unified long-term programme for the advancement of women to which industrial and business concerns, non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals may be invited to contribute; the possibility of using such a fund, together with resources available within the United Nations framework of technical assistance and development, to establish a scheme of loans to Governments to assist national programmes for the advancement of women".

4. Programmes of Particular Interest to Women

A. United Nations Programmes

Advisory services in the field of human rights

The programme of advisory services in human rights, which is the only United Nations programme expressly concerned with the status of women, as an aspect of human rights, has developed along somewhat different lines from the programmes already mentioned. It is financed and administered solely under the regular budget of the United Nations. The total funds currently available for the whole human rights programme are \$220,000 annually.

This programme was initiated in 1956 under General Assembly resolution 926 (X). Prior to the adoption of this resolution, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council and of the Commission on the Status of Women had authorized the Secretary-General, in October 1953, to render, at the request of Member States, services which did not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist these States in promoting and safeguarding women's rights (resolution 729 (VIII)).

Resolution 926 (X) is applicable to the whole field of human rights, including the status of women, provided that adequate assistance is not already available through a specialized agency, and that the subject does not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes. The main forms of assistance authorized by the resolution are: the provision of experts; the award of fellowships; and the organization of seminars.

Requests have been received for each form of assistance to promote the advancement of women, although the main emphasis has been on the organization of regional seminars and, more recently, also on the award of fellowships.

Very few requests for the services of experts in the human rights field have been received. One of these, however, was a request from the Government of Pakistan for the services of an expert to give advice on measures for increasing the effective participation of women in social and political life. The Government commented that the report of this expert "was of great help to the Government of Pakistan, which accepted a number of the suggestions made".

Human rights seminars are organized for the purpose of bringing together key people within a region to exchange ideas and, through their leadership, to encourage greater awareness of problems of human rights and of different methods of dealing with such problems. Seminars under this programme are now organized on the basis of approximately three a year, one being devoted to some aspect of the status of women. Two main topics relating to the status of women have been held under the advisory services programme since 1957: one on "the participation of women in public life", and the other on "the status of women in family law", making a total of eight seminars relating to the status of women to date. In addition to this, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, recently initiated a new series of annual seminars on the civic and political education of women (Resolution 1067 A (XXXIX)). These seminars, the first of which will be held in 1967, are to be somewhat different in character since each one will be "in the nature of a demonstration or pilot project which can be adapted and used for follow-up projects at the national and local levels to equip women for more effective service to their countries."

Increasing interest in the award of human rights fellowships is being shown by Governments, although the number of women candidates nominated by them has been relatively small. The areas of study of fellows appointed in recent years have included the following: the drafting and implementation of legislation relating to the protection of the child and the family, the status of women in family law; a comparative study of the status of women in Moslem law; civic activities of women; participation of women in public life; equal employment opportunities for women; legal aid and assistance with particular reference to the application of these techniques to the improvement of the status of women; the role of women's bureaux and related government offices in furthering the status of women through legislative and other means.

Social development and welfare

The programme of advisory social welfare services, initiated in 1946, was put on a continuing basis in 1950 under General Assembly resolution 418 (V). In that resolution the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General, subject to the directions of the Economic and Social Council, to make provision for certain social welfare services and functions. Assistance is rendered under both the Regular and the United Nations Development Programmes.

As the social welfare programme has evolved, increasing emphasis has been placed on social development generally, and, in particular, on the relationship of social and economic policy and methods of achieving the integration of social and economic development. The assistance given has included regional meetings on the problems of social planning in the context of over-all social and economic development planning, the organization of study tours for economic and social planners, short courses arranged at the regional development institutes for senior government officials concerned with the social aspects of development, and the provision of experts to advise individual countries on social policy and development.

The activities currently carried out under the social development and welfare programme are all of considerable interest to women. In addition to problems of social development in general, they relate to population, community development, housing, social services and training in these social fields. It may be noted that the General Assembly, in resolution 1920 (XVIII), recognized "the contribution of women to national social development programmes, particularly those relating to community development and social welfare, and the importance of such programmes to the advancement of women in general".

An increasing number of requests for assistance in social services is being received, especially in the development of training programmes for various types of social welfare personnel. Several countries have also requested social welfare advisers to assist them in planning and organizing more comprehensive programmes of national social services. Some have asked for social welfare research advisers to assist in undertaking practical research, which would enable countries to determine needs and provide services on a more scientific basis.

Other Governments have requested help in developing programmes of social services in the area of family, youth and child welfare. In 1964, for example, twenty-three countries received advisory assistance in this field, and at the same time material aid from UNICEF which together are helping them to implement social goals. Many of these projects place emphasis on the development of community services to help mothers make the difficult adjustment to urban life and to prepare their children for the new ways of living.

The term "community development" as defined for United Nations purposes refers to "the processes by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress". The distinctive features of community development programmes are "the participation by the people themselves in efforts to improve their level of living with reliance as much as possible on their own initiative; and the provision of technical and other services in ways which encourage initiative, self-help and mutual help and make them more effective". Such programmes require trained workers to stimulate self-help efforts and to aid people to obtain necessary technical and material assistance, and to aid people in planning and executing projects; material assistance to the extent and at the time required to make the will to self-help effective; and institutional means (e.g. local government and co-operatives) to maintain certain types of facilities or activities established through voluntary effort. The growing recognition of community development as a means of bringing about economic and social improvement has led to an increasing number of requests to the United Nations for the services of experts to formulate and implement national programmes in community development, or to undertake specific responsibilities within these programmes such as training, women's activities, public works, youth work, public administration and land settlement.

The need to encourage women to participate in community development programmes has been recognized by the General Assembly (e.g. resolution 1162 (XII)); by the Social Commission (e.g. United Nations document E/3769, para. 58); and by the Group of Experts appointed in 1963 to advise the Secretary-General on

certain broad issues that arise in community development programmes (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.IV.2, paras. 117-125). Various practical measures have also been taken to achieve this end. The same emphasis, however, has not been placed on the use of these programmes specifically to improve the status of women. In this connexion it may be noted that the Commission on the Status of Women is currently studying the question of women and community development.

Note should also be taken of United Nations activities in the fields of housing, building and planning, and population as they relate to international efforts looking toward the improvement of the status of women. For example, those aspects of the housing problem relating to the provision of low cost housing and related community facilities have their influence upon the advancement of women and the family. Similarly, United Nations activities in the field of population, including the question of family planning, are of great importance for the health and welfare of women. For the first time, expert assistance was recently provided, under the Expanded Programme, in the specific field of family planning. (See Annex I.)

Although the funds available for technical assistance in the social field have increased substantially since 1960, the requests of Governments for assistance continue to exceed available resources.

It may be noted that the Secretary-General in drawing the attention of the Social Commission at its fifteenth session (1963) to the terms of General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women stated as follows: "The Secretary-General, cognizant of the important role which women must play in the advancement of the less developed countries, and having given attention to the important role which women should play in community development activities, is keeping this resolution in mind when providing guidance and direction in the establishment of development programmes and in evaluating requests for technical assistance under the advisory social welfare services programme."

Public Administration

In 1948 the General Assembly approved a proposal of the Economic and Social Council providing for the establishment of an international centre for training in public administration to give training in the principles, procedures and methods of modern administration. Within a few years, assistance was no longer limited to training, and a growing number of requests for expert advice was being received. In 1952, the General Assembly placed the public administration programme on a continuing basis (Resolution 518 (VI)) and authorized the use of funds from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for increased activities in this field.

In resolution 723 (VIII) adopted on 23 October 1953, the General Assembly recognized the increasingly important role of governmental administration in programmes for the promotion of economic development and social welfare. It approved a revised programme in public administration, comprising the provision of the advisory services of experts; fellowships and scholarships; training institutes, seminars, conferences and working groups; technical publications; as well as the collection, analysis and exchange of technical information, and assistance to Governments to promote sound public administration in relation to economic and social development.

United Nations assistance in public administration deals, in general, with: (a) the central administration of government; including its organization; methods; personnel administration; budgetary and financial administration; purchasing, stores, material, and records management; and general training of government personnel; and (b) decentralized government operation; including the deconcentration of administrative operations to area and field offices; the devolution of functions to regional and local authorities; the relations of central government to autonomous enterprises, co-operatives and programmes of community development.

Since the programme was established, assistance has been provided to a number of national and regional training institutions, some of which were initiated under the United Nations programme. The award of fellowships has been an important feature of the programme, and a number have been awarded for attendance at various training centres and institutes. Areas of specialization have included general administration, organization and methods of public agencies, personnel management, postal administration, public finance, and local

and municipal administration. Experts have been provided to serve as teachers and members of the directional staff in training institutions and also, either as individual experts or as members of teams of experts, to make surveys and recommendations on general or specific problems of public administration.

In the recruitment or selection of experts the choice is circumscribed by the extent to which Governments actually utilize women in the public services, and a tendency for women to be limited to such specializations as teaching, nursing and social work, and to be used in clerical and secretarial posts has been noted. In the last ten years the total number of women who have served as experts in the field of public administration is six. In the last five years the nomination by Governments of women for fellowships in public administration averages only 2 per cent of the total nominations made. When technical assistance in public administration involves support of national training, and where the national programmes extend to vocational specializations, or levels where women are usually employed, they do benefit by the training that is offered.

United Nations activities in the field of public administration have increased substantially in recent years and a growing number of requests for the services of experts and for the award of fellowships has been received since 1960. In addition, regional and interregional efforts have been stepped up to support the work of experts, and to suggest alternative solutions, based on comparative study, for the administrative problems faced by developing countries. New types of assistance are also being developed.

The current trend in the public administration programme is towards research and assistance in three main fields, all of which are directed towards the building of institutions for development. In the first place, urgent measures are required for the development of competent civil service and personnel systems and for the building of institutions. This calls for the development of comprehensive and long-term training schemes at all levels. Secondly, special emphasis is being given to the requirements of development planning and to the need to relate every form of assistance to the development goals of the country. Thirdly, materials are being assembled and assistance provided in methods of improving regional and local administration.

The expenditures on technical assistance activities in public administration averages approximately \$2,000,000 annually. This includes some Special Fund activities.

A new phase of the programme of technical assistance in public administration, namely, the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel ("OPEX") was initiated by the General Assembly in 1959 (resolution 1256 (XIII)), and placed on a continuing basis in 1960 (resolution 1530 (IV)).

Under this programme, the United Nations recruits personnel internationally, at the request of a Government and subject to its approval, who actually assume operational posts in the country of assignment until local personnel can be trained to take over their duties. The programme was undertaken to meet the pressing demands from developing countries and particularly from newly independent countries, which found themselves without trained personnel for operational, executive and administrative posts.

Requests for personnel have included managerial positions in such diversified occupations as agriculture and fisheries, banking, revenue and finance, civil aviation, economic planning and development, educational administration, industrial operations, meteorology, postal services, telecommunications, including radio broadcasting, general public administration, public health, social security and social welfare, community development, statistics, and transport and communications. An important requirement for officials appointed to these positions is the ability to transmit knowledge and managerial skills and to train understudies and counterparts so that, as soon as practicable, the country may replace the temporary international official by one of its own nationals.

The number of requests received under the programme has led the General Assembly to increase the appropriation under the regular budget from \$200,000 in 1959 to \$850,000 in 1961, 1962 and 1963. Furthermore, in 1963, the General Assembly, approving recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, authorized, on an experimental basis for the two year period 1964-1966, the use of funds from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the provision of operational personnel.

B. Relevant Activities of the Specialized Agencies

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), which has been in existence over forty years, works for the establishment of universal and lasting peace through the promotion of social justice, and for the improvement of labour conditions and living standards. It brings together representatives of workers, employers and Governments, who join in determining its policies and supervising its activities. The main types or forms of assistance available under existing ILO programmes which have a bearing on the advancement of women consist of expert services, fellowships, seminars, training institutes, study courses, research and information, and the development and control of the application of international labour standards.

A growing number of the ILO's technical co-operation projects concern women directly or indirectly, although it has been observed that most of the projects benefit men more than women, particularly in the field of vocational training, where basic training is often needed for trades in which women are not employed. However, ILO policy on the vocational guidance, training and employment of women has always been based on the principle of equal opportunity for both sexes. The ILO's technical co-operation activities in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East are very largely centred on helping governments to build up vocational training facilities, and a number of the country projects are of particular interest to women; for example, those concerned with the development of vocational training for secretarial and clerical employment. There are now clerical training projects in almost every African country. Certain projects directed towards training people for the hotel and catering industry, such as the project in Nigeria, include girls as well as boys amongst the trainees. In Latin America, several training projects are preparing girls for dressmaking and tailoring (Chile, for example) and for the clothing industry (Colombia, for example).

As a general principle, ILO's technical assistance projects cover women in the same way as men and within the same general framework. ILO has recognized, however, that there is a particular need to help women to catch up in the development process and to this end to foster the progress of women's education and vocational training in order to raise their status as workers and to promote wider employment opportunities for them.

It has, therefore, in co-operation with certain other organizations, established two vocational information and research centres - one international, the other regional - for the purpose of undertaking basic research into vocational training problems throughout the world and making available information on training developments and methods. (See Annex I for further details.)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The over-all aims of FAO, as defined by its Charter, are:

- (1) to help raise levels of nutrition and standards of living;
- (2) to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of food and agricultural products;
- (3) to better the conditions of rural populations.

Within the United Nations family, the FAO is responsible inter alia for the development of home economics - a programme directed largely, though not exclusively to women, since it is the FAO's view that any home economics programme should be oriented toward the whole community rather than to individuals of the female sex. Home economics is concerned chiefly with promoting the physical and psychological welfare of family members through the improvement of conditions in the home and on the land, and home economics education or training covers a wide range of subjects or activities. It includes: child care and training, feeding the family, raising food for the family, health and sanitation, making and caring for clothing and other family possessions; improvement of the home surroundings; careful use of family resources. FAO makes its contribution to the advancement of women largely through assistance to educational activities along these lines.

FAO has noted that women trained in the newest agricultural or animal husbandry practices, trained to produce more and better food for their families, trained to keep their children healthy, to co-operate in programmes of home improvement and village maintenance, to become informed consumers in economies that are becoming increasingly "money-oriented" - such women have a markedly constructive effect on national development.

Types of assistance currently available under FAO home economics programmes include the provision of advisory and consultant services as well as of technical advice and expert services in establishing educational programmes for, inter alia,

rural development and adult education programmes. At their request, Governments are also being assisted to undertake and utilize studies of patterns of family living as a basis for planning educational programmes and services for rural families.

The problems of women in rural areas, who often carry a heavy workload, both at home and in the fields, without either the amenities available to their urban sisters or, very often, the tools and equipment available to men, are of especial concern to FAO. An essential part of FAO programme is, therefore, the improvement of working conditions in the home and on the land through the provision of labour-saving equipment and the establishment of public facilities and communal services to meet essential family needs. Thus, among the most recent projects undertaken by FAO to advance the status of women are increased extension work with rural women in Mauritius and continued work in this area in Ghana, Senegal and in the South Pacific.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed by the United Nations Charter. It seeks to achieve this aim by collaborating in the work of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of people through all means of mass communication, by giving fresh stimuli to popular education and to the spread of culture, and by increasing and diffusing knowledge. It has a wide range of technical assistance and other activities of benefit to women. It has, for example, already provided a large number of Governments with the services of experts in fields such as the preparation of textbooks for adults, literacy education, agricultural education, production of vernacular language literature, women's education and rural handicrafts instruction.

Over the years the assistance provided by UNESCO has been marked by a tendency to move from isolated individual activities to larger projects carefully planned in

the context of broad long-range educational development programmes. Thus, the Director-General of UNESCO, convinced that both developed and developing countries will not be able to solve their problems unless they "reflect anew on the social, moral, economic and even political role of women", has prepared for the 14th session of the UNESCO General Conference a draft long-term programme whose main objectives will be to ensure, in co-operation with the United Nations and the appropriate specialized agencies, the steady advancement of women through access to education, science and culture.

The three main objectives are: to set an example of moral leadership; to increase educational opportunities for women; to ensure that women play a greater part in the work of UNESCO.

The structure of the proposed programme is as follows: (i) During the next two years UNESCO will intensify its efforts to develop education for girls and women through the elaboration of a general educational development policy in the various countries, educational planning and administration, training and in-service instruction for teachers, literacy work and adult education; (ii) Over a ten-year period, UNESCO will pay special attention to the access of girls and women to scientific and technical studies and careers, so that an increasing number of them may make an effective and tangible contribution to the progress of science and technology; (iii) In 1969, UNESCO will submit to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women a comprehensive report on the experience and results obtained in the preceding two years, including the general progress of education for women and the obstacles that have still to be overcome, and the access of women to culture and science.

In this three-stage programme, all the ways and means available to UNESCO will be used: studies to identify and analyse the essential problems within the programme, in particular those relating to the social and human sciences, and to develop the most effective ways of solving them; the elaboration of a general policy dealing with the access of women to education, based on the results of these studies, at conferences and international or regional meetings organized or assisted by UNESCO; the intellectual and practical contribution of national and regional institutions to which UNESCO provides assistance, in particular for the

training of planners, educational administrators, teachers and technicians; support for the practical activities of member states, in particular for the implementation of experimental projects, the establishment of institutions with the aid of other bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme, the creation or development of public and private services designed to eliminate existing inequalities in the access of women to education, science and culture; support for practical activities undertaken by international non-governmental organizations for this purpose; the establishment of special fellowships for women, to provide their holders with access to senior posts in the general planning of education and scientific development; and public information.

Since the proportion of illiterates is much higher among women than it is among men, and since it is thought that women have an exceptional part to play both in mass literacy teaching and in educating their children, the study, training and practical action programmes related to literacy instruction for adult women will be strengthened in all national or regional activities with which UNESCO is associated through its experimental literacy programme, and in the regional education centres for community development established by UNESCO for Latin American countries (CREFAL) and the Arab States (ASFEC). Similarly, practical ways of facilitating the access of women to a teaching career and of preparing teachers of both sexes for the role which they must play in the advancement of women will be studied by the national education institutes and teacher-training schools receiving assistance under the United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund), UNICEF or UNESCO, and in all advanced teacher-training activities with which UNESCO is directly associated.

Assistance to non-governmental organizations will include financial and technical aid for activities relating to the advancement of women, such as training courses - particularly in literacy, vocational training, civic instruction and adaptation to the new conditions of community living - and the production or translation and distribution of reading and audio-visual materials; it will also include travel grants to enable members to spend about three months in other countries, preferably studying civic training and literacy programmes for women.

In agreement with the competent authorities of a member state, UNESCO hopes to co-operate in the preparation and execution of an experimental project of ten-year duration in a rural area to provide instruction in literacy for adult women, primary education for girls, and civic and family education. A similar experimental project will be concerned with the access of girls to scientific and technological studies and careers.

Under the United Nations Development Programme, advisers will be made available to member states, at their request, to suggest ways of expanding and improving education for girls and women in whatever branch happens to interest the particular country, and to co-operate in specific projects under the general education plans. It will be a particular task of these experts to help member states to select programmes and activities for which technical and financial assistance could appropriately be requested from such bodies as the Special Fund of UNICEF, or which could be financed by trust funds.

Fellowships will be offered to African member states to enable women, particularly educators, to attend special training courses in Denmark in e.g. pre-school education, domestic economy and special education for handicapped children. In addition, under voluntary funds provided by the Government of Sweden, UNESCO will continue to co-operate financially and technically in various activities related to the expansion of education for girls and women in Africa.

Finally, a number of UNESCO fellowships will be awarded to women who are already working in the educational services to enable them to extend their theoretical and practical knowledge of educational planning and administration and so to prepare themselves for an important role in the preparation and implementation of national education plans, a role which will include ensuring that such plans are directed towards the elimination, in law and in fact, of inequalities, and the provision of equal levels of education for the male and female population.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) works for the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, defined as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being". Its 1965 programme, which listed 1,200 health projects throughout the world, included among its most urgent objectives the

preparation of national health programmes; the setting of targets and goals for the control of communicable diseases; the extension of existing health services including environmental health services, particularly water supply; the reduction of infant mortality; the raising of nutritional standards; and the education and training of medical personnel. All of these activities necessarily benefit women in the communities receiving assistance. In addition, WHO, which has since its inception followed the principle that the health and welfare needs of mothers and children are inseparable from those of the family and of the community as a whole, undertakes health programmes which concern women directly. Thus, as part of its broader goal of developing comprehensive national health services, WHO has been assisting, in close co-operation with UNICEF, a number of maternal and child health projects in different countries. Such projects aim not only at providing services for mothers and their children but also at educating them in basic health and living principles.

One of the major problems confronting health administrators in many countries is the shortage of trained and qualified health personnel. The role of women as professional and auxiliary health personnel is receiving continued prominent attention. Much of WHO's effort in this domain is concentrated on the education and training of such staff by the award of fellowships, the organization of schools for nurses, midwives, and other categories of auxiliary workers, and the establishment of training courses. WHO assistance to nursing education has been particularly important. In Guatemala, for example, under a project begun in 1961, and sponsored jointly by WHO and the Government of Guatemala, some 730 qualified nurses were given basic training, 70 received advance training, and 2,180 were trained as nursing auxiliaries. By 1964, it was possible for WHO to terminate its assistance as the programme was able henceforth to operate exclusively under national staff.

Apart from the WHO fellowship programme itself, and the education and training activities proper, there has been a training element in almost every field project assisted by the organization. WHO project staff give in-service training to various grades of health personnel to hasten the day when the staff requirements of each project can be filled by local personnel. Further, a number of projects are designed to assist in the creation and development of centres for the education of professional cadres of health personnel, including medical officers, sanitary engineers and nurses, as well as auxiliary personnel.

WHO also continues to expand its assistance in the development of basic community health services, particularly in rural areas, in Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean region, and in Asia. Particular attention is given in WHO's community-development-type programmes to the health and nutrition education of women.

C. Relevant Activities of Other United Nations Agencies

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is technically not a specialized agency, but part of the United Nations itself with a semi-autonomous status. The purpose of UNICEF is to help further the efforts of developing countries to improve the condition of their children and youth to prepare them to carry forward their nation's economic and social development. UNICEF is convinced, on the basis of its experience, that the welfare of children and the advancement of women are inextricably bound together; accordingly, it has been increasingly favoring aid for projects which form part of larger programmes of economic and social development, and which must inevitably become deeply involved with the advancement of women. Thus, the training schemes aided by UNICEF not only contribute to an improved quality of community services for children, but help create new occupations for women.

The training of national personnel is a pivotal feature of many UNICEF-aided projects; indeed, about one-third of UNICEF aid now goes for training schemes, in which by far the largest number of the trainees are girls and women. About half of this aid is in the form of stipends for trainees and the financing of selected teaching staff in national and regional training schemes; the other half is for supplies, equipment and various types of training aids for training centres and courses. In-service, refresher, and, in some cases, specialized post-graduate training is given to a wide range of paid workers who furnish services relating to the welfare of mothers and children - midwives, birth attendants, nurses, health visitors, paediatricians, dieticians, home economists, community development workers, social workers, workers in children's institutions and day-care centres, primary school teachers, vocational guidance workers, and others.

Permanent health services for mothers and children, together with disease control programmes, account for over sixty per cent of UNICEF aid. Most of the workers in the basic health programmes and in the more than 30,000 health centres and sub-centres for which UNICEF has so far provided basic equipment are women.

In the field of nutrition, UNICEF aid includes activities designed to increase the supply of protective foods and to encourage their use by mothers and children, who are commonly the most undernourished groups in a community; widespread nutrition education programmes at the village level with special emphasis on the education of mothers through simple, practical activities directed towards the nutritional practices most in need of change; programmes to train women, both as volunteers and at professional levels as nutritionists, home economists and dieticians.

UNICEF's mothercraft/~~homcraft~~ and social services programmes are motivated by the awareness that help for children and young people must be related to the improvement of conditions in the family and the community. These programmes provide informal educational opportunities for women and girls to learn homemaking, child-rearing, nutrition and sound health habits, and to encourage them to participate in community betterment schemes. Because mothercraft/~~homcraft~~ programmes cut across a number of technical fields, they have generally proved most successful when closely associated with more comprehensive programmes. Thus, in a number of places, the projects are a specific part of community development programmes, while in others they are interwoven with general social welfare programmes.

A key element of the social service programmes undertaken by UNICEF jointly with the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is the improvement of the adaptation of families to changing social conditions and demands. UNICEF, which provides supplies and equipment for day-care centres, neighbourhood and community centres, family agencies, youth clubs and recreation programmes, also recognizes that the most important component in a social service programme is staff; it therefore places major emphasis on training. Most of the trainees are women.

The aim of UNICEF aid in the field of vocational training is to introduce pre-vocational training in manual skills along with academic instruction, beginning at the primary school level and progressing to more advanced training and vocational guidance for older boys and girls; aid is also given for pre-vocational training to early school-leavers to give some practical skills to this youngest group of wage-earners and to help them bridge the gap between school and work. Although the light manufacturing and service industries are offering new employment opportunities for girls, the interest of governments in programmes for the vocational training of boys thus far appears greater than in those for girls. Most of UNICEF aid for vocational training takes the form of equipment, tools and teaching materials for training centres, vehicles for supervisors, stipends for persons being trained as instructors, and salary supplements for directors of projects.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which is financed by voluntary governmental and private contributions, is a special, temporary, non-political body established by the General Assembly in December 1949. UNWRA's task, carried out in co-operation with the governments of its host countries - Jordan, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic - is twofold. It provides relief for Palestine refugees in need and a considerable range of technical services for their health, welfare, education and training. On 31 December 1965, the number of refugees registered with UNWRA totalled 1,300,117.

In all UNWRA's four host countries, as elsewhere in the Arab world, there is a trend towards a more active and responsible role for women in the life of the community and an increasing recognition of the value of education for girls. In line with this trend, the percentage of refugee girl pupils in UNWRA/UNESCO schools has increased from 23% in 1951 to 43% in 1966; and UNWRA is endeavouring to improve the education offered to girls by the introduction of home economics, biology, child care and health education in as many of its schools as funds permit. The Agency has also developed opportunities for vocational and teacher training of women and for the training of nurses (see Chapter 6).

5. How Assistance May Be Requested

Assistance under any of the programmes mentioned above is provided only at the request of the Government concerned, which also decides the form, timing and nature of the aid it wishes to receive.

Requests for assistance are normally submitted by the Government through the local Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme. If appropriate, requests may be submitted through the local Field Representatives of the specialized agencies and of UNICEF. If there is no local representative, requests may be submitted to the headquarters of the appropriate organization within the United Nations system.

Requests for assistance under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance component of the United Nations Development Programme are not submitted as individual projects, but as part of a total programme for the country. They must be planned within a "target" figure set for the country's entire programme, and their submission follows a certain time-table. Requests for assistance from the Special Fund component of the United Nations Development Programme are also submitted as proposals for national or regional projects. Requests of Governments under the advisory services programme in the field of human rights, on the other hand, are submitted, and dealt with, as individual projects. They do not form part of a total programme of assistance for a particular country and the Government is not therefore required to establish priorities as between requests submitted under this programme and requests for other forms of technical assistance.

Over the years increasing emphasis has been placed on the establishment, in recipient countries, of co-ordinating units to deal with requests for technical assistance. In many countries these co-ordinating units are responsible for official contacts relating to the operation of the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system of organizations, especially the United Nations Development Programme, and for the co-ordination of these programmes with the Government's own operations and with assistance from other sources.

With the exception of requests under the human rights programme, therefore, requests for technical assistance for the advancement of women under most other programmes of the United Nations system will largely depend on the priority which Governments accord such projects in the country's over-all plan of national development.

PART II

PROGRAMMES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS

International non-governmental organizations interested in the advancement of women include : (a) organizations whose specific aim is to advance the status of women, and (b) organizations whose objectives are wider in scope, but who believe that these cannot be achieved without improvements in the status of women. Many organizations in the latter category have established special bodies to deal with questions of particular concern to women.

The non-governmental organizations whose programmes are described in this pamphlet all enjoy "consultative status" with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs. This means that they must meet the criteria established by the Council in order to be admitted to consultative status. They must be international organizations, be concerned with matters falling within the Council's competence, be of recognized standing and represent a substantial portion of the organized persons within the fields in which they work, and their aims and purposes must be in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

There are three categories of organizations in consultative status - known as "Category A", "Category B", and the "Register". The three categories have basically similar rights and privileges with the Council and its subsidiary organs. They are entitled to send observers to meetings; to circulate written statements, subject to certain rules and regulations; to receive United Nations documents; and to make oral statements relating to items under discussion. They may also be asked to undertake studies of particular subjects or to supply information on questions in which they have special competence. Organizations in category A status, in addition, may propose items for the agenda.

Most of the non-governmental organizations referred to in this pamphlet have national affiliates in many parts of the world, often in countries that are at varying stages of development. The affiliates are primarily concerned with improving the status of women in their own countries, and membership in the international organization helps the national bodies to achieve their objectives in various ways. Through that membership, for example, a wider range of experience is made available to them, an awareness of problems facing women in other countries is created, and attention can be focused on ways in which similar problems have been solved in other countries. The national affiliates can also assist the international organization in its work by bringing to its attention pressing national or local problems, by supplying it with information which can form a valid basis for recommendations and action at the international level, and by giving effect to programmes of the parent body on the national and local plane.

1. Forms of Assistance Offered

Non-governmental organizations have a variety of programmes aimed at helping the advancement of women and the assistance they offer takes a number of different forms. Specific examples of some of the activities being carried out are given in Annex II below. Most frequently non-governmental organizations give assistance to their own members but they may also offer help to women generally, whether or not they are members of the particular organization giving assistance. An interesting method followed by one or two organizations to help women in developing countries is for an affiliate in an industrialized country and an affiliate in a developing country to work in very close co-operation both in exchanging information and in providing practical assistance.

Financial Assistance

Some non-governmental organizations have given financial assistance under their programmes. However, the funds of most non-governmental organizations are very limited, and several of them emphasize that their activities are

frequently hampered by inadequate financial resources to carry them out. An important example of financial help given by non-governmental organizations may be found in the fund raising campaign which was organized by the Danish Council of Women in order to establish a community development training centre for women in Africa (see Annex II). Another example may be seen in the contribution made by non-governmental organizations to the establishment of the Community Education Training Centre in Fiji (see Annex I). This project is also interesting as showing the kind of co-operation that may be developed between non-governmental organizations, a regional inter-governmental body, and a United Nations agency. "Funds-in-trust" arrangements, described in Part I of this pamphlet (see Chap. 3 above) provide a unique opportunity for non-governmental organizations to render financial assistance to women in co-operation with the United Nations family of the organizations. A very recent example of this type of assistance is the action of United Church Women of America, who deposited "funds-in-trust" with the United Nations in 1966 for the purpose of building a training centre in the highlands of the Trust Territory of New Guinea (Australia).

Other Forms of Assistance

Many organizations give assistance for the advancement of women in one or more of the following forms : the provision of expert advisors; the organization of seminars, workshops or discussion groups; the holding of regional and international conferences; the establishment of training courses of all kinds, especially for leaders and potential leaders; the award of fellowships, scholarships or grants for study abroad; the organization of study tours, exchange visits or similar activities; the undertaking of studies and surveys of questions of concern to women; the provision of various kinds of research material and the preparation and distribution of pamphlets, booklets and other publications; the organization of hospitality for students and other persons coming from overseas, and for women who move from rural to urban areas; and the provision of different kinds of equipment.

2. Fields in which Assistance is Given

Non-governmental organizations offer assistance in a number of different fields. Many, for example, are concerned with improving education at all levels and with extending vocational training for women. Several have made studies and surveys and, based on the results of these studies and surveys, have drawn to the attention of responsible authorities matters requiring urgent action. Many fellowships and scholarships have been given for research and advanced study abroad, often in conjunction with the UNESCO study tour scheme for adult education leaders. Many organizations also have their own programmes to eradicate illiteracy, to extend adult education, physical education and home-making courses. Many also participate in UNESCO programmes in these fields. Some organizations whose interests are more specialized offer training in such matters as social services, nursing, secretarial work and kindergarten teaching. Professional organizations frequently help professional women to acquire more advanced training and education.

A number of organizations place particular emphasis on leadership courses which they offer to their members and voluntary workers. Such courses answer a particular need of women to receive training which enables them to work more effectively in the organization to which they belong, to help in establishing new organizations, if needed, and to assist in securing social and other services for their communities.

Civic and political education for women is another very important aspect of the work undertaken by many organizations. Through their activities in this area, women - and also men - are taught the political structure of their country and the proper exercise of voting and other political rights. The methods used include discussion groups, meetings, seminars and conferences as well as the preparation and dissemination of pamphlets and other publications. Through such activities, the co-operation of individual men and women is sought to assist other non-governmental bodies and governmental authorities in carrying out programmes to meet the needs of different communities. The topics that have been discussed at such meetings have included the role of women in community development, in local

and national government, and in international affairs.

Some organizations ~~also~~ give training in home industries and handicrafts which give women in many developing countries, an opportunity of making money for their families and for their personal expenditures which they might not otherwise enjoy. Valuable help has been given in establishing co-operatives to enable women to purchase the materials they need for their handicrafts and to sell them once they are completed. In some instances organizations have themselves furnished the materials and equipment (e.g. sewing machines) that may be required for handicrafts.

Many organizations provide opportunities for women to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to improve the home, and the standard of living for the community. They give training in such matters as family planning, child care, nutrition, first aid, hygiene, agriculture, home economics, including cooking, food preparation, dress-making, knitting and simple craft work.

3. Co-operation with the United Nations

No account of the assistance rendered to women by non-governmental organizations would be complete without reference to the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the United Nations for the advancement of women. Both the Commission on the Status of Women - the United Nations organ primarily concerned - and the non-governmental organizations on several occasions, have emphasized the value of maintaining this close collaboration which has existed over many years.

More than fifty non-governmental organizations are represented at annual meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women and exercise to the full the rights and privileges they enjoy as organizations in consultative status. Many give wide publicity to resolutions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations organs and these have formed the basis of representations to governmental authorities on matters requiring urgent action to improve the status of women in the political, civil, economic, educational or social fields. Requests to non-governmental organizations to provide information for studies and reports required by United Nations organs have often served to create an awareness among women of conditions affecting the status of women in their own countries. The regional seminars held under the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, in some instances, have been followed by regional or national seminars organized by non-governmental organizations to discuss the same or a similar topic. Such seminars have often been used to discuss measures that might be taken by non-governmental organizations to overcome problems brought to light during the discussions at the United Nations seminars.

Non-governmental organizations have frequently been called on to supply factual information for studies undertaken at the request of the Commission on the Status of Women, and this information has been incorporated in reports prepared for the Commission by the United Nations Secretariat and also by the ILO and UNESCO. In addition to factual information, non-governmental organizations

have also been asked to supply information based on their practical experience : for example, on their activities directed towards the recognition and the exercise of political rights by women, and on methods found useful in creating an informed public opinion concerning the need for equal pay for equal work, and on methods found useful in promoting the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields. They have also been asked, on numerous occasions, to submit comments on draft international conventions and draft declarations under consideration by the United Nations organs.

While, as has been stated, the programmes referred to in the pamphlet, and the example of activities cited in Annex II, relate to non-governmental organizations in consultative status, the co-operation of the United Nations is not confined to such organisations alone. Many others render valuable assistance, especially by helping to create a climate of public opinion favourable to the promotion of the status of women.

The close co-operation that exists between the non-governmental organizations and the Commission on the Status of Women and the fact that many different ideologies are represented among the organizations associated with that Commission have undoubtedly helped greatly to give universal scope to the commission's work and to achieve practical results. The continued collaboration of the non-governmental organizations will be essential to the success of a long-term unified United Nations programme for the advancement of women.