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[Binder - U.S. Delegation Briefing Book: U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women] [4]

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GENDER

The US uses the word gender as the socially ascribed roles of men and women: what they do with their lives regardless of their sex.

The debate about gender that started during the final hours of the prepcom last April has caused confusion, amusement on the part of some journalists, disinformation and misperceptions. Some very serious issues lie at the base of this. At base of the use of the word gender as opposed to sex is the concept that biology need not determine everything that men and women do. That opens the door to change, to changing the balance of power and responsibility between men and women -- in the home, the workplace, the marketplace, the local and global communities. That's what the conference really is about. That's what the whole series of conferences, starting with Mexico City in 1975 is about. That is what the UN Charter of 1945 is about when it calls for equal rights of men and women. There is simply no way to say that and not mean change.

The confusion over the word "gender" begins with whether -- gender refers to the two sexes and their biological definitions of male and female that are immutable or -- whether gender refers to men and women and their sociologically defined, or prescribed, roles that are subject to change. For example, traditionally women have been assigned the role of homemakers, men the role of breadwinner, but there is no biological reason why men cannot spend more time nurturing their children or why women cannot be business owners.

Some want to limit gender to only mean biological differences. These people have been making charges that by saying that gender refers to "socially constructed roles," (a phrase that frequently appears in UN documents and literature) people are deliberately, and craftily, opening the door to a promotion of the concept that there are five genders -- male, female, homosexual, bisexual and transexual -- and that the Conference is really about promoting these lifestyles, destroying the family, and civilization as we know it.

The majority of other delegates from around the world were taken completely by surprise with this interpretation. The Chair appointed a working group, or "contact group," open to interested countries to resolve the issue and come to an understanding of "gender" as it relates to the document.

The group met twice in May and resolved the issue by adopting a Chairman's statement reflecting the understanding of the group. It will appear as part of the final report on the Beijing Conference. The group found the word "gender" as used in UN documents to be consistent with traditional common usage and that there was no new meaning or connotation in the draft Platform. Only one country, Guatemala, did not join consensus, insisting that the word must be defined, narrowly and restricted to a biological definition, in the document. The following examples of the usage of the word in the context of the document should help explain why the charges seem in appropriate:

(from a section containing actions to be taken by multilateral financial and development institutions etc. to enable women to overcome poverty)

61 (b) Strengthen analytical capacity in order to more systematically strengthen **gender perspectives** and integrate them into the design and implementation of lending programmes, including structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes:

(from a section on ensuring equal access to education)

82. (c) Eliminate **gender disparities** in access to all areas of tertiary education by ensuring that women have equal access to career development, training

(d) Create a **gender sensitive** educational system in order to ensure equal educational and training opportunities and full and equal participation of women in educational administration and policy and decision making;

(c) Eliminate the **gender gap** in basic and functional illiteracy, as recommended in the World Declaration on Education for All (Jomtien);

(from a section on women in decision-making)

92 (j) Aim at **gender balance** in the lists of national candidates nominated for election or appointment to United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and other autonomous organizations of the United Nations system, particularly for posts at the senior level.

The draft Platform does for the first time include language calling for eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, or any other item. This is sometimes used to drive the misperception and mischaracterization about gender. There are two references to "sexual orientation" and they were introduced into the document separate from any debate on gender. Both references are currently bracketed. It is unlikely either will survive the Beijing negotiations. While the US did not introduce these references we support them.

One is simply a statement of fact; the other urges that people be protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientation:

Chapter IV Strategic Objectives and Actions

48. The actions are directed towards improving the status and situation of all women and therefore recognize that many women face particular barriers because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, **sexual orientation**, or disability, or because they are indigenous people.

I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law
Actions to be taken: by governments:

(232. h) [Consider what legal safeguards may be required to prevent discrimination on grounds of **sexual orientation** or lifestyle;]

Innocuous and truthful as that may be, it is a red alert to many people. They react in the extreme and have pronounced the whole conference a conference of, by and for lesbians and radical feminists etc. They offer these references as proof positive that gender is an insidious word.

To make matters more complicated, it is true that out there -- way beyond the fringe of the UN system and delegations -- there are places in academe where gender studies not only explore social roles, such as men taking care of kids and women being CEOs, but explore the blurred distinctions between males, females, homosexuals etc. Once in a while this surfaces in the mainstream, such as the recent book on Bisexuality that is being reviewed everywhere and prompted a Newsweek cover story, and a recent article in the American Society of International Law that was quoted in the Washington Times.

Even if we were to remove every reference to "gender" from the document, it would not satisfy their concerns. It would not remove the debate about "sexual orientation" references in the document. People will continue to lobby delegations to support the language; they will ultimately lose (the community of nations is not ready for this one, to say the least) but they will succeed in having it be an issue.

We can honestly assure people that this conference is about strengthening families, providing women access to education, health care, economic security and opportunities, personal safety, legal rights, and the ability to participate in decision-making. But we must realize that there are many people threatened by these, by now, mainstream goals.

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ICPD RELATED TERMS IN BRACKETS

Note: This is an encapsulated presentation of complex issues related to the International Conference on Population and Development. If you would like further elaboration for the basis of the agreements reached at Cairo, call Ellen Marshall at 647-9718.

Reproductive and Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights

- ICPD language, agreed after extensive negotiation and compromise should be used, not weaker, altered or partial language.
- Key terms (e.g. reproductive health, sexual health and reproductive rights) are defined in the ICPD Program of Action (7.2 and 7.3) and used extensively throughout that document. We should not redefine or renegotiate them in Beijing. As in Cairo, countries who wish can express reservations in the official record of the conference.

“Family Planning” used alone

- The appropriate phrase based on ICPD (para 7.2 and many others) is “reproductive health, including family planning.” Further, in most instances where family planning is used, the clause “...as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law,” (ICPD para 7.2) should be used.
- This phraseology represents a major advance toward comprehensiveness and should not be diminished in any way. An alternative formulation is to use “reproductive health as agreed in the ICPD Program of Action.”

Prenatal Sex Selection

- Our concern related to the lack of value ascribed to girls -- including all the causes, consequences and forms of son preference which results in prenatal sex selection and reduced access to food, health care and education.
- The ICPD language (para 4.16) is far superior because it puts the issue in context and has been agreed during previous negotiations on this issue.
- Prenatal sex selection (or sex selection abortion) is the preferred term. We are trying to address the various circumstances that lead to sex selection, not simply the act of abortion.

Abortion-related services

- If the issue is to be explicitly addressed in any detail, use the original ICPD language (8.25) in its entirety and freestanding. This language was exhaustively negotiated.
- This is not the time to reopen past debates, but rather to address the public health problem of unsafe abortion. In short, where abortion is legal, it should be safe, prevention of unwanted pregnancies should be given priority and women should have

access to reliable information, compassionate counseling and quality services for the management of complications arising from abortions.

Unsafe abortion

- Maintain agreed language. Phrases such as “poorly managed” or “abortion under unsafe conditions” attempt to alter the carefully crafted agreement.
- The appropriateness of the term was firmly established after extended negotiation on the ICPD Program of Action (paras. 7.44a, 8.19 (modified version), 8.20, 8.25, 12.17)

Unwanted/unplanned pregnancy

- After much debate in Cairo, it was agreed that unwanted is the most descriptive term of actual circumstances women and couples face. An “unplanned” pregnancy can be wanted or unwanted. (ICPD paras 7.14b, 7.41, 7.44a, 8.12)

Abortion as “violence against women”

- Insure that “forced” is kept with abortion or the phrase deleted in entirety. Do not simply use abortion.
- Voluntary abortion is not an act of violence against women but an established and, with quality care, an exceptionally safe medical procedure.

[Forced] pregnancy

- Keep “forced”; consequences of rape” is not synonymous and should not be substituted.
- Many countries allow abortion following rape or incest. Coercing women to maintain pregnancies in such situations is unacceptable. The Vienna Declaration (para 38) refers to all forms of violence against women, including forced pregnancy.

Sexual Rights

- Though attempted, not agreement on what constitutes sexual rights could be reached at the ICPD. The EU will have to decide whether they pursue it or not.

Negotiate safe sex

- ICPD provides stronger language which we should use as follows: “...promotion of safe and responsible sexual behavior, including voluntary abstinence and condom use...” (para 8.31, 13.14c).
- Safe sex is a reference to safe and responsible sexual behavior, a term used in ICPD. “Safe” refers to practices which lessen and/or prevent transmission of disease. “Responsible” alone is ill defined and subjective.

Sexual relations

- The original, “unprotected,” is preferable to “premature,” “premarital,” or “extramarital.”
- The issue is protection against negative consequences of sexual relations such as transmission of disease and being empowered to make a decision about having sex.

Condoms

- References to condoms should be retained, particularly in action section on prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs. Other than abstinence, condoms are the only available protection. Many women have partners who have other partners and are thus at high risk of infection. Many women are not empowered to refuse sex within a relationship.
- Condoms were specifically referenced in the ICPD (para 7.33, 8.31, 8.32, 8.35 and 13.14c) as well as “male methods for contraception” (para 7.8). Para 7.33 states: “Promotion and the reliable supply and distribution of high-quality condoms should become integral components of all reproductive health-care services. All relevant international organizations, especially the World Health Organization, should significantly increase their procurement. Governments and the international community should provide all means to reduce the spread and the rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS infection.”
- Para 8.31 and 13.14c both specifically refer to adolescents or in-school education when referring to condom distribution.

Barrier methods

- Barrier methods are identified in the ICPD Program of Action (para 12.10 and 12.12) as an important research area in light of their protective and contraceptive properties.

HIV/AIDS

- Wherever HIV/AIDS is used, “and STDs” should be added to the reference. STDs result from the same sexual behaviors, several are known to increase the risk of HIV transmission and infection, and the same behavioral changes are needed to deal with both.

Association between contraception, abortion and breast cancer and reproductive tract infection

- The insertion by Slovakia is inaccurate. The relationship between hormonal contraceptives and breast cancer is at yet conclusively determined and complex. Use of hormonal contraceptives reduce the risk of other reproductive system cancers, other reproductive systems diseases and conditions including benign breast disease, ovarian cysts, upper genital tract infection, invasive cancers of ovary and endometrium.

- The Slovakian statement on abortion and these diseases and conditions is inaccurate. The appropriate term is “unsafe abortion.” When properly performed, included abortion does not lead to infection or to breast cancer. If treated properly, the complications of spontaneous abortion and/or unsafe abortion does not have lasting consequences.

Family

- Both the ICPD Principle 9 and WSSD Declaration para 26h recognize that “In different cultural, political and social systems various forms of family exists.”
- Avoid any language that might be inserted that indicates some sort of culturally superior definition of family or family structure.

Parental involvement

- ICPD paragraph 7.45 is a compromise designed by the Holy See and Canada in Cairo, recognizing the rights of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, etc. and the evolving capacity of the adolescent, as well as parental rights, duties and responsibilities.
- There is no need for multiple references (the Platform currently has 23 references to parental involvement)

Adolescents’ access to information and services

- This was an issue negotiated at length in Cairo. The exact language of the ICPD Program of Action paras 7.41 - 7.48 should be quoted if detailed language is necessary. If not, the issue can be handled by insertion of the clause, “as agreed in the ICPD Program of Action.”

Early/Child marriage

- Use “early” which encompasses a wider age span and is in line with the document’s expressed concern that marriage too often curtails girls’ education and other life choices. Stronger language would be “eliminate child marriage” (ICPD 5.5) and discourage early marriage before (or encourage postponement of marriage until...) completion of schooling, etc.
- “Early marriage” is in the ICPD Program of Action (paras 6.7c, 6.11, 7.41)

Discrimination/violence begins -- even before birth/before they are born/ right from conception

- This enters terminology on which there is no international agreement. There is no agreed international definition of when human being begin to exist.

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KEY PLAYERS AND STRUCTURE OF THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Key Players

The UN Fourth World Conference on Women is a complex meeting, drawing upon resources provided by member states of the United Nations as well as the UN's internal bureaucracy. Understanding the way the meeting is structured can help those of us engaged in the process make sure that the considerable influence of the United States is brought to bear in as effective a way as possible.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the body that has overall jurisdiction over the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. The leadership of the CSW, known as the "Bureau," is elected for a two year period by the 45 member states (the membership of the CSW itself is determined by a vote of its superior body, the UN Economic and Social Council).

The Bureau for the CSW also functions as the member state leadership for the World Conference, and each of the UN's five regions has a representative on it. The chair of the group, representing the Asia-Pacific region, is a capable representative from the Philippines -- Patricia Licuanan. Dr. Licuanan, Professor of Psychology and Academic Vice President at the Ateneo de Manila University, has represented her nation at various international meetings since 1987. She earned her doctorate in social psychology at The Pennsylvania State University in 1970. In addition to acting as the chair of the plenary sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting, Dr. Licuanan led one of the negotiating sessions at the final preparatory committee meeting in New York in March and April.

Another regional representative on the Bureau is Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl of Austria. Dr. Freudenschuss, who is responsible for women's issues in the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has provided capable leadership as chair during several of the more complex negotiating sessions over the Platform for Action. As representative of the European and North American region, it is frequently through Dr. Freudenschuss that the United States expresses its opinions. Dr. Freudenschuss led the second negotiating session during the final preparatory committee meeting in New York.

The other regions are represented on the Bureau by Belarus (Eastern Europe) and Mexico (Latin America). Namibia, one of whose representatives is Selma Ashipala, serves as rapporteur on behalf of the Africa region.

Ashipala, who is based at the Namibian Mission in New York, capably chaired the contact group that met during May to discuss use of the word "gender" in the Platform for Action.

Gertrude Mongella, who as Secretary-General for the Fourth World Conference on Women is the senior UN official responsible for the Conference, also serves on the Bureau. Ms. Mongella, a Tanzanian employed by the United Nations, heads the Secretariat established within the UN bureaucracy to run the Conference and produce its documentation. Mongella reports ultimately to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Mongella traveled to the United States in October 1983 as a participant in the International Visitor Program. Before joining the United Nations, Mongella had served as Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism in Tanzania from 1986 through 1987, and then Minister without Portfolio from 1987 until 1990, when she was ousted during President Ali Hassan Mwinyi's Cabinet purge. Mongella has been a member of the Central and National Executive Committee of the Ruling Party in Tanzania since 1977.

Serving under Mongella is a deputy, named Ibrahim Jobarteh, who joined the staff of the Secretariat earlier this year. Also serving in the Secretariat are two Americans, John Mathieson, who has been responsible for drafting and producing much of the documentation for the Conference, and Kristin Timothy, who has managed the accreditation of delegations and non-governmental organizations.

Structure of The Meeting

The Conference will take place in plenary, main committee and working group meetings; their proceedings are translated simultaneously into all six UN languages. Plenary sessions normally deal with procedural issues at the beginning and end of the Conference. During the remainder of the meeting, plenary sessions are devoted to speeches by representatives of governments, UN agencies and accredited NGOs. During the first day, the plenary session will elect a President (normally a representative of the host country -- China), adopt rules of procedure and the agenda, and establish a main committee. The plenary reconvenes at the end of the Conference to formally ratify the work of the other groups and to close the Conference.

The work of the main committee is in negotiating the draft Platform for Action, the Conference's central document. The chair of the main committee will likely be the chair of the Bureau of the CSW, Patricia Licuanan. Both the plenary sessions and main committee are open to observation by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) accredited to the Conference. One of the first jobs of the main committee will be to divide into two working groups to manage the flow of debate over the Platform. One chair of a working group will be Irene Freudenschuss of Austria; the other chair may be Selma Ashipala of Namibia, though this is still uncertain.

Negotiations in these working groups may be open to observation by accredited NGOs if there is room and if no participating nation objects. It is planned that the main committee will meet briefly each day to approve the drafting completed by the working groups.

At times, the working groups may be unable to reach agreement on certain terms or phrases. At this point, the chair of a working group may suggest that in lieu of continued debate, interested delegations meet separately in "informal" sessions to reach consensus. The informal sessions are generally conducted in English, and are not open to observation by NGO representatives.

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(prepared for delivery)

REMARKS OF
AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONCERNING THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
CENTER FOR NATIONAL POLICY BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 2, 1995

Good morning. I am pleased to be here. I may be prejudiced, but I think the Center for National Policy is a great organization, and I appreciate its willingness to sponsor this timely event.

The Fourth World Conference on Women will convene in China in 33 days and, let there be no doubt, the United States will be there.

We will be there because this conference is a rare opportunity to chart further gains in the status and rights of more than half the people on earth.

As leader of the American delegation, I am confident that U.S. goals will have strong support. These include--

- o promoting and protecting the human rights of women and ending violence against women;

- o expanding the participation of women in political and economic decisionmaking;

- o assuring equal access for women to education and health care throughout their lives;

- o strengthening families through efforts to balance the work and family responsibilities of both women and men; and

- o recognizing the increased role of nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) in building strong communities--at the local, national and international levels.

The conference in Beijing will be the fourth in a series begun 20 years ago in Mexico City. These gatherings have spurred legal, social and political reforms that have enhanced the lives of women and girls around the globe. Our goal now is to build on past gains and to hasten the removal of continuing obstacles to the full and equal participation of women in society.

As someone whose family was driven from its home twice when I was a child, first by Hitler, then by Stalin, I believe it is the responsibility of every free person to do what he or she can to advance the freedom of others. And I intend to see that the U.S. delegation to the Women's Conference serves as an unabashed advocate for freedom and human rights.

Unfortunately, today, in countries around the world, appalling abuses are being committed against women. These include coerced abortions and sterilizations, children sold into prostitution, ritual mutilations, dowry murders and official indifference to violence.

The Clinton Administration will use the conference in Beijing to underline the truth that violence against women is no one's prerogative; it is not a cultural choice; it is not an inevitable consequence of biology--it is a crime that we all have a responsibility to condemn, prevent, punish and stop.

Now, there are those who say that we should withdraw from the Women's Conference because of the human rights policies of the host country. Those suggestions are well-motivated, but they miss the main point. American withdrawal would not stop the conference or cause it to be moved; it would lead, instead, to a conference in which 130 million American women would be unrepresented and in which American influence and leadership would not be felt.

It just does not make sense, in the name of human rights, to boycott a conference that has, as a primary purpose, the promotion of human rights.

The way to help women, in China and elsewhere, is not to abandon the field to others, but rather to attend this conference, to debate head-on the differences of philosophy and ideology that exist, to lay out before the world the abuses we want to halt and the obstacles to progress we want to remove, and to gain commitments to change from the societies most in need of change. That is what leadership and a commitment to free and open discussion are all about.

With respect to Harry Wu, our position is clear. He should be released immediately and unharmed. His case is a top priority for the United States. I can understand why some would want to tie conference participation to Mr. Wu's release, but that assumes falsely that our attendance would be some sort of favor to Beijing. We have no cause to believe that our approach to the conference will have any impact on China's decisions concerning Mr. Wu.

We do have reason, however, to hope that the conference will have a positive effect on the status of women in China.

Conference preparations already have contributed to a heightened awareness within China of women's issues. There is public discussion of previously taboo subjects, including violence against women. Chinese returning from the preparatory meetings have described their heightened sensitivity to the treatment of women in the media and to the economic exploitation of women. It matters a great deal that more than 5,000 Chinese women will participate in the NGO forum and will take their impressions back to their communities.

Given the nature of China's human rights record, I do not mean to exaggerate the impact of this one conference. But as a former board member of the National Endowment for Democracy, I know that one of the best ways to promote democratic thinking is to expose people to new ideas on matters that relate directly to their own lives.

Exposure to such thinking matters to us not only in China, but around the world, because countries in which women have a fair share of power tend to be more stable, democratic, prosperous and just than those in which women are marginalized and repressed.

The Women's Conference will contribute to a freer and more equitable world. As its recommendations are implemented, it will also strengthen families around the world. We know from our own experience that when families are strong, children are cared for, socially constructive values are taught and an environment is created in which civility and law may thrive.

So we want momentum to build around the idea that women and men should share fairly in the responsibilities of family life; we want to see girls valued to the same degree as boys; we want parents and prospective parents to be able to make informed judgments as they plan their families; and we want to see domestic violence curtailed and condemned.

Each of these is a central element of the Conference draft Platform for Action. And effective action on each will help families and communities everywhere.

Despite recent gains, women remain an undervalued and underdeveloped human resource. This is not to say that women have trouble finding work; in many societies--especially in rural, agriculturally-based areas--they do the vast majority of the work; but they don't own the land, they are not taught to read, they can't obtain personal or business loans and they are denied equal access to the levers of political decisionmaking.

It is no accident that most of those in the world who are abjectly poor are women, often caring for children without the help of the children's father; many trapped from an early age in a web of abuse, discrimination, ignorance and powerlessness from which only a few are able to escape.

We cannot be indifferent. It is reported that, in Angola, one-third of all homicides are perpetrated against women, usually by their spouse.

In Thailand, child prostitution is growing because clients believe older prostitutes are more likely to be infected by HIV.

In Senegal, females receive less than one-third the schooling received by males.

In Sierra Leone, women perform much of the subsistence farming and all of the child rearing and have little opportunity for education.

And almost everywhere, women are restricted by discriminatory attitudes and social and economic structures that are unjust.

The Women's Conference will not solve these problems overnight, but it will call attention to them and promote remedial action. Women the world over are prepared to be full partners in sustainable development, but they need access to education and health care; they need access to credit; and they need equality under the law. Releasing the productive capacity of women is one key to breaking the cycle of poverty; and that will contribute, in turn, to higher standards of living for all nations.

Since the first Women's Conference 20 years ago, opportunities for women have expanded throughout the world. It is no longer a question of whether women from all countries will have a strong voice in controlling their destinies, but only when and how that goal will be achieved.

But building inclusive societies is still a work in progress. The United States has been working on it for two centuries. For more than half our nation's history, until 75 years ago this month, American women could not even vote. Many traditional or authoritarian societies still have a very long way to go. The Fourth Women's Conference will offer guidelines and promote commitments for every state to move forward, whatever current practices and policies may be.

In preparing for this conference, I was reminded of an old Chinese poem in which a father says to his young daughter:

We keep a dog to watch the house;
A pig is useful, too;
We keep a cat to catch a mouse;
But what can we do
With a girl like you?

For me, the Women's Conference will be a success if it brings us even a little closer to the day when girls all over the world will be able to look ahead with confidence that their lives will be valued, their individuality respected, their rights protected and their futures determined by their own abilities and character.

In such a world, the lives of all of us--men and women, boys and girls--will be enriched.

And it is to make progress towards such a world that the United States will be participating actively, forcefully and proudly in Beijing.

Thank you very much. Now, I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

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Draft as of 8/3/95

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

Name and Title	Govt or NGO	Refer- ence
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* denotes Head of the Delegation

AFGHANISTAN		
ALBANIA		
ALGERIA		
ANDORRA		
ANGOLA (50)		
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA		
ARGENTINA		
Zelmira Regazzoli Secretary for Human Rights and Women Ministry of Foreign Affairs CIM (Inter-American Commission of Women) Principal Delegate	Govt	per OAS (Linda Poole) 7/14/95
ARMENIA		
Gagik Harutunyan * Vice President	Govt	Cable: Yerevan #003328 7/19/95
Ranoush Hakopian * (Deputy) Member of Parliament	Govt	see above
AUSTRALIA		
Dr. Carmen Lawrence Minister for Human Services and Health; Minister Assisting the PM for the Status of Women	Govt	Cable: Canberr #3951 7/15/95

Kathleen Townsend First Assistant Secretary Office of the Status of Women	Govt	Cable: Canberr #3951 7/15/95
Ambassador Richard Butler Australia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations	Govt	see above
Ms. Rosaleen McGovern Principal Advisor Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Govt	see above
Commissioner Christine Williams Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	Govt	see above
Dr. Helen Ware Duputy Director AusAID	Govt	see above
Dr. Elizabeth Brouwer Senior Advisor AusAID	Govt	see above
Ms. Anna Kamerul Assistant Secretary, Department of Employment, Education and Training	Govt	see above
Dr. Margaret Dean Assistant Secretary, Department of Human Services and Health	Govt	see above
Ms. Deborah Nance Legal Advisor, Attorney-General's Department	Govt	see above
Ms Barbara Deegan Assistant Secretary, Department of Industrial Relations	Govt	see above

Group Captain Schroeder Department of Defense	Govt	see above
Ms. Pamela Brown A/g Senior Advisor, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	Govt	see above
Ms. Kathy Wong Third Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Govt	see above
Ms. Jeannie Cameron A/g Director, International and Legal, Office of the Status of Women	Govt	see above
Ms. Shirley Lithgow Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Govt	see above
Senator Margaret Reynolds (ADVISOR) Labor Party Women's Caucus Committee	Govt	see above
Judy Moylan, MP (ADVISOR) Shadow Minister for Women's Affairs	Govt	see above
Senator Cheryl Kernot (ADVISOR) Leader, Australian Democrats	Govt	see above
Senator Sue West (ADVISOR) Labor Party	Govt	see above
Riba Meagher (ADVISOR) New South Wales State Member for Cabramatta (Labor Party)	Govt	see above

Sandra Yates (ADVISOR) Chair, Australian Council for Women	Govt	see above
Irene Pneumantikos (ADVISOR) Chairperson, Association of Non-English Speaking Background Women of Australia	?	see above
Trica Szirom (ADVISOR) National President, Young Women's Christian Association	?	see above
Janet Hunt (ADVISOR) Executive Director, Australian Council for Overseas Aid	?	see above
Joan Lemaire (ADVISOR) Australian Council of Trade Unions	?	see above
AUSTRIA (20) "RefB"???		
Ms. Brigitte Brenner Federal Ministry for Women's Affairs	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13 (per Kathy)
Ms. Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Govt	Cable: Vienna 5688 7/25/95
Ms. Birgit Stimmer Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
Irmgard Schmidleithner Vice President, Austrian Federation of Trade Unions	NGO	Cable: Vienna 5688 7/25/95

Christa Esterhazy Catholic Women's Movement	NGO	see above
Dr. Ilse Koenig Coordinator, Austrian National Committee for Fourth Women's Conference	?	see above
Gertrude Gugenberger Austrian Information Service for Development Policy	?	see above
Rosa Logar Action Committee for Austrian Women's Homes	?	see above
AZERBAIJAN		
Fatima Abdullazade Presidential Advisor for Humanitarian Affairs	Govt	Cable: Baku 002365 7/24/95
Sevil Mamedkuliyeve President's Daughter	Govt?	Cable: Baku 002332 7/19/95
BAHAMAS		
Janet J. Bostwick Minister of Foreign Affairs	Govt	Cable: Nassau 002049 7/19/95
BAHRAIN		
Shaikh Ahmed BIn Sager Al Khalifa * Undersecretary, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Govt	Cable: Manama 003697 7/25/95
He Hussein Rashid Al-Sabbagh Bahraini Ambassador to China	Govt	see above
Dr Ahmed Al-Sharyan Research and Information Advisor, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Govt	see above

Faeza Ibrahim Al-Zayani Director of Social Development Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Govt	see above
Dr. Amal Al-Zayani Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Govt	see above
Hayat Ibrahim Al-Muhza'a Family and Women's Affairs Supervisor, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Govt	see above
Dr. Fariba Al-Durazi Director of Training Ministry of Health	Govt	see above
Dr. Yasser Isa Al-Nasser Central Statistics Organization	Govt	see above
Badria Abdul Latif Ministry of Education	Govt	see above
Mariam Al-Doy Ministry of Education	Govt	see above
Bahia Al-Jishi General Organization for Youth and Sports	Govt	see above
Shaikha Mariam Hamed Al Khalifa Mother and Child Welfare Society	NGO	see above
Shaikha Aysha Abdulla Al Khalifa Mother and Child Welfare Society	NGO	see above
Shaika Haya Ali Abdulla Al Khalifa Mother and Child Welfare Society	NGO	see above
Shaika Noora Mubarak Al Khalifa Mother and Child Welfare Society	NGO	see above

Yousif Ahmed Ibrahim Bahrain Sociologists Society	NGO	see above
Afaf Maki Al-Khair General Committee for Bahraini Workers	NGO	see above
BANGLADESH		
BARBADOS		
BELARUS		
Vladimir N. Rusakevich Deputy Prime Minister	Govt	Cable: Minsk #001997 7/17/95
Olga B. Dargel Minister of Social Services	Govt	see above
Sergei Posakhov Member of the President's Council	Govt	see above
Natalia I. Drozd Director of Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Govt	see above
Vladimir N. Getmanchuk Deputy Governor Brest Oblast	Govt	see above
Elena I. Sivalovova Assistant to Prime Minister on Women's Affairs	Govt	see above
BELGIUM		
Miet Smet* Minister of Labor	Govt	Cable: Brusse #06981 7/3/95

Jo Monballyu Former Member of the Labor Minister's Cabinet	Govt	Cable: Brussel 008040 8/1/95
Marie-Paule Paternottre Counselor of the General Secretariat at the Ministry of Labor	Govt	see above
Paule Champion Equality of Opportunity Service at the Ministry of Labor	Govt	see above
Ch. Verhaegen President of the Council for Equality of Opportunity	Govt	see above
L. Vreven Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Govt	see above
Reginald Moreels Secretary of State for Development Aid	Govt	see above
Minister Van Asbroek Flemish Community	Govt	see above
Minister Onkelinx Flemish Community	Govt	see above
Anne-Marie Lizin Senator	Govt	see above
Sabine De Bethune Senator	Govt	see above
Francy Van Der Wildt Senator	Govt	see above
Anne Van Lancker Member of European Parliament	Govt	see above

BELIZE		
BENIN		
Madame Rosine V. Soglo *	Govt	D.C. visit 7/14/95
First Lady		
BHUTAN		
BOLIVIA		
Sonia Montana	Govt	per OAS 7/14/95
Secretary of State for Gender Affairs		
Josefina Rojas	?	per OAS 7/14/95
CIM Delegate		
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		
BOTSWANA		
BRAZIL		
Theresa Maria Quintella *	Govt	per OAM 7/14/95 and #004173
Amb. of Brazil in Moscow CIM Principal Delegate		
Ms. Ruth Cardoso *invited	Govt	Cable: Brasili #004173 7/20/95
First Lady		
Ms. Marcela Nicodemos	Govt	see above
Division Director Foreign Ministry's Division of Social Issues		
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM		
BULGARIA (?)		
Fonmin Gueorgui Pirinski *	Govt	Cable: Sofia #04646 7/6/95
OR Mimi Vitkova *		
Health Minister		
Mme Ludmila Bojkova	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
Departement des organizations internationales		

BURKINA FASO		
BURMA		
Major General Soe Myint *	Govt	Cable: Rangoon #003317 7/26/95
Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement		
U Than Po	Govt	see above
Director General, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement		
Daw May May Yee	Govt	see above
Consultant, Ministry of Health		
Dr. Win May	NGO	see above
Rector, Institute of Nursing		
Daw Yee Yee Myint	Govt	see above
Professor, Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education		
Dr. Daw Tin Lin Myint	NGO	see above
Chairperson, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Magwe Division		
Daw Myat Myat Khine	Govt	see above
Assistant Director, Office of the Attorney General		
Daw Yin Yin Myint	Govt	see above
Assistant Director, International Organizations Division, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
U Myat Soe	Govt	see above
Interpreter for Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs		

Captain Tun Lin Staff Officer Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Govt	see above
BURUNDI		
CAMBODIA		
CAMEROON		
Ms. Emilienne Ngo Basse Inspector General, Ministry of Social and Women's Affairs	Govt	Cable: Yaounde 005846 7/24/95
CANADA		
Sheila Finestone * Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women Canada	Govt	Cable: Ottawa 003619 7/28/95
Louise Bergeron Villiers Co-Ordinator, Status of Women Canada CIM Principal Delegate	Govt	per OAS 7/14/95
CAPE VERDE		
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC		
CHAD		
CHILE		
Josefina Bilbao Minister, Head, National Women's Service (SERNAM) CIM Principal Delegate	Govt	perOAS 7/14/95
CHINA		
COLOMBIA		
Ms. Jaquin Strouss De Samper * First Lady	Govt	Cable: Bogota 010291 8/1/95

Cecilia Lopez Montana Minister of the Environment	Govt	see above
Maria Emma Mejia Minister of Education	Govt	see above
Isabel Martinez Director of the Council for Social Affairs	Govt	see above
Clemencia Forero Presidential Advisor for International Affairs	Govt	see above
Gladis Jimeno Director for Indigenous Affairs	Govt	see above
Maria Mercedes Cuellar Banco de la Republica	?	see above
Teresa Ivary Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office of European and African Affairs	Govt	see above
Piedad Cordoba Senator and Member of the Liberal Party's National Directorate	Govt	see above
Maria Isabel Mejia Marlanda Representative, Congressional Chamber of Representatives	Govt	see above
Maria Leticia Ortega Advisor	?	see above
Maria Inez Puntoz Advisor	?	see above
Elsy Bonilla Dean of the Faculty of the University of the Andes		see above

Maria Mercedes Carranza Poet		see above
Ana Mercedes Gomez De Mora Director of the Medellin Daily Newspaper, "El Colombiano"	NGO	see above
Gloria Zea Art Patron (Mother of the Minister of Defense)	NGO	see above
COMOROS		
CONGO		
COSTA RICA		
COTE D'IVOIRE		
CROATIA		
CUBA		
CYPRUS		
Ms. Maro Varnavides Head of the Central Agency for Women's Rights Ministry of Justice	Govt	Cable: Nicosia #003703 7/21/95
Alcos Evangelou * (until 9/7) Minister of Justice	Govt	see above
George Anastassiades * after 9/7 Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice	Govt	see above
Katy Clerides Member of the House of Representatives (Daughter of the President of Cyprus, Glafkos Clerides)	Govt	see above
Myrna Cleopa Ambassador to China	Govt	see above

Ms. Erato Kozakou-Markoulli Director of the Permanent Secretary's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Govt	see above
CZECH REPUBLIC		
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA		
DENMARK (36)		
Ms. Agnete Andersen Member of the CDEG Ministry of Labour, Special Adviser	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
DJIBOUTI		
Mrs. Gouled * President of the UNFD President's Wife	Govt?	Cable: Djibout 001669 7/31/95
DOMINICA		
DOMINIICAN REPUBLIC		
Rosa Roa de Lopez * Secretary of State for Women's Affairs CIM Principal Delegates	Govt	per OAS 7/14/95
ECUADOR		
Mercedes Jimenez de Vega * CIM Principal Delegate	?	per OAS 7/14/95
EGYPT		
EL SALVADOR		
Elizabeth De Calderon Sol * First Lady	Govt	Cable: San Salvado 005056
EQUATORIAL GUINEA		
ERITREA		
ESTONIA		

Heino Ainso Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN Desk Officer	Govt	Cable: Tallinn 001711 7/25/95
ETHIOPIA		
Tadelech Hailemichael * Etheopian Minister for Women's Affairs	Govt	Cable: Addis Ababa 005966 7/25/95
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA		
FIJI		
Taufa Vakatale * Minister for Education, Culture, Women, Science and Technology	Govt	Cable: Suva #001134 7/19/95
Shamina Ali Co-ordinator of the Fiji Women's Crisis Center	NGO	see above
Cema Bolabola University of the South Pacific	NGO	see above
Debbie Singh Women's Action for Change	NGO	see above
Ema Druavesi Secretary of the Fiji Garment Factory Works	NGO	see above
Tauga Vulaono President of the Fiji National Councill of Women	NGO	see above
TBA Soqosoqo Vakamara (Largest Fijian Ethnic Women's Group)	NGO	see above
Sereima Lomaloma Director of the Department of Women and Culture	Govt	see above

FINLAND		
Ms. Tarja Halonin Foreign Minister	Govt	Cable: Helsinki 004532 7/20/95
Mr. Pekka Haavisto Environment and Foreign Assistance Minister	Govt	see above
Ms. Terttu Huttu Associate Minister of Health and Social Affairs and for Equality	Govt	see above
Elizabeth Tiegerstedt-Tahtela Ambassador Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legal Affairs	Govt	see above
Kaarina Dromberg Member of Parliament	Govt	see above
FRANCE		
Mme Caroline Mechin Chargee de mission, Service droits des femmes, Ministere des affaires sociales, de la sante et de la ville	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
Colette Condaccione * Minister in Charge of Solidarity Between Generations	Govt	Cable: Paris #17222 7/21/95
FRENCH TERRITORIES (PACIFIC)		
Ms. Ounei Small Pacific Concerns Resource Center	NGO	Cable: Suva #001134 7/19/95
GABON		
GAMBIA		
GEORGIA		
GERMANY		

Ms. Claudia Nolte *	Govt	D.C. visit (Mary) 7/14/95
Minister of Women, Family, Youth and the Aged		
GHANA		
Indra Chanderpaul	Govt	Cable: George- town 001978 7/24/95
Junior Minister of Labor		
Ms. Jean Sankies	?	see above
Representative to the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association		
GREECE (21)		
Maria Arseni *	Govt	Cable: Athens 006630 7/25/95
Deputy Minister Prime Minister's Office		
Mrs. Eleni Banteka	Govt	see above
President of the Center for Research on Equality		
Dora Katseli	Govt	see above
Parliament Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement		
Elsa Papadimitriou	Govt	see above
Parliament New Democracy		
Popi Foudoukidou	Govt	see above
Parliament New Democracy		

Maria Maxera Parliament Political Spring	Govt	see above
Mrs. Katerina Daokalaki European Parliament	Govt	see above
Mrs. Agela Kokkola European Parliament	Govt	see above
Mrs. Teta Kimantopoulou POLAN Party	?	see above
Mrs. Soula Panapetou Coalition of the Left (SYNASPISMOS)	?	see above
Mrs. Goteini Sianou General Confederation of Greek Workers	?	see above
Mrs. Evyeini Tsoumani-Spentsa Greek Industries Association	?	see above
Soula Tsatsakou Greek Women's Association	NGO	see above
Agela Frantseskaki Panathinaiki Association	NGO	see above
Aliko Maraykopoulou Association for Women's Rights	NGO	see above
Kaiti Lazapi Center for Research of Women in Mediterranean	NGO	see above
Mrs. Erini Labraki European Parliament	Govt	see above
GRENADA		

GUATEMALA		
GUINEA		
GUINEA-BISSAU		
GUYANA		
HAITI		
HOLY SEE		
Archbishop Martino Observer at the UN	Govt	Cable: Rome 010433 7/26/95
Ms. Mary Ann Glendon Professor, Harvard U.	NGO	Cable: Rome #09064 6/23/95
HONDURAS		
Guadelupe Jerezano Mejia Vice President of Honduras	Govt	per OAS 7/14/95
Marlene Villala-Talbott Amb. of Honduras to the OAS	Govt	per OAS 7/14/95
HUNGARY		
ICELAND (13)		
Ms. Sigriour Lilly Baldursdottir Chairperson for the National Committee for the UN Fourth Conference on Women	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
Vigdis Finnbogadottir President	Govt	Cable: Reykjav 000950 7/24/95
Halldor Asgrimsson Minister of Foreign Affairs	Govt	see above
INDIA		
INDONESIA		

Mein Sugandhi Minister for the Role of Women	Govt	Cable: Jakarta 006513 8/1/95
Ms. Syamsiah Achmad Assistant Minister for Women's Education	Govt	see above
Dr. Hasan Wirayuda Director for International Organizations	Govt	see above
IRAN		
IRAQ		
IRELAND		
Mervyn Taylor * Minister of Equality and Law Reform	Govt	Cable: Dublin 003599 7/25/95
Niamh Bhreathnach Minister of Education	Govt	see above
Avril Doyle Minister of State (Junior Minister), Department of the Taoiseach	Govt	see above
Maura Murray National Women's Council of Ireland	NGO	see above
Bridin Twist President of the Irish Countrywomen's Association	NGO	see above
Pauline Eccles Banulacht/Dochas (Organization for Women in Development)	NGO	see above
ISRAEL		
ITALY		

M. Agnelli *	Govt	Cable: Rome 010500 7/27/95
Foreign Minister		
Mme Clara Abatecola	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
Commission nationale pour la realisation de l'egalite entre homme et femme		
JAMAICA		
JAPAN		
Pending elections and cabinet changes		Cable: Tokyo #07774 7/6/95
JORDAN		
KAZAKHSTAN		
Roza Otunbayeva *	Govt	Cable: Bishkek #001770 7/21/95
Foreign Minister		
KENYA (140)		
KIRIBATI AND TUVALU (4)		
KUWAIT		
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC		
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC		
LATVIA		
LEBANON		
LESOTHO		
Moeketsi Senaoana *	Govt	Cable: Maseru 1622 7/25/95
Finance Minister		
LIBERIA		
LIBYA		
LIECHTENSTEIN		
LITHUANIA		

LUXEMBOURG		
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (13)		
Branko Crvenkovski Prime Minister	Govt	Cable: Skopje #01063 7/3/95
Sofija Todorova Minister of Science	Govt	"
MADAGASCAR		
MALAWI		
MALAYSIA (15)		
Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali * Prime Minister's Wife	Govt?	Cable: Kuala Lumpur 003573 7/25/95
MALDIVES		
MALI		
MALTA		
MARSHALL ISLANDS (40)		
The Honorable Christopher Loeak* Minister of Social Services	Govt	Cable: Majuro #00470 7/5/95
Mrs Anono Loeak Spouse	Govt	see above
The Honorable Amatlain E. Kabua Mayor, Majuro Atoll Local Government	Govt	see above
Mrs. Neijin R. Edwards RMI Permanent Mission, New York	Govt	see above
Mrs. Evelyn Lanki Chief of Women's Affairs	Govt	see above

Leroij Kitlang Kabua	NGO	see above
Mrs. Dorothy Doulatram President, National Council of Women	NGO	see above
Mrs. Kiorong Sam	NGO	see above
Mrs. Rosie Makroro	NGO	see above
Mrs. Hannah Jurelang	NGO	see above
Mrs. Angelina Capelle-Aron	NGO	see above
Mrs. Joann DeBrum	NGO	see above
Mr. Jack Niedenthal	NGO	see above
Mrs. Regina Niedenthal	NGO	see above
Mrs. Neibaj Silk	NGO	see above
Mrs. Yita Carland	NGO	see above
Mrs. Polly Muller	NGO	see above
Mrs. Maria Naisher (Alternate: Mrs. Yomida Tarbullen)	NGO	see above
Mrs. Herty Heine (Alternate: Mrs. Litha Lokeijak)	NGO	see above
Mrs. Veronica Kiluwe	NGO	see above
Mrs. Veronica Wase	NGO	see above
Mrs. Lilly Z. Ria	NGO	see above
Mrs. Merisko Lokeijak	NGO	see above

Mrs. Tarmille Ishoda	NGO	see above
Mrs. Amor Matsumura	NGO	see above
Mrs. Almira Matayoshi	NGO	see above
Mrs. Kine Gonzales	NGO	see above
Mrs. Airin Salarppo	NGO	see above
Mrs. Naiki Rebecca	NGO	see above
Mrs. Valentina Bobo	NGO	see above
Mrs. Abo Loeak	NGO	see above
Mrs. Tarnin Katjang	NGO	see above
Mrs. Bokmar Maie	NGO	see above
Mrs. Gloria Heine	NGO	see above
Mrs. Binje Aneo	NGO	see above
Mrs. Mathan Judah	NGO	see above
Mrs. Gerhugh Judah	NGO	see above
Mrs. Ruthie Zachras (wife of Finance Minister Ruben Zachras)	NGO	see above
Mrs. Rosina Korean	NGO	see above
Mrs. Renny Robert	NGO	see above
MAURITANIA		
MAURITIUS		
MEXICO		

Alicia Rodriguez Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Govt	per OAS 7/14/95
MONACO		
MONGOLIA		
MOROCCO		
MOZAMBIQUE		
MYANMAR		
NAMIBIA		
NAURU		
Pamela Scriven Head of Nauru Women's National Council	Govt	Cable: Suva #001134 7/19/95
NEPAL		
NETHERLANDS (30)		
Ms Anne Offermans Deputy Co-ordinator of International Affairs	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
Ad Melkert * Minister of Social Affairs and Employment	Govt	Cable: Hague #003918 7/20/95
Jan Pronk Minister for Development Cooperation	Govt	see above
Erica Terpstra State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport	Govt	see above
NEW ZEALAND		
NICARAGUA		

Maria Auxiliadora Perez de Mathus Head, Nicaraguan Women's Institute CIM Principal Delegate	?	per OAS 7/14/95
NIGER		
NIGERIA		
NORWAY		
OMAN		
PAKISTAN		
PALAU		
PANAMA		
Leonor Calderon Representative to the OAS Inter- American Women's Commission; CIM Principal Delegate	?	Cable: Panama 004053 7/24/95
Dora Boyd De Perez Balladares * First Lady	Govt	see above
Jorge Illueca Ambassador to the UN	Govt	see above
Leonardo Kam Ambassador to Switzerland and the European Office of the UN	Govt	see above
Gloria Young Legislative Assembly Women's Issues Committee Vice President	Govt	see above
Victor Mendez Fabrega Legeslative Assembly Women's Issues Committee Member	Govt	see above
Adolfo Name Legeslative Assembly Public Health and Social Security Committee President	Govt	see above
PAPUA NEW GUINEA		

Felicia Dobunaba *	Govt	Cable: Port Moresby 001071 7/31/95
Nakikus Konga Minister for Religion, Youth and Women's Affairs	Govt	see above
Bill Kua Secretary of Religion, Youth and Women's Affairs	Govt	see above
PARAGUAY		
<u>Cristina Munoz</u> <u>Minister, Secretary for Women's</u> <u>Affairs</u> <u>CIM Principal Delegate</u>	<u>Govt</u>	<u>per OAS</u> <u>7/14/95</u>
PERU		
PHILIPPINES		
POLAND		
Jolanta Banach Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs	Govt	Cable: Warsaw #009979 7/20/95
PORTUGAL (20)		
Mme Maria Regina Tavares da Silva Commission pour l'egalite et les droits des femmes	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13
QATAR		
(ambass. in Beijing...name??)	Govt	Cable: Doha #01488 7/8/95
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (50-60)		
Kim Jang Sook * Second State Minister of Political Affairs	Govt	Cable: Seoul #005063 7/21/95

Hwang Byunk Tai *alt Ambassador to China	Govt	see above
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA		
ROMANIA		
RUSSIAN FEDERATION		
Naina Yeltsin (invited) First Lady	Govt	Cable: Moscow #022904 7/21/95
Lyudmila Bezlepkina * Minister for Social Protection of the Population of the Russian Federation	Govt	see above
Yekaterina Lakhova Duma Deputy; Heads the Parliamentary Faction, "Women of Russia"	Govt	see above
Alevtina Fedulova Deputy Speaker of the Russian Duma	Govt	see above
Marina Korunova (advisor) Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of Human Rights	Govt	see above
RWANDA		
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS		
SAINT LUCIA		
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES		
SAMOA		
SAN MARINO		
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE		
SAUDI ARABIA		
SENEGAL		
SEYCHELLES		

Mrs. Danielle De St Jorre Minister of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Environment	Govt	Cable: Victor 01024 7/5/95
Mrs. Maryse Roberts Director of Bilateral Relations Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Govt	see above
Mrs. Marion Gendron Director General for Manpower Ministry of Administration and Manpower	Govt	see above
Ms. Raymonde Onezime Director General for Local Government Ministry of Local Government, Youth and Sports	Govt	see above
Ms. Macsuze Mondon Director for Schools Ministry of Education and Culture	Govt	see above
SIERRA LEONE		
Dr. Bailah Leigh Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Services	Govt	Cable: Freetow #003101 7/21/95
SINGAPORE		
SLOVAK REPUBLIC		
SLOVENIA		
SOLOMON ISLANDS		
SOMALIA		
SOUTH AFRICA		
SPAIN		
Mme Maria Jose Montero Corominas Fonctionnaire au Cabinet des Relations Internationales de l'Institut de la Femme Ministere des Affaires Socciales	Govt	Strbrg Comm. 6/13/95

Mme Guadeloupe Soto Mora Chef du Cabinet des Relations Internationales de l'Institut de la Femme Ministere des Affaires Sociales	Govt	Strbrg Comm 6/13/95
Christina Alberdi Minister for Social Affairs	Govt	Cable: Madrid 007675 7/25/95
Angeles Amador Minister of Health	Govt	see above
Carmen Alborch Culture Minister	Govt	see above
Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega Secretary of State for Justice	Govt	see above
Margarita Robles Secretary of State for the Interior (Security Matters)	Govt	see above
SRI LANKA		
SUDAN		
SURINAME		
SWAZILAND		
SWEDEN		
Duputy Prime Minister * (NAME??)	Govt	per Sharon 5/19/95
SYRIA		
TAJIKISTAN		
THAILAND		
Deputy Prime Minister*	Govt	Cable: Banko #21355 7/11/95

Mr. Apilas Osatananda Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister	Govt	see above
Ambassador Sawanit Kongsiri Royal Thai Ambassador to China	Govt	see above
Mr. Alai Ingawani Deputy Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister	Govt	see above
Mrs. Saisuree Chutikul Member of the National Commission on Women's Affairs Office of the Prime Minister	Govt	see above
Khunying Supatra Masdit (Advisor) NGO Convener for the conference	?	see above
TOGO		
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO		
TUNISIA		
TURKEY		
TURKMENISTAN		
UGANDA		
Mrs. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe* Vice President; Minister of Gender and Community Development	Govt	D.C. visit 6/14
UKRAINE		
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		
UNITED KINGDOM (30)		
Cheryle Gillian Parliamentary UnderSecretary in the Department for Education and Employment Co-Chief of Delegation	Govt	Cable: London #010084 7/18/95

Baroness Chalker Minister for Overseas Development Co-Chief of Delegation	Govt	see above
Angela Chalker Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries -- MAFF (Attending in her capacity as co- chairman of the Women's National Commission) Co-Chief of Delegation	Govt	see above
Kamlesh Bahl Chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)	NGO	see above
Joan Smyth EOC Northern Ireland	NGO	see above
Liz Bavidge Co-Chair (Elect) of the Women's National Commission	NGO	see above
Jane Goldsmith National Alliance of Women's Organizations (NAWO)	NGO	see above
Eugenia Pisa-Lopez Oxfam	NGO	see above
Julia Hausermann Rights and Humanity	NGO	see above
Ann Grant Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Govt	see above
Fran Greaves Sex Equality Branch, DFEE	Govt?	see above
Julia Ashdown Human Rights Policy Department, FCO	Govt	see above

Laurie Honan Office of Development Assistance	Govt	see above
6-7 officers from Embassy in Beijing	Govt	see above
--HONG KONG Michael Suen	Govt	see above
--TURKS AND CAICOS Mrs. Myrtle Mills	Govt	see above
--BERMUDA, MONTSERRAT AND THE --BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS Jerome Dill	Govt	see above
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA		
URUGUAY		
UZBEKISTAN		
D. Gulyamova * Deputy Prime Minister Chair of the Women's Committee	Govt	Cable: Tashken 002875 7/25/95
G. Annaklicheva Deputy Chair in the CABinet of Ministers; Chair of the Women's Committee of Karakalpakstan	Govt	see above
G. Yuldosheva Parliamentarian; Chair of the Committe of Labor and Social Protection of the Population	Govt	see above
S. Rashidova Director of the Institute of Polymer Chemistry and Physics	Govt	see above
D. Alimbekova President of the Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan	NGO	see above

M. Samarkhodjaeva Director of the "Khimoya" Center at the Businesswomen's Center	NGO	see above
F. Pirnazarova Chair of the Women's Resource Center	NGO	see above
O. Vukhidova Chair of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan	NGO	see above
I. Yusupova Chair of the Children's Fund of Uzbekistan	NGO	see above
O. Atanlyanova Chair of the Karakalpakstan's Center for Human Reproduction and Family Planning	NGO	see above
VANUATU		
VENEZUELA		
Maria Abella de Guzman President, National Council for Women	?	per OAS 7/14/95
Virginia Lozada CIM Principal Delegate	?	per OAS 7/14/95
VIET NAM		
YEMEN		
YUGOSLAVIA		
ZAIRE		
Soki Fuani * Minister of Health	Govt	Cable: Kinshas 004593 7/24/95

Mme Nduko Booto Head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Bureau	Govt	see above
ZAMBIA		
ZIMBABWE (50)		
Tendai Bare Senior Permanent Secretary	Govt	Cable: Harare #7575 7/25/95
M. Hove Undersecretary	Govt	see above
Florence Chitauro Minister	Govt	see above
SPECIAL INVITES		
Queen Fabiola Widow of Former King Baudouin of Belgium, Sister-in-Law of the Reigning King (In charge of receiving wives of Chiefs of State)		Cable: Brusse #06981 7/3/95

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10

Divider Title: _____

Focus on 4WCW

Questions and Answers About 4WCW



United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • July 31, 1995



The following are some frequently asked questions and answers regarding the 4th UN World Conference on Women (4WCW).

Q. *What is the purpose of the UN World Conference on Women? Why do we need it?*

A. The goals of the UN Decade for Women, 1975-1985—equality, development, and peace—remain unattained. The U.S., as well as the rest of the world, has made a great deal of progress in advancing the status of women, but has not fully succeeded in making women equal partners of men.

This conference refocuses the efforts of individuals, communities, and nations on the practical actions we must take to remove the remaining obstacles to equality and develop an agenda for action that will accelerate women's empowerment.

Q. *Why is the Fourth World Conference on Women important to all Americans?*

A. Americans have a stake in the future of the world's women. Not only do their situation and their actions increasingly affect us and our overall commitment to democracy and human rights, but women face many of the same challenges and share the same goals the world over. They want strong families, economic security, improved education and health, personal safety, legal rights, and the ability to participate in decision-making.

That American women share these goals became increasingly apparent last year during frequent meetings between government officials involved in U.S. preparations for the conference and private citizens, many of whom are members of women's organizations.

U.S. participation in this conference ensures our role in setting the policies contained in the principal

document of the conference—the Platform for Action. The Platform for Action is an agenda that will influence international and national policy well into the next century.

Q. *Why is the Fourth World Conference on Women being held in China, a country with a record of serious human rights violations?*

A. In 1992, the United Nations accepted China's invitation to host the conference. UN tradition follows a system of geographic rotation, and it was the Asia region's turn to hold a world conference on women. China was the only Asian nation to issue an invitation.

This is a conference about women and girls, not about China. Moreover, with some 45,000 people expected to attend the conference or forum, it is clear this conference will have—and is already having—a tremendous impact on the Chinese.

Q. *What major issues of interest to women will the U.S. pursue at the conference?*

A. With the advancement and empowerment of women as the primary goal, we have a unique opportunity to solidify and build on previous commitments made for women's empowerment at other UN conferences.

Besides reaffirming these international agreements, the U.S. will provide leadership on the following issues in the Platform for Action, which are of importance to Americans and the world:

- The human rights of women, including action to end violence against women.

- A life-span approach to and improvements in education and health.

- Efforts and arrangements to balance work and family responsibilities for both women and men.

- Economic security and self-reliance.

- The importance of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as partners in building communities—locally, nationally, and internationally.

- The full participation of women in political and economic decision-making.

Q. *Why has there been controversy over the use of the word "gender" in the Platform for Action?*

A. In early April, at the close of the final preparatory meeting for the conference, a handful of countries raised objections to the use of the word "gender" throughout the draft Platform for Action. This action took most countries by surprise, since the word has been used extensively throughout the UN system for the past 20 years, usually as a reference to the distinctions between males and females that are more a matter of sociology than biology.

Interested countries met in May in order to resolve the issue. Rather than attempting to define the word, they agreed to a Chairman's statement reflecting their general understanding of the word and acknowledging that there are no new meanings attached to the word and that "gender" would continue to be understood as before in the UN system. Only one country did not join consensus. The statement will appear in the conference report.

Q. *What is the NGO Forum and how does it relate to the conference?*

A. Recognizing the importance of the private sector in helping to shape public policy and put international agreements into action, traditionally there is a forum for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and interested individuals held parallel to the government conference. The forum—operated independently from the government event—provides a structured meeting place for people interested in the issues of the government conference. It is an

information exchange involving workshops, seminars, debates, and opportunities for networking. It takes no official action, although sometimes NGOs develop alternative platforms that they offer to government delegations to use for improving the UN document in negotiating sessions. While there is no formal interchange between the forum and government conference, there is frequent and intense communication between the NGOs and government delegates. Since the draft platform is a working document able to be amended, the NGOs lobby delegates about their issues and do influence the outcome. Also, some NGOs are accredited observers to the government conference and send members to the proceedings.

Q. *Do all NGOs, regardless of their particular views, have a fair opportunity to participate in the NGO Forum? And to be accredited as observers to the government conference?*

A. Yes. Participation in the forum is a simpler matter than obtaining accreditation to the conference, where guidelines about a group's relevance to the issues, competence, and status come into consideration. To foster citizen involvement, the United States actively promotes participation of NGOs without regard to their substantive positions. The U.S., at senior levels, has urged the UN Secretariat to follow open and fair credentialing procedures for NGOs. Additionally, the U.S. has also asked the Chinese Government to meet its obligations as host country by applying fair and transparent visa procedures to all who have registered to attend.

Q. *Why was the NGO Forum site changed and why is it now so far away?*

A. Last March, the Chinese announced that the scheduled site—a sports stadium in Beijing—had "structural problems" and that the site was being relocated to

Huariou, a small town and scenic tourist area near the Great Wall of China. There was widespread concern and protest on the part of the forum organizers, NGOs, and governments that the site was too far from the government conference and grossly inadequate for scheduled activities and hotel accommodations. However, as a result of many negotiations and discussions with the Chinese, the NGO Forum organizers agreed to the site. Most forum activities will be held in Huariou, and extensive construction is underway to provide adequate facilities and accommodations. Buses will shuttle participants back and forth to Beijing, and in Beijing, NGOs will have two satellite facilities available where they can meet with delegates.

Q. *Who will be on the U.S. delegation and how are they chosen?*

A. The U.S. will send a strong delegation to Beijing—one that is skilled and representative of the broad range of people and interests in our country. It will consist of both government and private sector members. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is Honorary Chair. Although no decision has been made about her attendance at the conference, her willingness to accept this position reflects her strong interest in and commitment to effective U.S. participation.

Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will chair the delegation. Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, will serve as co-chair; Timothy E. Wirth, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, is alternate chair. The Honorable Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, former member of Congress, is deputy head of delegation and director, and Veronica Biggins, former assistant to the President, is vice-chair.

Other members of the delegation include Maria Antonietta Berriozabal of San Antonio, Texas, Lynn Cutler of Washington, DC, Arthenia Joyner of

Tampa, Florida, Dorothy Lamm of Denver Colorado, and Linda Tarr-Whelan of Washington, DC.

The delegation is appointed by White House in close coordination with the State Department. Government delegates are chosen for their expertise in U.S. policy and experience in international negotiating. Non-governmental delegates are chosen for their expertise in subject areas of the platform, for their achievements and contributions to public life, and for their representation of the various groups that constitute the American social fabric.

Q. *Since the United States is committed to advancing the status of women around the world, why haven't we ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?*

A. President Carter signed the Convention in 1980 and submitted it to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification, though no further action was taken. However, the Convention came into force worldwide in 1981 after having acquired the requisite ratification of 20 nations. As of April, 1995 the number of states had grown to 139. In 1993, Secretary of State Warren

Christopher announced at the Vienna Conference on Human Rights that ratification of the treaty was a priority of the Clinton Administration. The Administration submitted its ratification package to the Senate. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted favorably to send it to the full Senate on September 29, 1994. However, the Senate took no action before it adjourned. Ratification remains a priority for the Administration, but at this time it is not known when the Senate Foreign Committee will take it under consideration. ■

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Focus on 4WCW



U.S. Support for the 4WCW

United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • July 31, 1995



In September, the United States will join the international community at the Fourth World Conference on Women—4WCW—in Beijing, China. A parallel meeting for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) NGO Forum '95, will be held at about the same time.

The United States welcomes the opportunity to participate in this important event. U.S. goals are increasingly linked with those of a peaceful and prosperous international community, and global prosperity is closely linked with the fortunes and freedoms of the world's women.

At the 4WCW, all nations will focus attention on women—the aspirations they share and the challenges they face. The conference enables us to build support for policies that invest in women and girls, such as economic and educational opportunities. By moving these issues to the top of the policy agenda, the 4WCW can make a difference in the quality of life for women and families around the world. The 4WCW will adopt a comprehensive Platform for Action to empower and improve the lives of girls and women. This action plan can serve the United Nations and national governments as a guide for setting public policy as the 21st century approaches. And it provides citizens with benchmarks by which they can measure progress in their own countries and communities.

Value to Americans

Women everywhere share the same aspirations—access to opportunity, thriving families, economic security, quality health care and education, personal safety, and the ability to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

In looking toward this conference, Americans can take pride in the progress they have made in these areas. At the same time, Americans have much to learn from the experiences of women elsewhere, i.e., in an area such as micro-enterprise loans for women entrepreneurs. The 4WCW is a chance to exchange information and experiences about ideas that work.

The challenges women face are also similar. There is a whole range of inequalities that separate girls from

boys, and women from men. In too many parts of the world, girls are given less to eat, are provided with less medical care, and are forced to work harder and at an earlier age than boys. In the United States, women make up too large a percentage of those in poverty and constitute too small a percentage of those in power. These inequities exact an unacceptable cost in human potential and in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. They warrant our attention and action.

Americans have a stake in how women live around the world. Improving the status and lives of girls and women is an important goal in its own right. It is also the key to building a safer, more secure, and peaceful world.

Policies that improve the status of women enable communities to alleviate poverty, develop local economies, expand the number of educated and healthy citizens, sustain the environment, and strengthen families. Educating girls and women is one of the best development decisions any country can make.

Serious problems facing the world will never be solved until women are able to use their full potential on behalf of themselves, their families, and their global and local communities.

The Path to the 4WCW

The 4WCW is the latest in a continuum of recent international meetings that have underscored the importance of advancing the status of women:

- At the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders embraced the concept that the effective participation of women as environmental managers is vital to achieving sustainable development;
- At the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, governments acknowledged that women's rights are human rights—universal, inalienable, and indivisible—and that attention to gender-specific violations is necessary to ensure the enjoyment of human rights for all;
- The Cairo 1994 International Conference on Population and Development recognized women's

health and rights as the cornerstones of effective population and development policy; and

- At the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, governments determined that women's equality and political and economic empowerment are essential to combat poverty and social disintegration.

These conferences and the 4WCW build on previous UN efforts in support of women. The foundation for this increased empowerment and participation was laid during the UN Decade for Women, 1976-85. Throughout the decade, women and governments worked toward advancing the status of women under the themes of equality, development, and peace. The experience of the past 10 years, including both the progress made and the obstacles faced, has demonstrated that the essential ingredient for change is women's empowerment—access to and participation in all levels of decision-making and all institutions of society.

What Is at Stake

The 4WCW is an opportunity to reaffirm past commitments, link them to women's lives, and put them into action. In preparatory meetings for this historic gathering, a few important issues were left open, or unresolved, including some that were the subject of consensus at recent conferences. The U.S. will work to defend those hard-won and important agreements, and to proceed with the critical work of the 4WCW.

Much is at stake, including the idea that the world's nations can come together to craft solutions to our most serious problems. For that process to work, we must negotiate in good faith, abide by our commitments, and translate words into effective policies and actions.

U.S. Policy Goals

The following U.S. goals are embodied in the Platform for Action, and the international community has agreed to most of them. The exact language will be finalized at the 4WCW.

Improve Women's Economic Security

Although women have entered the labor force in record numbers over the last two decades, they comprise a majority of the world's poor. In some countries, 60-80% of the people in poverty are women. About 60% of poor adults in the United States are women.

The causes of women's poverty are complex. In many cases, women living in poverty reflect widespread economic underdevelopment, unemployment, and human suffering throughout a society. Women are afflicted by poverty for unique reasons as well. Women may be impoverished when they are left to raise children alone. Many fully employed women remain poor, confined to low-wage jobs or denied access to the education, credit, and resources needed to advance. Too few women receive training in science and technology—which can open the door to high-wage employment. Although the gap has narrowed in the U.S. since 1963 when women earned an average of 60 cents for every dollar men earned, there is still a gap between their wages—75 cents for every dollar. The gap is wider for some groups: in 1992, the average African-American woman earned 64 cents, and the average Hispanic woman 55 cents for every dollar men earned.

Women make great contributions to their families' well-being. When both wage-earning and unpaid work are taken into account, it is clear that women provide substantial, primary, or sole economic support to a large proportion of the world's families. In households with two wage-earning

parents, the father's income typically exceeds the mother's, yet mothers usually contribute a larger proportion of their income to family needs.

At the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, the international community agreed that women are pivotal in efforts to address poverty. The 4WCW will build on the Copenhagen agreement by offering an action plan to enhance women's economic self-reliance. It asks governments to remove legal and practical barriers that prevent women from obtaining training, credit, property, and opportunity, and urges support for women-owned businesses and micro-enterprises—especially in technical fields.

Women in the U.S. have progressed in this area. The number of women starting their own businesses has more than doubled in the last 10 years. During the current Administration, the U.S. Congress has made \$33 million available for small loans to those ventures through the Small Business Administration.

U.S. citizens' groups also are pioneering new ways to help women overcome poverty. Some help women break into technical, traditionally male-dominated occupations. For example, Orientation to Nontraditional Occupations for Women in Columbus, Ohio, trains low-income women for careers in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical engineering. As the U.S. works to implement the 4WCW Platform for Action, it will seek to replicate strategies such as these across the country.

Empower Women and Strengthen Families

Families are the most important unit of society. Within them, we develop self-esteem, learn how to care for others, and begin to develop our values. But families around the world are challenged as never before, and women and children bear the greatest burden. Policies that acknowledge the

realities of work and family life, and ensure a better balance of parental responsibility for children, are critical to improving the lives of women and strengthening families.

Countless families are struggling to make ends meet while caring for children and elderly family members. In most countries, it is difficult, and sometimes impossible, to sustain a family on one person's income. Therefore, economic necessity—and increased opportunity—have led millions of women to enter the paid labor force in recent years. Yet as their wage-earning responsibilities have increased, women have not experienced a corresponding lessening of their domestic duties.

At the same time, the number of single-parent households has soared. In the U.S., nearly one in five households with children is headed by a single parent—about twice as many as 15 years ago. Families are sundered for many reasons—divorce, death, war, or migration in search of economic survival and opportunity. But the result is often the same: Most single-parent families are headed by women, and many are desperately poor.

More than one-third of all female-headed families in the U.S. are living in poverty. In part, this is because fathers often fail to meet their obligations to their children when marriages break up. Two-fifths of divorced fathers do not pay court-ordered child support.

These trends add immeasurably to the difficulty of women's lives. They also deprive children of the resources and nurturance they need to thrive.

Governments and the private sector can ease the burdens on women by enacting policies that support children and the adults who care for them. For example, the U.S. Family and Medical Leave Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, guarantees that most workers will not have to choose between keeping their job and caring for a new child or sick family member. In the last year, the U.S. has also helped to strengthen families by providing new resources for child immunization, Head Start, family preservation and support services, and enforcement of child support.

The Platform for Action urges the adoption of policies that preserve the integrity of families, and recognizes the needs of those—such as single-parent families—that face special challenges. The platform seeks to encourage men to shoulder their full share of responsibility as parents, by promoting their involvement in child care as well as ensuring their contribution to the financial support of the children they father. It also suggests ways to increase the earning power of poor women—especially those with children—through training and self-help programs. Finally, the Platform for Action recommends measures—such as the Family and Medical Leave Act—that enable parents to better balance jobs and family responsibilities.

Promote Life-long Education

Education is a core American value. Without education, women and men are unable to participate effectively in a democracy, protect their health and that of their families, and contribute to and benefit from a rapidly changing economy. Although the gender gap in education is narrowing worldwide, about 130 million children—two-thirds of whom are girls—lack access to primary school. Nearly two-thirds of the illiterate people in the world are women.

Universal education helps girls and women fulfill their aspirations as individuals, strengthens families, and has well-documented benefits for the broader society. These include increased economic productivity; less dependence on government benefits; and families that are smaller, healthier, and better educated. The gains can be dramatic. For example, it has been shown that women's wages rise 10-20% for each year of education they receive. In the poorest countries, each year of basic education of mothers is associated with a 5-10% decline in child mortality.

In many parts of the world, discrimination limits girls' access to education. Because boys are seen as having greater earning potential, parents often are more willing to invest in education for their sons. In the U.S. and other countries where primary

education is universal, schools can fail to benefit girls in subtle ways. For example, researchers have found that in American schools, girls receive less attention, less praise and less detailed instruction from teachers than do boys. Worldwide, girls are steered into training for low-paying jobs. Girls and women remain under-represented in science and technical education—at a cost to both their future earning capacity and to the broader goal of social and economic development.

The platform asks governments to close the gender gap in primary and secondary schooling by the year 2005, and to ensure universal access to primary education by the year 2015. It suggests ways to attract more girls and women to fields of study where they are under-represented. It proposes to broaden women's access to technical training—including training in “non-traditional” careers and continuing education. It encourages adult and family engagement in learning to promote literacy for all. These goals are closely aligned to steps the Clinton Administration has already taken to strengthen and improve educational outcomes for students of all ages. Key to this effort is the implementation of national education goals now embodied in the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act. Education reform strategies include encouraging gender-equitable teaching and learning methods, eliminating gender-bias in curriculum materials, and involving girls and women in advanced math and science courses. The Administration's new School-to-Work systems link education and employment opportunities for girls and women through educational, mentoring, and training activities, particularly in non-traditional areas.

The Platform for Action also asks governments and schools of all kinds to develop education and training programs that are free of gender bias. U.S. citizens groups have been pioneers in developing programs and materials free of gender-bias. Organizations including Girls, Inc. and the American Association of University Women are working to ensure that schools give girls the encouragement

and opportunity they deserve. For example, a program called "Girls Can!" is developing community-based models for correcting gender-bias in education.

Improve Women's Health Throughout Their Lives

Health policies and services should enhance women's physical, psychological, and social well-being throughout the life span. Girls and women often face particular barriers to health care services they need—in part because of gender discrimination, poverty, or the lack of primary health care and social services. The platform calls for improving women's access to appropriate, affordable, and quality health care and related information and services. It acknowledges that programs and services must take into account women's multiple roles and responsibilities, including their role as primary custodians of family health.

Although women experience many of the same health problems as men, they face unique health risks as a result of both gender inequality and biological difference. Too often, women are subjected to the inappropriate or over-prescription of drugs, or medically unnecessary care including the overuse of Caesarian sections. The platform seeks to address these issues and calls for ensuring voluntary and informed consent for all health services. In addition, the platform makes specific reference to the importance of addressing physical and mental health issues associated with aging, nutrition, environmental and occupational health hazards, substance abuse—including tobacco and illegal drugs—and ensuring that girls and women of all ages with any form of disability receive supportive services. Special emphasis is placed on the prevention and early detection of health problems, particularly breast, cervical, and other cancers of the reproductive system.

The platform addresses important ethical issues such as eliminating practices of over-medication and medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions. It calls for ensuring responsible, voluntary, and informed consent for all health services. It advocates research actions—including research on how

gender-based inequalities affect women's health—to be taken by governments, the UN, health professions, and other appropriate governmental and private institutions.

Women of reproductive age face heightened health risks as well. Every year, 500,000 women die of pregnancy-related causes. Most of those deaths occur among women in developing countries who have had several closely spaced pregnancies or who resort to unsafe abortions. An African woman, for example, is 200 times more likely than a European woman to die in childbirth. Universal reproductive health care, including family planning, would go a long way toward preventing these deaths. It would also reduce infant mortality, by enabling women to avoid high-risk births. Better reproductive health care would also slow the deadly advance of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Women are the fastest-growing group of persons living with HIV/AIDS infection. Indeed, in some U.S. cities, AIDS already has become the leading cause of death among women aged 25-44.

In preparations for the 4WCW, controversy has flared over the Platform for Action's provisions on reproductive health. The platform reaffirms consensus language that was agreed to at the Cairo conference less than a year ago, which asks governments to ensure universal access to the full range of reproductive health services, including family planning, so that every child is wanted and supported as they deserve to be and women and men can exercise their right to decide the number, spacing, and timing of their children.

The document's provisions on abortion have been the source of much debate—and much misunderstanding. While declaring that "... in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning," the Platform for Action asks governments to address unsafe abortion as a major public health concern. It seeks to ensure that abortion services are safe when they are not against the law, to provide reliable and compassionate counseling for all women who have

unwanted pregnancies, and to provide humane care for all women who suffer the consequences of unsafe abortion.

This represents a hard-won consensus among delegates with diverse perspectives. These issues, in conjunction with the entire health section, are recognized by the U.S. as integral to a woman's ability to control her life and act as an equal partner in society. The U.S. supported that language in Cairo, and is committed to reaffirm it at the 4WCW.

The ICPD document defined a new direction for population policies, focusing on people's needs rather than demographic targets.

Protect the Human Rights of Women

In many countries, the human rights of women—and men—are violated by political persecution, torture, and disenfranchisement. But women face another dimension of injustice as well. Rape, domestic violence, and gender-based discrimination are among the abuses that disproportionately affect women in all parts of the world and prevent the full expression and enjoyment of their human rights.

Violence is a major threat to women's safety and bodily integrity. From battered women in the U.S. to the millions of impoverished women living in refugee camps, women of every class, race, and ethnicity are subject to violence and its aftermath. Women are most likely to encounter violence and abuse at home—at the hands of husbands and other male relatives. While the private nature of this crime makes it difficult to assess its full extent, research confirms its horrible and universal prevalence. Worldwide, domestic violence is the leading cause of death among women 14 to 44 years of age.

The human rights of women also encompass freedom from coercion in sexuality, contraception, and child-bearing. But many women lack these fundamental freedoms. Rape, forced prostitution, and forced marriage remain common—especially among girls and adolescents. And women's reproductive freedom has been violated by those in power seeking

to limit—or in some instances to increase—population growth. The Platform for Action condemns all such violations as abhorrent.

In 1993, delegates to the World Conference on Human Rights declared that the rights of women are an inalienable, integral, and indivisible part of universal human rights. The Platform for Action reaffirms that principle, and outlines specific actions for governments to protect and enhance those rights. For example, it calls on governments to take responsibility for preventing and punishing acts of violence against women. It also urges governments to review civil and customary law to eliminate gender-based discrimination, educate women about their legal and human rights, and condemn human rights violations of women.

Human rights issues have generated extensive debate during preparations for the 4WCW. Some delegations seek to renegotiate previously agreed human rights language from the Vienna and Cairo conferences. Again, the U.S. stands by those agreements and will work to uphold them.

The U.S. Government is committed to ensuring the human rights of women. The landmark 1994 Violence Against Women Act seeks to curb family violence in the U.S. and to help its victims by providing support networks and violence prevention programs in neighborhoods across the country. In addition, new provisions strengthen penalties for crimes against women including rape and spousal abuse. The Administration also has established an Office on the Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Department of Justice.

Protect and Support Girls and Youth

The skills, ideas, and energy of girls and young women are vital for us all to attain our goals. Yet, in many parts of the world, especially in cultures which prefer sons, discrimination can cost little girls their lives. Also, in those cultures girls suffer various forms of discrimination. They are often deprived of food and medical care. Research in Bangladesh found that boys under the age of five were given

16% more food than girls. A study in India found that girls were more than four times as likely as boys to suffer from acute malnutrition, but more than 40 times less likely to be taken to a hospital. Partly as a result, some 100 million women are missing from the world's population. The normal ratio of females to males at birth is 105 to 100, but in South Asia, West Asia, and China the ratio at birth is 94 girls to 100 boys.

The Platform for Action asks governments to eliminate preferences for sons through educational campaigns and other programs. It calls for public efforts to ensure that girls can realize their potential and develop self-esteem and to eliminate all forms of discrimination including in health, education, and forced child labor. It also asks governments for health and safety protections from all forms of violence.

Enable Women To Participate In Decision-making

When important policy decisions are made—in legislatures, boardrooms, and at negotiating tables—few women are likely to be present. Worldwide, women comprise only 10% of the members of all legislative bodies. In the U.S., men still hold 95% of senior management positions in business, although women comprise 46% of the labor force. Women also are under-represented in the ranks of scientific and technical experts who guide and influence government policy.

Women lack access to decision-making for many reasons. In some areas, women are barred from positions of power by law or custom. In others, laws have changed but centuries of discrimination have left a legacy of cultural conditioning that effectively prevents women from participating in public life. The 4WCW asks governments to remove barriers to women's full participation in all decision-making processes. At the same time, it seeks to overcome traditions of discrimination through leadership and self-esteem training for girls and women.

The Clinton Administration has been an active champion of women's participation in decision-making. The Administration has more women in

positions of real power—47%—than any before it. It has made a particular effort to appoint women to key policy-making positions in law enforcement, federal judgeships, and science and technology. Women now hold the following positions: Secretary of Energy; chief scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA; the Undersecretary of Commerce for Science and Technology; and Directors of Research and Development at the Departments of Defense and Energy.

Protect the Environment

Women must have a central place on the agenda for environmental protection in the 21st century if we are to protect our natural resources and leave our children a healthy environment.

Women play leadership roles in promoting an environmental ethic, reducing resource use, and reusing and recycling resources to minimize excessive consumption and waste. Women's contributions to environmental management—including grass-roots and youth campaigns to protect the environment—often have taken place at the local level, where decentralized action on environmental issues is most needed and decisive.

The 4WCW Platform for Action makes the important linkage between women's health and environmental protection by addressing the lack of information concerning women's susceptibilities and exposures to environmental hazards and toxic substances. This is particularly urgent in light of the increasing environmental hazards worldwide, particularly in rural and poor urban areas, and the platform is an important step forward in focusing global attention on this issue.

Encourage Citizen Involvement

Worldwide, women are the driving force in thousands of citizens' groups and NGOs that work to meet the needs of various groups in society, hold governments accountable, and improve the quality of life.

The U.S. Government believes that NGOs have a crucial role to play in shaping the 4WCW Platform for Action and ensuring its implementation. In preparations for all major UN conferences, the U.S. Government makes every effort to ensure the full participation of interested citizens and NGOs and to include NGOs on U.S. delegations. During the world summit in Copenhagen, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton applauded the important work of NGOs, often in partnership with our government. In preparation for the 4WCW, the Departments of State and Labor co-sponsored 10 regional meetings across the U.S. to obtain citizens' views on issues affecting women. NGOs will also be represented in the U.S. delegation to the 4WCW, and the U.S. regularly seeks citizen input and participation in preparations for the conference. During preparatory meetings for the 4WCW, the government held daily briefings for NGOs. In addition to monthly NGO briefings in Washington, DC, the U.S. also has hosted a series of open meetings to solicit citizen comment on issues in the platform.

In UN preparatory meetings for the 4WCW, the U.S. delegation has advocated language in the platform that encourages governments to work in partnership with NGOs, grant NGOs legal status, and protect their independence. The Clinton Administration also works with the UN to facilitate NGO participation in the conference by, for example, applying fair and transparent visa procedures to all who attend.

Commitments—Putting Words Into Action

To help ensure that the words agreed to come to life, the U.S. supported language in the draft platform that invites governments to come to Beijing ready to state specific national commitments for priority action. The U.S. will propose immediate steps it will take to improve girls' and women's lives. The U.S. currently receives input from citizens on policies, programs or legislative initiatives that should be undertaken to implement the platform.

The platform already contains two commitments:

- Governments should consult with citizens groups, private sector, and philanthropic institutions to discuss implementation strategies soon after the conference; and

- Have a national strategy to implement the platform by the end of 1996.

Conclusion

The Fourth World Conference on Women is an important milestone on the path to a future that is sustainable and just. We cannot address the problems that threaten a common future unless women are empowered to make the decisions that affect their lives—and the world.

The 4WCW document presents a plan of action that is fair and sensible. It acknowledges the rich context of women's lives, and addresses women's needs as individuals, as wives and mothers, as workers, and as members of the human community.

The U.S. supports the broad objectives of the 4WCW conference. It believes that implementation of the 4WCW Platform for Action will benefit American women, families, and communities. Perhaps most importantly, it will help ensure that our children—girls and boys—grow up in a world that appreciates the dignity and potential of each person. ■