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U.S. Delegation Briefing Book

U.N. Fourth World
Conference on Women



September 4-15, 1995
Beijing, China



U.S. Delegation

U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women

UN Fourth World Conference on Women
September 4-15, 1995
Beijing, Peoples' Republic of China

U.S. Delegation
BRIEFING BOOK

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1

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 7, 1995

U. S. DELEGATION TO THE
U. N. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Honorary Chair

The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, Chair and Head, U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations

The Honorable Donna Shalala, Co-Chair, Secretary of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Carol Browner, Co-Chair, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Timothy Wirth, Alternate Chair and Alternate Head, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs

The Honorable Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Deputy Chair; former Member of Congress from Pennsylvania

The Honorable J. Veronica Biggins, Vice Chair; Executive Search Consultant, Heidrick & Struggles; former Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel, the White House

The Honorable Geraldine A. Ferraro, Vice Chair; U. S. Ambassador to the U. N. Human Rights Commission

The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, Vice Chair; President of Drew University; former Governor of New Jersey

Government Delegates:

Evan Bloom, Attorney Advisor, Department of State

Iris J. Burnett, Chief of Staff, U. S. Information Agency

Bonnie J. Campbell, Director, Violence Against Women, Department of Justice

Mary Curtin, Human Rights Officer, Department of State

Nils Daulaire, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Agency for International Development

Kathleen Hendrix, Special Assistant, Global Conference Secretariat, Department of State

Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,
Department of Education

Melinda Kimble, Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Organization Affairs, Department
of State

Sharon Kotok, Officer in Charge of International Women's Programs, International
Organizational Affairs, Department of State

Sarah Kovner, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Health and Human Services

Madeleine M. Kunin, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education

Ginger Lew, General Counsel, Department of Commerce

Ambassador Victor Marrero, U. S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of
the United Nations

Ellen Marshall, Acting Senior Coordinator, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration,
Department of State

Jean Nelson, Counselor to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Karen Nussbaum, Director, Women's Bureau, Department of Labor

Jan Piercy, U. S. Executive Director, World Bank

Sally Shelton, Assistant Administrator, Agency for International Development

David Stewart, Assistant Legal Advisor, Department of State

Bisa Williams Manigault, Advisor, U. S. Mission to the United Nations

Non-Government Delegates:

Laila Al-Marayati, M.D., Obstetrician and Gynecologist; Assistant Professor, University of
Southern California School of Medicine; Vice-Chair, Muslim Women's League

Maria Antoinetta Berriozabal, Lecturer/Consultant; Hispanas Unidas, United States Delegate

to the Inter-American Commission on Women

Myrna Blyth, Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Director, Ladies' Home Journal

Elizabeth J. Coleman, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO, Maidenform, Inc.; Vice Chair, President's Export Council

Lynn Cutler, Senior Vice President, The Kamber Group

Felice D. Gaer, Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of the American Jewish Committee

Adrienne Germain, Vice President and Program Director, International Women's Health Coalition

Arthenia L. Joyner, Attorney and Founding Partner, Stewart, Joyner, Jordan-Holmes, Holmes, PA

Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, O.S.U., President, College of New Rochelle

Dorothy V. Lamm, Columnist, Denver Post; Faculty Member, Estes Park Institute

Marilyn Monahan, Secretary-Treasurer, National Education Association

San Juanita Munoz, Youth Delegate; Fellow; Carnegie Mellon University, Heinz School of Public Policy

Julia Taft, President and CEO, InterAction, the American Council for Voluntary International Action

Linda Tarr-Whelan, President and CEO, Center for Policy Alternatives

Virginia Trotter Betts, J.D., M.S.D, R.N., President, American Nurses Association

Susan Roosevelt Weld, Ph.D., Professor of Chinese and Japanese Law, Boston College

Marie C. Wilson, President, Ms. Foundation for Women

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DELEGATION ASSIGNMENTS

Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright -- Chairman
Under Secretary Timothy E. Wirth -- Alternate Chair

DELEGATION COORDINATION

Theresa Loar
Lycia Sibilla
Ann Ganzer

OUTREACH

Press/Related Outreach

Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky

Iris Burnett
Kathleen Hendrix
Martha Brown
Amy Sobel
Nanda Chitre

Coordination of US Participation in NGO Forum Events, Plenary Attendance and Country Outreach

Veronica Biggins and Tom Kean
Julia Taft

Plenary and Representational Assignments

Lynn Cutler

Regional Liaison/Country Contacts

Robin Bordie	China
Ginger Lew	Asia
Susan Weld	Asia
Arthenia Joyner	Africa
Maria Berriozabal	Latin America
Laila al-Marayati	Muslim World
Amb. Sally Shelton	Caribbean

US Participation in Parallel Events

Sarah Kovner

US NGO Briefing Coordination

Gracia Hillman
Jeff Meer

PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Bureau Meetings/Strategy

Ambassador Victor Marrero

TEAM 1: Resources/Institutions/Global Framework/Economics/ Education/Labor/Environment/Poverty

Administrator Carol Browner
Deputy Secretary Madeleine Kunin

Team Leader: Melinda Kimble
Deputy: Linda Tarr-Whelan

Evan Bloom	Elizabeth Coleman
Kathleen Hendrix	Kate Grant
Sharon Kotok	Judith Heumann
Jan Piercy	Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly
Margaret Pollack	Ginger Lew
Jeanie Nelson	Marilyn Monahan
Bisa Williams-Manigault	Karen Nussbaum
	Julia Taft
	Bob Ward

Declaration

Kathleen Hendrix
Margaret Pollack

TEAM 2: Human Rights/Violence Against Women/Decision-Making/Media

Team Leader: Ambassador Geraldine Ferraro

Victor Marrero	Laila al-Marayati
Mary Curtin	Maria Berriozabal
Peter Eicher	Myrna Blyth
Felice Gaer	Bonnie Campbell
David Stewart	Marie Wilson

TEAM 3: Health/Girls/Youth

Secretary Donna Shalala

Team Leader: Ellen Marshall

Nils Daulaire	Janie Munoz
Adrienne Germain	Ashley Maddox
Dottie Lamm	Marie Wilson
Margaret Pollack	Virginia Trotter Betts
	Alexandra Milonas

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Brief Overview of Issues
Related to the Platform for Action
UN Fourth World Conference on Women

Informal Negotiations in New York, 7/31 - 8/4

During consultations in New York last week, significant progress was made on negotiations over a number of contentious issues within the Platform for Action, the central document for the Conference.

For example, negotiators were able to resolve outstanding differences with the G-77 on a number of references to "structural adjustment." Agreement was also reached on how the proposed merger of UNIFEM and INSTRAW should be dealt with in the Platform. Negotiators agreed to omit from the document any reference to a Fifth World Conference on Women.

On human rights and refugee issues, important progress was made in agreeing that women refugees are often forced to flee for fear of persecution through sexual violence or other gender related persecution. Governments agreed that gender factors may be useful in determining whether potential refugees have well-founded fears of persecution. Also, consensus was reached on broadly interpreting the organs of the United Nations in which human rights of women are to be integrated.

Not all issues considered during these negotiations were settled. Unfortunately, negotiations bogged down over certain Islamic nations' insistence that women be treated "equitably" (most other nations agree that women should be treated "equally"). Also, despite broad agreement on the issue, an acceptable formulation to express the universality of human rights eluded negotiators.

Several other issues were not addressed at all during the one-week session including health, education and the environment. No further informal negotiations are scheduled between now and the Conference. The results of the informal negotiations last week will likely be formally ratified during the first day of the main committee meeting in Beijing.

Outstanding Issues in the Platform For Action

In addition to the issues covered during the informal sessions, significant discussion will continue in Beijing on a number of thematic issues. In the human rights area, for

example, there will continue to be efforts (which the United States and others will oppose) to imply or assert that human rights are culturally determined.

There continue to be far too many references to political issues in the Platform for Action that are extraneous to the advancement of women. The United States will seek the removal of as many of these references as possible.

Several African delegations will spearhead efforts to refer to harmful customary practices (e.g. female genital mutilation), which the United States will support.

Some delegations will seek references in the Platform for Action to the "right to development." The United States will work to ensure that any references adopted reflect the understandings reached at Vienna and Copenhagen that (a) the right pertains to individuals and not to states or groups; and (b) that the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of human rights.

The Platform should be strengthened in areas that call on governments to address poverty's differential impact on women and agree to take steps to ensure that women and girls have equal access to educational and employment opportunities; have equal opportunity to control of land, property, capital, and credit; and are included as equal participants in and beneficiaries of economic development.

The US will support language about innovative measures to promote women's participation in all aspects of economic development, including through non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs.

Some delegations will attempt to use the Platform to call for the allocation of new and additional resources to support elements of the Platform for Action. Due to international budget constraints however, agreement has not yet been reached on acceptable language. The United States will work to ensure that resources that are allocated are used in the most effective way possible to improve women's lives.

The Platform for Action could be improved by strengthening positive references to families and to motherhood and the United States will support inclusion of the positive aspects of these important issues. The Platform will also address the circumstances within families that need to be improved, including unacceptable conditions such as abuse and violence.

Women's health is an extremely important issue which has had very little negotiation in the preparatory process, requiring much work in Beijing. The United States has been and will continue to press to ensure access to appropriate, affordable and quality health care information and services through a woman's life, enhancing physical, psychological and social well-being. Issues related to 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 will be placed on prevention and early detection of health problems, including breast, cervical and other cancers of the reproductive system.

The United States will also seek to reaffirm the agreements made at the International Conference on Population and Development last September, particularly on reproductive health and rights. The Platform should reaffirm efforts to ensure that women have access to quality reproductive health services -- including family planning, safe delivery and post-natal care including breastfeeding and infant and women's health, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, safe abortion where it is legal, referrals for cancers and other reproductive illnesses, among others. Reproductive rights, named as such at the ICPD, embrace certain human rights that are already recognized and the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standards of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence. Both these issues are fundamental to women's empowerment.

The Platform should recognize the diversity of women, encourage the participation of all women in their society, and recognize the fact that some women face additional barriers to their advancement because of factors other than gender, including age, disabilities, membership in an ethnic or racial minority. It should, however, address these issues in appropriate places and avoid repetitive lists. Language which treats refugees, displaced, internally displaced and migrant women as a group and which inappropriately expands the scope of protection afforded should be avoided.

Concerning environmental issues, selective quotation of the text of Agenda 21 does not in all cases accurately reflect the need for developed and developing countries to work together for sustainable development. On certain issues, the United States will urge that language from subsequent UN Conferences, such as the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, on production and consumption patterns, be used.

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UNITED
NATIONS



FOURTH WORLD
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Beijing, China
4-15 September 1995

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.177/L.1
24 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE
PREPARATION OF A DRAFT DECLARATION

DRAFT PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Note by the Secretary-General

At its thirty-ninth session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 15 March to 7 April 1995, the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, decided to transmit to the Conference, for its consideration, the material for a draft declaration, contained in an informal paper, and the draft platform for action, contained in documents E/CN.6/1995/L.17 and the relevant addenda, as amended by the Commission.



I. PROPOSED BEIJING DECLARATION TO ACCOMPANY THE DRAFT PLATFORM
FOR ACTION: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA B. LIĆUANAN
(PHILIPPINES), CHAIRPERSON OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Representatives of regional groups and of countries at the consultations all agreed that there should be a declaration accompanying the Platform for Action. It was also agreed that negotiations on the text of the declaration were not yet possible but that ideas should first be solicited.

Below are the main points raised during the discussion.

General characteristics of the Declaration

1. Short and concise.
2. Understandable and appealing to a wide range of audiences. It should be able to communicate to parliamentarians and rural women alike what the Fourth World Conference on Women was about.
3. Focused on main (a few) "cross-cutting" themes rather than covering the 12 areas of concern in the Platform. It should present main messages rather than a summary.
4. Broad rather than specific or detailed.
5. Rousing and inspiring.

Main elements of the Declaration

Preamble

1. Expression of concern about the situation of women. A sense of urgency; need to act now.
2. Goals/objectives (what do we want from the Fourth World Conference on Women?)
 - Equality, development and peace (old goals which still have to be attained)
 - Themes that cut across all areas of concern:

Empowerment of women

Full and equal partnership between women and men

Mainstreaming women in the development process as agents as well as beneficiaries

Diversity of women and their situations

/...

3. Previous international instruments:

- Charter of the United Nations
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

4. Link with the past/historical context (what has been achieved so far?):

- 1945, United Nations
- 1975, Mexico
- 1980, Copenhagen
- 1985, Nairobi

Global environment (descriptive)

1. World changes, new century, new millennium
2. Situation of women

Enabling environment (prescriptive)

1. Empowerment of women
2. Full and equal partnership between women and men
3. Mainstreaming women in development
4. Faith/hope in future generations

Commitments

1. Conference on commitments
2. High-level political commitment to the implementation of the Platform for Action
3. Actions required at national and international levels

Finally, it was decided that the above summary, along with the four texts submitted, should be presented to the Commission in plenary meeting for discussion to the Conference. It is intended that these texts serve as the basis for drafting a Beijing declaration. The texts submitted by the Group of the European Union, the United States of America and Canada are contained in annexes I to IV below.

Annex I

INITIAL POSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77
(To be developed further by the Group of 77)

Beijing Declaration

We, the Governments, the women and men, participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women,

gathered here in Beijing, in September 1995, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations,

Reaffirming:

faith in the equal rights of women and men enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

the objectives of equality, development and peace in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

the commitment made through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Convinced:

that equal rights, equitable sharing of responsibilities, opportunities and harmonious partnership between women and men are vital to the well-being of humanity,

that sustained economic growth and sustainable development require full and equal participation of women and men as both agents and beneficiaries,

that national, regional and global peace is attainable and women are a fundamental force in leadership and for the promotion of lasting peace,

Determined:

to intensify efforts to achieve the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by the end of this century,

to take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and women and remove all obstacles to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls,

to promote and respect the human rights of women and girls,

to develop and mobilize the fullest potential of girls and women of all ages to build a better world for all,

Hereby adopt and commit ourselves to implement the following Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

/...

Annex II

EUROPEAN UNION POSITION ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION
SUBMITTED BY THE GROUP OF 77

The European Union supports the principle of a concise declaration drafted in language that is clear and understandable to all.

The Group of 77 text contains positive elements, but does not meet the expectations of the European Union. At this stage in the negotiations, however, it does not appear to be necessary to enter into a difficult drafting exercise.

The European Union would nevertheless like to bring to the attention of delegations a non-exhaustive list of important points which should be included in the Beijing Declaration:

- Promotion of women's economic independence, realization of their economic potential and the eradication of poverty
- Women's contribution to sustainable development
- Equal sharing of power and responsibility
- Respect for the human rights of women and girls
- Equal access to education and health care
- The role of women in promoting peace
- "Integration" of the question of the relationship between the sexes in all programmes and policies
- Reconciliation of family and professional life for women and men
- An end to violence
- Encouragement of women and men to work together for equality
- Empowerment of women

Annex III

AMENDMENTS TO THE INITIAL POSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77,
SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Beijing Declaration

We, the Governments, the women and men, participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women, gathered here in Beijing, in September 1995, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations,

Celebrating the voices of women from throughout the world, the work of women who paved the way before us and the hope present in our youth,

Recognizing:

that the world has undergone significant change in the past decade that has advanced the status of women in many aspects,

that now, more than ever before, the critical and multi-faceted roles of women in economic, social, cultural and political life are being duly affirmed,

that continuing poverty and failure to adhere to human rights threaten further improvements in the status of women,

Reaffirming:

faith in the equal rights of women and men enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

the objectives of equality, development and peace in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the commitment made through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

that the Fourth World Conference on Women builds upon the fundamental progress made at previous United Nations conferences - on women in Nairobi in 1985, on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, on human rights in Vienna in 1993 and on population and development in Cairo in 1994 - and at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995,

Convinced:

that equal rights, equal sharing of responsibilities, opportunities and harmonious partnership between women and men are vital to the well-being of humanity,

that sustainable development requires full and equal participation of women and men as both agents and beneficiaries,

that national, regional and global peace is attainable and women are a fundamental force in leadership and for the promotion of lasting peace.

Annex IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE INITIAL POSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77
SUBMITTED BY CANADA

Beijing Declaration

We, the Governments participating in the Fourth World Conference gathered here in Beijing, in September 1995, on the eve of the fifty anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, recognize that women has advanced in important respects in the past decade but that has been uneven and inequalities between women and men have continued serious consequences for the well-being of all people and requires in a spirit of hope and determination, now and to carry us forward century.

We reaffirm:

our commitment to the equal rights of women and men enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to the objectives of equality, development and peace in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and our obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the commitments made at previous summits and world conferences.

We are convinced that:

- equal rights, equal sharing of responsibilities and opportunities in all aspects of life and harmonious partnership between women and men are critical to the well-being of humanity
- people-centred sustainable development requires the full and equal participation of women and men as both agents and beneficiaries
- national, regional and global peace is attainable and women are a fundamental force in leadership and for the promotion of lasting peace
- it is both essential and possible to design and implement effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing policies that will foster sustainable development and peace.

We are determined to:

- intensify efforts to achieve the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by the end of this century
- take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and women and remove all obstacles to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls

- promote the full and equal participation of girls and women of all ages in building a better world for all.

We hereby adopt and commit ourselves, as Governments, to implement the following Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. We call upon the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and all other actors in civil society, as well as individual women and men, to fully contribute to the implementation of this agenda for action.

II. DRAFT PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Chapter I

MISSION STATEMENT

1. The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and at removing the all obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means that the principle of shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centred sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential, so that women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.
2. [The Platform for Action reaffirms the fundamental principle, set forth in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights that the human rights of women and of the girl (are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.. As an agenda for action, the Platform seeks to promote and protect [the full enjoyment of all universal] all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle.
3. The Platform for Action emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality around the world. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment.
4. The Platform for Action requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just, humane and [equitable] world based on the [universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the] principle of equality [and equity] for all people of all ages and from all walks of life.
5. The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels as well as [adequate] [new and additional] resources for the implementation of the agreements made; a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women.

Chapter II

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

6. The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace is taking place as the world stands poised on the threshold of a new millennium.

7. The present Platform for Action upholds the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 3/ and builds upon the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The formulation of the Platform for Action is aimed at establishing a basic group of priority actions that should be carried out during the next five years.

8. The Platform for Action recognizes the importance of the agreements reached at the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development which set out specific approaches and commitments to fostering sustainable development and international cooperation and to strengthening the role of the United Nations to that end. Similarly, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Nutrition, the International Conference on Primary Health Care and the World Conference on Education for All have addressed the various facets of development and [universally recognized] human rights, within their specific perspectives, paying significant attention to the role of women and girls. In addition, the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 4/ the International Year of the Family, 5/ the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 6/ the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, 7/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 8/ have also emphasized the issues of women's empowerment and equality.

9. [The Platform for Action is drawn up in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. It is recognized that the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and actions in all areas of concern are the responsibility of each country, with full respect for the various [religious and ethical values, cultural background and philosophical convictions of all its people] and in conformity with all [universal] human rights and fundamental freedoms.]

10. Since the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi in 1985, and the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the world has experienced profound political, economic, social and cultural changes, which have had both positive and negative effects on women.

11. [The World Conference on Human Rights recognized that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. [The universal nature of these human rights and freedoms is beyond question.] The full and equal participation of women in

II. DRAFT PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Chapter I

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3. The Platform for Action emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality around the world. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment.
4. The Platform for Action requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just, humane and [equitable] world based on the [universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the] principle of equality [and equity] for all people of all ages and from all walks of life.
5. The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels as well as [adequate] [new and additional] resources for the implementation of the agreements made; a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women.

countries of the same region, this process has been followed by armed conflict that has resulted in grave violations of human rights.]

18. Widespread economic recession, as well as political instability in some regions, has been responsible for setting back development goals in many countries. This has led to the expansion of unspeakable poverty. Of the more than 1 billion people living in abject poverty, women are an overwhelming majority. The rapid process of change and adjustment in all sectors has also led to increased unemployment and underemployment, with particular impact on women. In [many] cases, structural adjustment programmes have not been designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or on women, nor have they been designed to assure positive effects on those groups by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities. The Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations ^{2/} underscored the increasing interdependence of national economies, as well as the importance of trade liberalization and access to open, dynamic markets. There has also been heavy military spending in some regions. Despite increases in official development assistance (ODA) by some countries, ODA has recently declined overall.

19. Absolute poverty and the feminization of poverty, unemployment, the increasing fragility of the environment, continued violence against women and the widespread exclusion of half of humanity from institutions of power and governance underscore the need to continue the search for development, peace and security and for ways of assuring people-centred sustainable development. The participation and leadership of the half of humanity that is female is essential to the success of that search. Therefore, only [a just and equitable social and economic international order and] a radical transformation of the relationship between women and men to one of full and equal partnership will enable the world to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

20. Recent international economic developments have had in many cases a disproportionate impact on women and children, the majority of whom live in developing countries. For those States that have carried a large burden of foreign debt, structural adjustment programmes and measures, though beneficial in the long term, have led to a reduction in social expenditures, thereby adversely affecting women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. This is exacerbated when responsibilities for basic social services have shifted from Governments to women.

21. Economic recession in many developed and developing countries, as well as ongoing restructuring in countries with economies in transition, have had a disproportionately negative impact on women's employment. Women often have no choice but to take employment that lacks long-term job security or involves dangerous working conditions, to work in unprotected home-based production or to be unemployed. Many women enter the labour market in under-remunerated and undervalued jobs, seeking to improve their household income; others decide to migrate for the same purpose. Without any reduction in their other responsibilities, this has increased the total burden of work for women.

22. Macro and microeconomic policies and programmes, including structural adjustment, have not always been designed to take account of their impact on

political, civil, economic, social and cultural life at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.]

12. [The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments related to human rights and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.]

13. The end of the cold war has resulted in international changes and diminished competition between the super-Powers. The threat of a global armed conflict has diminished, while international relations have improved and prospects for peace among nations have increased. Although the threat of global conflict has been reduced, wars of aggression, armed conflicts, [alien domination and foreign occupation], civil wars, terrorism and [extremist violence] continue to plague many parts of the world. Grave violations of the human rights of women occur, particularly in times of armed conflict, and include murder, torture, systematic rape, [forced pregnancy] and forced abortion, in particular under policies of "ethnic cleansing".

14. The maintenance of peace and security at the global, regional and local levels, together with the prevention of policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing and the resolution of armed conflict, is crucial for the protection of the [universal] human rights of women and girl children, as well as for the elimination of all forms of violence against them and of their use as a weapon of war.

15. [Consequently, a huge portion of global expenditures has been devoted to the production of arms and trafficking and trade in arms, thus substantially reducing resources for social development. Moreover, the debt burden has forced many developing countries to undertake structural adjustment policies that are detrimental to their social development. The number of people living in poverty has therefore increased disproportionately in most developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted countries, during the past decade.]

16. [In this context, the social dimension of development should be emphasized. Accelerated economic growth, although necessary for social development, does not by itself improve the quality of life of the population: indeed, it can aggravate social inequality and marginalization. Hence, it is indispensable to search for new alternatives based on a holistic approach to all aspects of development: growth, equity, sustainable development, solidarity, participation, peace and respect for human rights.]

17. A worldwide movement towards democratization has opened up the political process in many nations, but the popular participation of women in key decision-making as full and equal partners with men, particularly in politics, has not yet been achieved. [South Africa's policy of institutionalized racism - apartheid - has been dismantled and a peaceful and democratic transfer of power has occurred.] [Similarly, in Central and Eastern Europe the transition to parliamentary democracy has been rapid and relatively peaceful. In some

advocacy role in advancing legislation or mechanisms to ensure the promotion of women. They have also become catalysts for new approaches to development. Many Governments have increasingly recognized the important role that non-governmental organizations play and the importance of working with them for progress. [Yet, in some countries, Governments continue to restrict the ability of non-governmental organizations to operate freely.] Women, through non-governmental organizations, have participated in and strongly influenced community, national, regional and global forums and international debates.

28. Since 1975, knowledge of the status of women and men, respectively, has increased and is contributing to further actions aimed at promoting equality between women and men. In several countries, there have been important changes in the relationships between women and men, especially where there have been major advances in education for women and significant increases in their participation in the paid labour force. The boundaries of the gender division of labour between productive and reproductive roles are gradually being crossed as women have started to enter formerly male-dominated areas of work and men have started to accept greater responsibility for domestic tasks, including child care. However, changes in women's roles have been greater and much more rapid than changes in men's roles. In many countries, the differences between women's and men's achievements and activities are still not recognized as the consequences of socially constructed gender roles rather than immutable biological differences.

29. Moreover, 10 years after the Nairobi Conference equality between women and men has still not been achieved. On average, women represent a mere 10 per cent of all elected legislators worldwide and in most national and international administrative structures, both public and private, they remain underrepresented. The United Nations is no exception. Fifty years after its creation, the United Nations is continuing to deny itself the benefits of women's leadership by their underrepresentation at decision-making levels within the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

30. [Women play a critical role in the family, the basic unit of society. States Parties that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have done so bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not fully recognized. They have also borne in mind the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and are aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between women and men and society as a whole.]

31. [Religion plays a central role in the lives of millions of women, in the way they live and the aspirations they have for the future. While any form of extremism, religious or secular, has a negative impact on women in the form of violence and discrimination, a moral and ethical climate that prevents all forms of corruption in society and exploitation of women is needed if equality, development and peace are to be realized. The serious issues with which the world is confronted today require a more effective response by societies not

women and girl children, especially those living in poverty. Poverty has increased in both absolute and relative terms, and the number of women living in poverty has increased in most regions. There are many urban women living in poverty; however, the plight of women living in rural and remote areas deserves special attention given the stagnation of development in such areas. In developing countries, even those in which national indicators have shown improvement, the majority of rural women continue to live in conditions of economic underdevelopment and social marginalization.

23. Women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. Growing numbers of women have achieved economic independence through gainful employment.

24. One fourth of all households worldwide are headed by women and many other households are dependent on female income even where men are present. Female-maintained households are very often among the poorest because of wage discrimination, occupational segregation patterns in the labour market and other gender-based barriers. Family disintegration, population movements between urban and rural areas within countries, international migration, war and internal displacements are factors contributing to the rise of female-headed households.

25. Recognizing that the achievement and maintenance of peace and security are a precondition for economic and social progress, women are increasingly establishing themselves as central actors in a variety of capacities in the movement of humanity for peace. Their full participation in decision-making, conflict prevention and resolution and all other peace initiatives is essential to the realization of lasting peace.

26. The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace should accelerate the process that formally began in 1975, which was proclaimed International Women's Year by the United Nations General Assembly. The Year was a turning-point in that it put women's issues on the agenda. The United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) was a worldwide effort to examine the status and rights of women and to bring women into decision-making at all levels. In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which entered into force in 1981 and set an international standard for what was meant by equality between women and men. In 1985, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to be implemented by the year 2000. There has been important progress in achieving equality between women and men. Many Governments have enacted legislation to promote equality between women and men and have established national machineries to ensure the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all spheres of society. International agencies have focused greater attention on women's status and roles.

27. The growing strength of the non-governmental sector, particularly women's organizations [and others that support feminist ideals] has become a driving force for change. Non-governmental organizations have played an important

37. [The major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances.] Therefore, equitable social development that recognizes empowering people living in poverty, particularly women, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. Women as citizens can help change consumption patterns in their multiple role as consumers, householders, workers and voters.

38. Global trends have brought profound changes in family survival strategies and structure[s]. Rural to urban migration has increased substantially in all regions. The global urban population is projected to reach 57 per cent of the total population by the year 2000. An estimated 125 million people are migrants, refugees and displaced persons, half of whom live in developing countries. These massive movements of people have profound consequences for family structure[s] and well-being and have unequal consequences for women and men, including in many cases the sexual exploitation of women.

39. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, by the beginning of 1995 the number of cumulative cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was 4.5 million. An estimated 19.5 million men, women and children have been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) since it was first diagnosed and it is projected that another 20 million will be infected by the end of the decade. Among new cases, women are twice as likely to be infected as men. In the early stage of the AIDS pandemic, women were not infected in large numbers; however, about 8 million women are now infected. Young women and adolescents are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that by the year 2000 more than 13 million women will be infected and 4 million women will have died from AIDS-related conditions. In addition, about 250 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases are estimated to occur every year. The rate of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, is increasing at an alarming rate among women and girls, especially in developing countries.

40. Since 1975, significant knowledge and information has been generated about the status of women and the conditions in which they live. Throughout their entire life cycle, women's daily existence and long-term aspirations are restricted by discriminatory attitudes, unjust social and economic structures, and a lack of resources in most countries that prevent their full and equal participation. In a number of countries, the practice of prenatal sex selection, higher rates of mortality among very young girls and lower rates of school enrolment for girls as compared with boys suggest that "son preference" is curtailing the access of girl children to food, education and health care [and even life itself]. [Discrimination against women begins even before birth and must therefore be addressed from birth/then onwards.]

41. [Girls of today are the women of tomorrow. The skills, ideas and energy of girls are vital for full attainment of the goals of equality, development and peace. [For a girl to develop her full potential she needs to be nurtured in an enabling environment, where her needs for survival, protection and development are met and her equal rights safeguarded.] [If women are to be equal partners with men, now is the time to recognize the [human] dignity and worth of the girl child and to ensure the full enjoyment of her human rights and fundamental

only to the material but also to the spiritual needs of individuals, including women.]

32. While the rate of growth of world population is on the decline, world population is at an all-time high in absolute numbers, with current increments approaching 90 million persons annually. Two other major demographic trends have had profound repercussions on the dependency ratio within families. In many developing countries, 45 to 50 per cent of the population is less than 25 years old, while in industrialized nations both the number and proportion of elderly people are increasing. According to United Nations estimates, by the year 2025 70 per cent of the population over 60 years of age will be living in developing countries, and more than half of that population will be women. Care of children, the sick and the elderly is a responsibility that falls disproportionately on women, owing to lack of equality and the unbalanced distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work between women and men.

33. Many women face particular barriers because of various diverse factors in addition to their gender. Often these diverse factors isolate or marginalize such women - they are, inter alia denied their [universal] human rights, they lack access or are denied access to education and vocational training, employment, housing and economic self-sufficiency and they are excluded from decision-making processes. Such women are often denied the opportunity to contribute to their communities as part of the mainstream.

34. The past decade has also witnessed a growing recognition of the distinct interests and concerns of indigenous women, whose identity, cultural traditions and forms of social organization enhance and strengthen the communities in which they live. Indigenous women often face barriers both as women and as members of indigenous communities.

35. In the past 20 years, the world has seen an explosion in the field of communications. With advances in computer technology and satellite and cable television, global access to information continues to increase and expand, creating new opportunities for the participation of women in communications and the mass media and for the dissemination of information about women. On the other hand, the global communication networks have been used to spread stereotyped and demeaning images of women for narrow commercial and consumerist purposes. Until women participate equally in both the technical and decision-making areas of communications and the mass media, including the arts, they will continue to be misrepresented and awareness of the reality of women's lives will continue to be lacking. [The commitment to promoting human values and dignity on the part of the mass media is seriously lacking].

36. Continuing environmental degradation that affects all human lives often has a more direct impact on women. Women's health and their livelihood are threatened by pollution and toxic wastes, large-scale deforestation, desertification, drought and depletion of the soil and of coastal and marine resources, with a rising incidence of environmentally related health problems and even death reported among women and girls. Those most affected are rural and indigenous women, whose livelihood and daily subsistence depends directly on sustainable ecosystems.

States have responded to the challenge by separately stating national commitments for national action within the context of the Platform for Action, which will result in practical outcomes for girls and women of all ages. The specific commitments of each nation appear in an annex to the present Platform for Action.]

Chapter III

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

43. The advancement of women and the achievement of [respect for their innate dignity and the fundamental] equality between women and men are [a matter of human rights and a condition for] [not simply an issue of] social justice and should not be seen in isolation as a women's issue. They are the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. Empowerment of women and equality [and equity] between women and men are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all peoples.

44. Most of the goals set out in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women have not been achieved. Barriers to women's empowerment remain, despite the efforts of Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and women and men everywhere. [Vast political, economic and sociological crises, systemic or de facto discrimination, armed conflict [colonial and other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation] [failure to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, including the right to development] and ingrained prejudicial attitudes towards women and girls are but a few of the impediments encountered since the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in 1985].

45. A review of progress since the Nairobi Conference highlights special concerns - areas of particular urgency that stand out as priorities for action. All actors should focus action and resources on the strategic objectives relating to the critical areas of concern which are, necessarily, interrelated, interdependent and of high priority. There is a need for these actors to develop and implement mechanisms of accountability for all the areas of concern.

46. To this end, Governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, are called upon to take strategic action in the following critical areas of concern [with full respect for religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms]:

- [• The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
- Unequal access to or inadequate educational and training opportunities of good quality at all levels
- Inequalities in health care and related services

freedoms.] [If tomorrow's women are to become equal partners with men in social change and development, now is the time to [accord the girl child her rightful share of human dignity and opportunity and ensure the full enjoyment [respect] of all human rights [and fundamental freedoms] [including by universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 10/ of the girl child]. Yet there exists worldwide evidence of discrimination and violence against girls [that begins even before they are born [from conception] and continues unabated throughout their lives.] They often have less access to nutrition, physical and mental health care and education and enjoy fewer rights, fewer opportunities and fewer benefits of childhood and adolescence than do boys. They are often subjected to sexual and economic exploitation, violence and harmful practices such as [foeticide], infanticide [at conception], [prenatal sex selection], incest female genital mutilation and early marriage. Their daily existence and long-term aspirations are restricted by attitudes, structures and lack of resources that prevent their full and equal participation in society.]

42. More than half the world's population is under the age of 25 and most of the world's youth - more than 80 per cent - live in developing countries. Policy makers must recognize the implications of these demographic factors. Special measures must be taken to ensure that young women have the life skills necessary for active and effective participation in all levels of social, cultural, political and economic leadership. It will be critical for the international community to demonstrate a new commitment to the future - a commitment to inspiring a new generation of women and men to work together for a more just society. This new generation of leaders must accept and promote a world in which every child is free from injustice, oppression and inequality and free to develop her/his own potential. The principle of equality [and equity] of women and men must therefore be integral to the socialization process.

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The following paragraph is proposed for inclusion in chapter IV:

[Short-term measures and the reformulation of long-term social policies and investments are required for a more [equitable] [equal] sharing of family responsibilities between women and men. [Women have different requirements at various stages of their life cycle, which need to be addressed by policy planning and programme and project implementation based on gender-sensitive analyses.]]

The following paragraph is proposed for inclusion in chapter V:

[The international conferences, summits and processes described above are evidence that there are significant challenges facing the world that the world is prepared to meet. Recognition of the role of women in meeting these challenges is a prerequisite for achieving equality and for the shared responsibility of women and men. International consensus exists on the role of women in development and the international community must commit itself to action to implement the strategies outlined in the Platform for Action. However, implementation also requires commitments from Governments. Thus, at the Fourth World Conference on Women is a conference of commitment and action,

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by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases, addiction and various forms of violence against women.]

A. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women

49. More than 1 billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, with origins in both the national and international domains. [The uncertain global economic climate has been accompanied by economic restructuring, persistent external debt problems and structural adjustment programmes.] [All types of conflict, displacement of people and environmental degradation have also further undermined the capacity of Governments to meet the basic needs of their populations.] The global transformations of the world economy are profoundly changing the parameters of social development in all countries. One significant trend has been the increased poverty of women, the extent of which varies from region to region. The gender disparities in economic power-sharing are also an important contributing factor to the poverty of women. [Full text on unemployment and underemployment to come.] Migration and consequent changes in family structures have placed additional burdens on women, especially those who provide for several dependants. Macroeconomic policies need rethinking and reformulation to address such trends. These policies focus almost exclusively on the formal sector. They also tend to impede the initiatives of women and fail to consider the differential impact on women and men. The application of gender analysis to a wide range of policies and programmes is therefore critical to poverty reduction strategies. [In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty.] The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all women to resources, opportunities and public services. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries - as mass poverty in many developing countries and as pockets of poverty amidst wealth in developed countries. Poverty may be caused by an economic recession that results in loss of livelihood or by disaster or conflict. There is also the poverty of low-wage workers and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

50. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. The feminization of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic and social transformation. In

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- All forms of violence against women [and the girl child]
- Effects of persecution and armed or other kinds of conflict on women [in particular those living under foreign occupation or alien domination]
- Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself
- Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels
- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
- Promotion and protection of all [universal] human rights of women
- Women and the media
- Women and the environment
- [Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of] [Survival, protection and development of] the girl child

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

47. In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. The strategic objectives are derived from the critical areas of concern, and specific actions to be taken to achieve them cut across boundaries of equality, development and peace - the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - and reflect their interdependence. The objectives and actions are interlinked, of high priority and mutually reinforcing. [The programme is intended to improve the condition of all women, irrespective of age, and, while recognizing the differences among women, it seeks to pay special attention to the groups of women that are at highest risk, as well as to rural, indigenous, disabled, refugee and displaced women.]

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. Many women face barriers related to their family status, particularly as single parents to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural or isolated areas and in impoverished areas in rural and urban environments, or to their status as immigrants. Particular barriers also exist for refugee, migrant and displaced women, as well as for those who are affected

technology, information, technical assistance and training so as to raise their income and improve nutrition, education and health care and status within the household. The release of women's productive potential is pivotal to breaking the cycle of poverty so that women can share fully in the benefits of development and in the products of their own labour.

58. Sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable are possible only through improving the economic, social, political, legal and cultural status of women. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development.

59. The success of policies and measures aimed at supporting or strengthening the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women should be based on the integration of the gender perspective in general policies relating to all spheres of society as well as the implementation of positive measures [with adequate institutional and financial support at all levels].

[Enable women to overcome poverty]

Strategic objective A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women to overcome poverty within the framework of sustainable development

Actions to be taken

60. By Governments:

- (a) [Review and modify, with the full and equal participation of women, macroeconomic and social policies with a view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action;]
- (b) [Analyse, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes - including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy - with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; assess their impact on family well-being and conditions; and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;]
- (c) [Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies, designed with the full and equal participation of women, that encourage broad-based sustained economic growth [in the context of people-centred sustainable development] [sustainable development centred on human beings], address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality;]

addition to economic factors, the rigidity of socially ascribed gender roles and women's limited access to power, education, training and productive resources [as well as emerging cultural and social factors that lead to instability and the deterioration of families] are also responsible. The failure to adequately mainstream a gender perspective in all economic analysis and planning and to address the structural causes of poverty is also a contributing factor.

51. Women contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. The empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

52. While poverty affects households as a whole, because of the gender division of labour and responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a disproportionate burden, attempting to manage household consumption and production under conditions of increasing scarcity. Poverty is particularly acute for women living in rural households.

53. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

54. In too many countries, social welfare systems do not take sufficient account of the specific conditions of women living in poverty, and there is a tendency to scale back the services provided by such systems. The risk of falling into poverty is greater for women than for men, particularly in old age, where social security systems are based on the principle of continuous remunerated employment. In some cases, women do not fulfil this requirement because of interruptions in their work, due to the unbalanced distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work. Moreover, older women also face greater obstacles to labour-market re-entry.

55. In many developed countries, where the level of general education and professional training of women and men are similar and where systems of protection against discrimination are available, in some sectors the economic transformations of the past decade have strongly increased either the unemployment of women or the precarious nature of their employment. The proportion of women among the poor has consequently increased. In countries with a high level of school enrolment of girls, those who leave the educational system the earliest, without any qualification, are among the most vulnerable in the labour market.

56. In countries with economies in transition and in other countries undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformations, these transformations have often led to a reduction in women's income or to women being deprived of income.

57. Particularly in developing countries, the productive capacity of women should be increased through access to capital, resources, credit, land,

full access to economic opportunities, and that the qualifications and skills of immigrant and refugee women are recognized;]

- (n) Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land, by, among other things, removing all obstacles to access, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household;
- (o) [In the event of a modification to paragraph 48 above or if an earlier section indicating groups of special concern is approved, subparagraph (o) will be deleted: Develop special programmes that reflect the specific needs of children, particularly girls, young women, older women and women with disabilities who are least able to gain access to social services and productive resources, as applicable;]
- (p) Formulate and implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives;
- (q) Create social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives;
- (r) Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy, especially designed to reach women living in poverty;
- (s) Take particular measures to promote and strengthen policies and programmes for indigenous women with their full participation and respect for their cultural diversity, so that they have opportunities and the possibility of choice in the development process in order to eradicate the poverty that affects them.

61. By multilateral financial and development institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional development institutions, and through bilateral development cooperation:

- (a) [[Increase resources allocated] [Allocate resources as appropriate] to the elimination of [absolute] poverty and target women [and families] in poverty.] [Support the developing countries through the allocation of new and additional resources for the eradication of poverty and target women living in poverty];
- (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;

- (d) [Implement sound macroeconomic and sectoral policies, designed and monitored with the full participation of women, that encourage broad-based sustained economic growth in the context of [people-centred] sustainable development [centred on human beings], address the structural causes of poverty and are geared to eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality;]
- (e) Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures to promote women's economic opportunities and equal [and more equitable] access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those living in poverty;
- (f) Develop agricultural and fishing sectors, where and as necessary, in order to ensure, as appropriate, household and national food security and food self-sufficiency, by allocating the necessary financial, technical and human resources;
- (g) Develop policies and programmes to promote equitable distribution of food within the household;
- (h) Provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based [and community-based] support systems, as an integral part of social policy, in order to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve their livelihood, as and revenues in times of crisis;
- (i) Generate economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers in both the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment;
- (j) Formulate and implement, when necessary, specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies in support of female-headed households;
- (k) Develop and implement anti-poverty programmes, including employment schemes, that improve the access to food for women living in poverty, including through the use of appropriate pricing and distribution mechanisms;
- (l) [Introduce measures for the empowerment of women migrants and internally displaced women through the easing of stringent and restrictive migration policies, recognition of qualifications and skills of documented immigrants and their full integration into the labour force, and the undertaking of other measures necessary for the full realization of the human rights of internally displaced persons];
- (m) [Introduce measures to integrate or reintegrate women living in poverty and socially marginalized women into productive employment the economic mainstream, ensure that internally displaced women

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- (d) Women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with the Government and private sectors, should develop a comprehensive national strategy for improving health, education and social services so that girls and women of all ages living in poverty have full access to such services. Funding should be sought to secure access to services with a gender perspective and to extend those services in order to reach the rural and remote areas that are not covered by government institutions;
- (e) Women's organizations and non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with Governments, employers, other social partners and relevant parties, should develop education and training and retraining policies to ensure that women can acquire a wide range of skills to meet new demands. Policies are needed to ensure the provision of basic education, to provide vocational and technical training for girls and women of all ages and to increase access to education in science and technology, mathematics, engineering, information technology and high technology, as well as management training;
- (f) Women's human right to equal access to and control of land, property and credit must be upheld, regardless of customary laws, traditions and practices related to inheritance and marriage. Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should mobilize to protect the traditional land and property rights of all women, including pastoralists, fishery workers and nomadic groups, indigenous peoples, refugees and migrant workers.]

*Strategic objective A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to recognize women's rights to economic resources and to ensure women's access to economic resources

Actions to be taken

63. By Governments:

- (a) Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy, especially designed to reach women living in poverty;
- (b) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to [ownership of land] and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;
- (c) Consider ratification of Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as part of their efforts to promote and protect the rights of indigenous people.

* It is proposed to move this section to F.2.

- (c) [Cancel or substantially reduce the debt burden, or convert the debt service of developing countries, in particular the highly indebted low-income countries, in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women, and to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development without falling into a new debt crisis;]
- (d) Ensure that structural adjustment programmes are designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and communities and to assure their positive effects on such groups and communities by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities and devising measures to ensure that they gain access to and control over economic resources and economic and social activities; actions should be taken to reduce inequality and economic disparity;
- (e) Review the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods, in order to develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact, ensuring that women do not bear a disproportionate burden of transition costs; complement adjustment lending with enhanced, targeted social development lending;
- (f) Create an enabling environment that allows women to build and maintain sustainable livelihoods.

62. [By national and international non-governmental organizations and women's groups:

- (a) All parties involved in the development process, including academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots and women's groups, should mobilize to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes directed towards the poorest and most disadvantaged groups of women, such as rural and indigenous women, female heads of households, young women and older women, refugees and migrant women and women with disabilities. However, Governments should not abrogate their responsibility for providing for social well-being by shifting social responsibility to non-governmental organizations and women;
- (b) Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should organize pressure groups and establish monitoring mechanisms and other relevant activities to ensure implementation of the recommendations on poverty outlined in the Platform for Action. These activities should aim at ensuring accountability and transparency from the State and private sectors;
- (c) Women's organizations should include in their activities women with diverse needs by age, ethnicity and culture. They should recognize that youth organizations are increasingly becoming effective partners in development programmes;

[Increase] [Provide adequate] funding for programmes and projects designed to promote sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities for income-generation among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty.

Strategic objective A.4. Conduct research in order to enable women to overcome poverty

Actions to be taken

69. By Governments, intergovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions and the private sector:

- (a) Develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives into all aspects of economic policy-making, including structural adjustment planning and programmes;
- (b) Apply these methodologies in conducting gender-impact analyses of all policies and programmes, including structural adjustment programmes, and disseminate the research findings.

70. By national and international statistical organizations:

- (a) Collect gender and age-disaggregated data on poverty and all aspects of economic activity and develop qualitative and quantitative statistical indicators to facilitate the assessment of economic performance from a gender perspective;
- (b) Devise suitable statistical means to recognize and make visible the full extent of the work of women and all their contributions to the national economy, including their contribution in the unremunerated and domestic sectors, and examine the relationship of women's unremunerated work to the incidence of and their vulnerability to poverty.

B. Unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities

71. Education is a basic [human] right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys, and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men. Equality of access to and attainment of educational qualifications is necessary if more women are to become agents of change. Literacy of women is an important key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family and to empowering women to participate in decision-making in society. Investing in formal and non-formal education and training for girls and women, with its exceptionally high social and economic return, has proved to be one of the best means of achieving sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable.

Strategic objective A.3. Provide women with access to savings mechanisms and institutions and to credit

Actions to be taken

64. By Governments:

- (a) Enhance the access of disadvantaged women, including women entrepreneurs, in rural, remote and urban areas to financial services through strengthening links between the formal banks and intermediary lending organizations, including legislative support, training for women and institutional strengthening for intermediary institutions with a view to mobilizing capital for those institutions and increasing the availability of credit;
- (b) Encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women.

65. By commercial banks, specialized financial institutions and the private sector in examining their policies:

- (a) Use credit and savings methodologies that are effective in reaching women in poverty and innovative in reducing transaction costs and redefining risk;
- (b) Open special windows for lending to women, including young women, who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;
- (c) Simplify banking practices, for example by reducing the minimum deposit and other requirements for opening bank accounts;
- (d) Ensure the participation and joint ownership, where possible, of women clients in the decision-making of institutions providing credit and financial services.

66. By multilateral and bilateral development cooperation organizations:

Support, through the provision of capital and/or resources, financial institutions that serve low-income, small-scale and micro-scale women entrepreneurs and producers, in both the formal and informal sectors.

67. By Governments and multilateral financial institutions, as appropriate:

Support institutions that meet performance standards in reaching large numbers of low-income women and men through capitalization, refinancing and institutional development support in forms that self-sufficiency.

68. By international organizations:

and science and technical training, which provide knowledge they could apply to improve their daily lives and enhance their employment opportunities. Advanced study in science and technology prepares women to take an active role in the technological and industrial development of their countries, thus necessitating a diverse approach to vocational and technical training. Technology is rapidly changing the world and has also affected the developing countries. It is essential that women not only benefit from technology, but also participate in the process from the design to the application, monitoring and evaluation stages.

78. [It can be ascertained that, particularly in the developed countries, a substantial improvement in the situation of girls at all levels of education, including the higher level, is one of the factors of their continued progress in professional activities. Nevertheless, it can be noted that girls are still concentrated in a [too] limited number of [the higher] branches.] Even at a higher level of educational qualification, women encounter more prejudices than men in a number of sectors, which makes it difficult for them to maximize the use of their degrees.

79. The mass media are a powerful means of education. As an educational tool the mass media can be an instrument for educators and governmental and non-governmental institutions for the advancement of women and for development.

Computerized education and information systems are increasingly becoming an important element in learning and dissemination of knowledge. Television especially has the greatest impact on young people and, as such, has the ability to shape values, attitudes and perceptions of women and girls in both positive and negative ways. It is therefore essential that educators teach critical judgement and analytical skills.

80. [Resources allocated to education in many countries are insufficient and where structural adjustment programmes are in place, are sometimes further diminished. This has a long-term adverse effect on human development, particularly on the development of women.]

81. In addressing unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.

[Ensure women's access to quality education and training for self-reliance at all levels and in all fields and sectors]

Strategic objective B.1. Ensure equal access to education

Actions to be taken

. By Governments:

- (a) [Attain the goals of equal access to education without distinction as to sex, race, national origin, age or disability, or any other form of

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72. On a regional level, girls and boys have achieved equal access to primary education, except in some parts of Africa, in particular sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Asia, where access to education facilities is still inadequate. Progress has been made in secondary education, where equal access of girls and boys has been achieved in some countries. Enrolment of girls and women in tertiary education has increased considerably. In many countries, private schools have also played an important complementary role in improving access to education at all levels. Yet, more than five years after the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) adopted the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, 11/ approximately 100 million children, including at least 60 million girls, are without access to primary schooling, and more than two thirds of the world's 960 million illiterate adults are women. The high rate of illiteracy prevailing in most developing countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa and some Arab States, remains a severe impediment to the advancement of women and to development.

73. Discrimination in girls' access to education persists in many areas, owing to customary attitudes, [early marriages] and pregnancies, inadequate and gender-biased teaching and educational materials, [sexual harassment] and lack of adequate and physically and otherwise accessible schooling facilities. Girls undertake heavy domestic work at a very early age. Girls and young women are expected to manage both educational and domestic responsibilities, often resulting in poor scholastic performance and early drop-out from the education system. This has long-lasting consequences for all aspects of women's lives.

74. [Creation of a healthy educational and social environment, in which all human beings, men and women, boys and girls, are consistently encouraged to foster moral and spiritual values, would be extremely effective in the elimination of causes of discrimination against women and inequalities between men and women.]

75. Women should be enabled to benefit from an ongoing acquisition of knowledge and skills beyond those acquired during youth. This concept of lifelong learning includes knowledge and skills gained in formal education and training, as well as learning that occurs in informal ways, including volunteer activity, unremunerated work and traditional knowledge.

76. Curricula and teaching materials remain gender-biased to a large degree, and are rarely sensitive to the specific needs of girls and women. This reinforces traditional female and male roles that deny women opportunities for full and equal partnership in society. Lack of gender awareness by educators at all levels strengthens existing inequities between males and females by reinforcing discriminatory tendencies and undermining girls' self-esteem. [The lack of sexual and reproductive education has a profound impact on women and men] [taking into account the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child].

77. Science curricula in particular are gender-biased. Science textbooks not relate to women's and girls' daily experience and fail to give recognition to women scientists. Girls are often deprived of basic education in mathematics

- (i) Make available non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive professional school counselling and career education programmes to encourage girls to pursue academic and technical curricula in order to widen their future career opportunities;
- (j) Encourage ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 12/ where they have not already done so.

Strategic objective B.2. Eradicate illiteracy among women worldwide [by the year 2000]

Actions to be taken

83. By Governments, national, regional and international bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations:

- (a) Reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on rural women, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and women with disabilities;
- (b) Provide universal access to, and seek to ensure gender equality in the completion of, primary education for girls by the year 2000;
- (c) Eliminate the gender gap in basic and functional literacy, as recommended in the World Declaration on Education for All (Jomtien);
- (d) Narrow the disparities between developed and developing countries;
- (e) Encourage adult and family engagement in learning to promote total literacy for all people;
- (f) [Expand the definition of literacy to include scientific and technological knowledge.]

Strategic objective B.3. Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology and continuing education

Actions to be taken

84. By Governments, in cooperation with employers, workers and trade unions, international and non-governmental organizations, including women's and youth organizations, and educational institutions:

- (a) Develop and implement education, training and retraining policies for women, especially young women and women re-entering the labour market, to provide skills to meet the needs of a changing socio-economic context for improving their employment opportunities;

discrimination and ensure that procedures to address grievances are established;]

- (b) By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children; closing the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005; universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015;
- (c) Eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of tertiary education by ensuring that women have equal access to career development, training, scholarship and fellowship, and by adopting positive action when appropriate;
- (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;
- (e) Provide - in collaboration with parents, non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations, communities and the private sector - young women with academic and technical training, career planning, leadership and social skills and work experience to prepare them to participate fully in society;
- (f) Increase enrolment and retention rates of girls by allocating appropriate budgetary resources and by enlisting the support of parents and the community, as well as through campaigns, flexible school schedules, incentives, scholarships and other means to minimize the costs of girls' education to their families [and to facilitate parents' ability to choose quality education for the girl child];

[by ensuring that the rights of women and girls to freedom of conscience and religion are respected in educational institutions]
[through repealing any discriminatory laws or legislation based on religion, race or culture];
- (g) Promote an educational setting that eliminates all barriers that impede the schooling of pregnant adolescents and young mothers, including, as appropriate, affordable and physically accessible child-care facilities and parental education to encourage those who are responsible for the care of their children and siblings during their school years, to return to, or continue with and complete schooling;
- (h) [Improve the equality of education to ensure that women of all ages are provided with the knowledge, reasoning ability, skills and ethical values required to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and to participate fully in the social, economic and political process of development. In this regard, women and girls should be considered a priority group;]

Strategic objective B.4. Develop non-discriminatory
education and training

Actions to be taken

85. By Governments, educational authorities and other educational and academic institutions:

- (a) Elaborate recommendations and develop curricula, textbooks and teaching aids free of gender-stereotypes for all levels of education, including teacher training, in association with all concerned: publishers, teachers, public authorities and parents associations;
- (b) [Develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators that raise awareness about the status, role and contribution of women and men in the family and society; in this context, promote equality, [equity], cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibilities between girls and boys [at an appropriate age, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children] [from pre-school level onward] [and develop, in particular, educational modules to ensure that boys have the skills necessary to take care of their own domestic needs and to share responsibility for their household and for the care of dependants];]
- (c) Develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators that raise awareness of their own role in the educational process, with a view to providing them with effective strategies for gender-sensitive teaching;
- (d) Take actions to ensure that female teachers and professors have the same opportunities as and equal status with male teachers and professors, in view of the importance of having female teachers at all levels and in order to attract girls to school and retain them in school;
- (e) Introduce and promote training in peaceful conflict resolution;
- (f) Take positive measures to increase the proportion of women gaining access to educational policy- and decision-making, particularly women teachers at all levels of education and in academic disciplines that are traditionally male-dominated, such as the scientific and technological fields;
- (g) Support and develop gender studies and research at all levels of education, especially at the postgraduate level of academic institutions, and apply them in the development of curricula, including university curricula, textbooks and teaching aids, and in teacher training;

- (b) Provide recognition to non-formal educational opportunities for girls and women in the educational system;
- (c) Provide information to women and girls on the availability and benefits of vocational training, training programmes in science and technology and programmes of continuing education;
- (d) Design educational and training programmes for women who are unemployed in order to provide them with new knowledge and skills that will enhance and broaden their employment opportunities, including self-employment, and development of their entrepreneurial skills;
- (e) Diversify vocational and technical training and improve access for and retention of girls and women in education and vocational training in such fields as science, mathematics, engineering, environmental sciences and technology, information technology and high technology, as well as management training;
- (f) Promote women's central role in food and agricultural research, extension and education programmes;
- (g) Encourage the adaptation of curricula and teaching materials, encourage a supportive training environment and take positive measures to promote training for the full range of occupational choices of non-traditional careers for women and men, including the development of multidisciplinary courses for science and mathematics teachers to sensitize them to the relevance of science and technology to women's lives;
- (h) Develop curricula and teaching materials and formulate and take positive measures to ensure women better access to and participation in technical and scientific areas, especially areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented;
- (i) Develop policies and programmes to encourage women to participate in all apprenticeship programmes;
- (j) Increase training in technical, managerial, agricultural extension and marketing areas for women in agriculture, fisheries, industry and business, arts and crafts, to increase income-generating opportunities, women's participation in economic decision-making, in particular through women's organizations at the grass-roots level, and their contribution to production, marketing, business, and science and technology;
- (k) Ensure access to [quality] education and training at all appropriate levels for adult women with little or no education, for women with disabilities and for documented migrant, refugee and displaced women to improve their work opportunities.

- (q) Promote education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media - for example, radio programmes, cassettes and mobile units;
- (r) Provide non-formal education, especially for rural women, in order to realize their potential with regard to health, micro-enterprise, agriculture and legal rights;
- (s) [Remove all barriers to the schooling of pregnant girls and young mothers and provide child care and other support services.]

*Strategic objective B.5. Allocate sufficient resources for educational reforms and monitor implementation

Actions to be taken

86. By Governments:

- (a) Provide the required budgetary resources to the educational sector, with reallocation within the educational sector to ensure increased funds for basic education, as appropriate;
- (b) Establish a mechanism at appropriate levels to monitor the implementation of educational reforms and measures in relevant ministries, and establish technical assistance programmes, as appropriate, to address issues raised by the monitoring efforts.

87. [By Governments,] [Invite] private and public institutions, foundations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations:

- (a) [[to] mobilize additional funds [from organizations in the private sector] [, whenever necessary,] [to meet] [to assist in meeting] the costs of education [for all girls and women with a particular emphasis on under-served populations];]
- (b) Provide funding for special programmes, such as programmes in mathematics, science and computer technology, to advance opportunities for all girls and women.

88. By multilateral development institutions, including the World Bank, regional development banks, bilateral donors and foundations [, consider]:

- (a) Increase[ing] funding for the education and training needs of girls and women as a priority in development assistance programmes;

* It is proposed to consider this section in chapters V and VI.

- (h) Develop leadership training and opportunities for all women to encourage them to take leadership roles both as students and as adults in civil society;
- (i) Develop appropriate education and information programmes with due respect to multilingualism, particularly in conjunction with the mass media, that make the public, particularly parents, aware of the importance of non-discriminatory education for children and the equal sharing of family responsibilities between girls and boys;
- (j) Develop human rights education programmes that incorporate the gender dimension at all levels of education, in particular by encouraging higher education institutions, especially in their graduate and postgraduate juridical, social and political science curricula, to include the study of the human rights of women as they appear in United Nations conventions;
- (k) Remove legal and regulatory barriers to [sexual and reproductive health] education within formal education [regarding women's health issues];
- (l) [Encourage, with the support of their parents and in cooperation with educational staff and institutions, the elaboration of educational programmes for girls and boys and the creation of integrated services related to youth sexuality, to raise awareness of their responsibilities and to help them to assume those responsibilities, taking into account the importance of such education and services to personal development and self-esteem, as well as the urgent need to avoid unwanted pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, and phenomena such as sexual violence and abuse];
- (m) Provide accessible recreational and sports facilities and establish and strengthen gender-sensitive programmes for girls and women of all ages in education and community institutions and support the advancement of women in all areas of sport and physical activity, including coaching, training and administration, and as participants at the national, regional and international levels;
- (n) Recognize and support the right of indigenous women and girls to education; promote a multicultural approach to education that is responsive to the needs, aspirations and cultures of indigenous women, including by developing appropriate education programmes, curricula and teaching aids, to the extent possible in the languages of indigenous people and by providing for the participation of indigenous women in these processes;
- (o) Acknowledge and respect the artistic, spiritual and cultural activities of indigenous women;
- (p) [Ensure that gender, cultural and religious diversity are respected in educational institutions and reflected in educational materials;]

private life. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Women's health involves their emotional, social and physical well-being, and is determined by the social, political and economic context of their lives, as well as by biology. However, health and well-being elude the majority of women. [The major] barrier for women to the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health is inequality, both between men and women and [among women]. In national and international forums, women have emphasized that to attain optimal health throughout the life cycle, equality, including the sharing of family responsibilities, development and peace are necessary conditions.

92. Women have different and unequal access to and use of basic health resources, including primary health services for the prevention and treatment of childhood diseases, malnutrition, anaemia, diarrhoeal diseases, communicable diseases, malaria and other tropical diseases and tuberculosis, among others. Women also have different and unequal opportunities for the protection, promotion and maintenance of their health. In many developing countries, the lack of emergency obstetric services is also of particular concern. Health policies and programmes often perpetuate [gender] stereotypes and fail to consider socio-economic disparities and other differences among women and may not fully take account of the lack of autonomy of women regarding their health. Women's health is also affected by [gender] bias in the health system and by the provision of inadequate and inappropriate medical services to women.

93. In many countries, in particular developing and least-developed countries, [structural adjustment,] [the deterioration of public health systems, a decrease in public health spending and, in some cases, increasing privatization of health-care systems without appropriate guarantees of universal access] further reduce health-care availability. This situation not only directly affects the health of girls and women, but also places disproportionate responsibilities on women, whose multiple roles, including their roles within the family and the community, are often not acknowledged; hence they do not receive the necessary social, psychological and economic support.

94. Women's right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health must be secured throughout the whole life cycle in equality with men. Women are affected by many of the same health conditions as men, but women experience them differently. The prevalence among women of poverty and economic dependence, their experience of violence, negative attitudes towards women and girls, discrimination due to race and other forms of discrimination, [the limited power many women have over their sexual and reproductive lives] and lack of influence in decision-making are social realities which have an adverse impact on their health. Lack of and inequitable distribution of food for girls and women in the household, inadequate access to safe water, sanitation facilities and fuel supplies, particularly in rural and poor urban areas, and deficient housing conditions, all overburden women and their families and have a negative effect on their health. Good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life [and the right of all women to control their own fertility is basic to their empowerment].

95. Discrimination against girls, often resulting from son preference, in access to nutrition and health-care services endangers their current and future

- (b) [Maintain[ing] or increase[ing] funding levels for education in structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes, including lending and stabilization programmes.]

89. By international and intergovernmental organizations, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), at the global level:

- (a) [Monitor progress, using educational indicators generated by national, regional and international bodies, and make Governments accountable for implementing measures to close the gap between women and men in education and training opportunities, and in the levels of achievement in all fields, particularly primary and literacy programmes];
- (b) Provide technical assistance upon request to developing countries to strengthen the capacity to monitor progress in closing the gap between women and men in education, training and research, and in levels of achievement in all fields, particularly basic education and elimination of illiteracy;
- (c) Conduct an international campaign promoting the right of women and girls to education;
- (d) [Allocate a minimum percentage of assistance to basic education for women and girls.]

Strategic objective B.6. [To promote lifelong learning [educational processes] for girls and women]

Actions to be taken

90. By Governments, educational institutions and communities:

- (a) Ensure the availability of a broad range of educational and training programmes that lead to ongoing acquisition by women and girls of the knowledge and skills required for living in, contributing to and benefiting from, their communities and nations;
- (b) Provide support for child care and other services to enable mothers to continue their schooling;
- (c) Create flexible education, training and retraining programmes for lifelong learning that facilitate transitions between women's activities at all stages of their lives.

C. Inequalities in access to health and related services

91. Women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard physical and mental health. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their life and well-being and their ability to participate in all areas of public and

in some countries with economies in transition.* [Unsafe abortions] threaten the lives of a large number of women, representing a grave public health problem as it is primarily the poorest and youngest who take the highest risk. [Most of these deaths, health problems and injuries are preventable, [through improved access to adequate health-care services including safe and effective family planning methods and emergency obstetric care] [recognizing the right of women and men to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant.] [These problems and means should be addressed on the basis of the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, with particular reference to paragraphs [1.15], [7.1], 7.2, 7.3, 7.6 and 8.25, among others, of the Programme of Action of the Conference. 13/] In most countries, the neglect of women's [reproductive rights] severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including opportunities for education and economic and political empowerment. [The ability of women to control their own fertility forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights.] Shared responsibility between women and men in matters related to sexual and reproductive behaviour is also essential to improving women's health.

HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, the transmission of which sometimes a consequence of sexual violence, are having a devastating effect on women's health, particularly the health of adolescent girls and young women. Women [and adolescent girls often do not have the power to insist on safe sex practices] [are not able to insist on responsible sexual behaviour on the part of their partners] and have little access to information and services for prevention and treatment. Women, who represent half of all adults newly infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, have emphasized that social vulnerability and the unequal power relationships between women and men [are obstacles to negotiating safe sex], in their efforts to control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The consequences of HIV/AIDS reach beyond women's health to their role as [mothers,] caregivers and their contribution to the economic support of their families. The social, developmental and health consequences of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases need to be seen from a [gender] perspective.

100. Sexual and [gender-based] violence, including physical and psychological abuse, trafficking in women and girls, other forms of abuse [and prostitution] place girls and women at high risk of physical and mental trauma, disease [and unwanted pregnancy]. Such situations often deter women from using health and other services.

101. Mental disorders related to [alienation] [marginalization], powerlessness and poverty, along with overwork and stress and the growing incidence of domestic violence as well as substance abuse are among other health issues of growing concern to women. Women throughout the world, especially young women,

* Suitable published statistics may be added here.

health and well-being. Conditions that force girls into early marriage, pregnancy and child-bearing and subject them to harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, pose grave health risks. Adolescent girls need, but too often do not have, access to necessary health and nutrition services as they mature. [Counselling and access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescents are still inadequate or lacking completely, and a young woman's right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent is often not considered, taking into account the parents' responsibilities] Adolescent girls are both biologically and psychosocially more vulnerable than boys to sexual abuse, violence and prostitution, and to the consequences of [unprotected] [premature] sexual relations. The trend towards early sexual experience, combined with a lack of information and services, increases the risk of [unwanted] and too early pregnancy, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as [unsafe abortions]. Early child-bearing continues to be an impediment to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world. Overall, for young women early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of their lives and the lives of their children. Young men are often not educated to respect [women's self-determination] and to share responsibility with women in matters of sexuality and reproduction.

96. [Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents. Sexual health enhances life and personal relations, and does not merely involve counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.]

97. [Sexual rights include the individual's right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to her or his sexuality, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the physical integrity of the human body, require mutual consent and willingness to accept responsibility for the consequences of sexual behaviour.]

*98. Further, women are subject to particular health risks due to inadequate responsiveness and lack of services to meet health needs related to sexuality and reproduction. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity of women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing world. Similar problems exist to a certain deg

* The placement of the paragraph has not yet been determined.

perspective in all policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects for women and men, respectively.

[Increase women's full access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care and related services]

Strategic objective C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate free or affordable and good quality health care and related information and services[*]

Actions to be taken

107. By Governments, [in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and employers and with the support of international institutions]:

- (a) Support and implement [their commitments] [the commitments made] [to the report of the International Conference on Population and Development] [in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, taking into account the reservations and declarations made in that document] and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 14/ and relevant international agreements, to meet the health needs of girls and women of all ages;
- (b) Reaffirm the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, protect and promote the attainment of this right for women and girls and incorporate it in national legislation, for example; review existing legislation, including health legislation, as well as policies, where necessary, to reflect a commitment to women's health and to ensure that they meet the changing roles and responsibilities of women wherever they reside;
- (c) Design and implement, in cooperation with women and community-based organizations, gender-sensitive health programmes, including decentralized health services, that address the needs of women throughout their lives and take into account their multiple roles and responsibilities, the demands on their time, the special needs of rural women and women with disabilities and the diversity of women's

[* The implementation of the actions to be taken contained in the section on health are the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights.] [The section on health is specially guided by the principles contained in chapter II of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in particular the introductory paragraphs.]

are increasing their use of tobacco with serious effects on their health and that of their children. Occupational health issues are also growing in importance, as a large number of women work in low-paid jobs either in the formal or the informal labour market under tedious and unhealthy conditions and the number is rising. Cancers of the breast and cervix and other cancers of the reproductive system as well as infertility affect growing numbers of women and may be preventable, or curable, if detected early.

102. With the increase in life expectancy and the growing numbers of older women, their health concerns require particular attention. The long-term health prospects of women are influenced by changes at menopause, which, in combination with life-long conditions and other factors, such as poor nutrition and lack of physical activity, may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. Other diseases of ageing and the interrelationships of ageing and disability among women also need particular attention.

103. Women, like men, particularly in rural areas and poor urban areas, are increasingly exposed to environmental health hazards owing to environmental catastrophes and degradation. Women have a different susceptibility to various environmental hazards, contaminants and substances and they suffer different consequences from exposure to them.

104. The quality of women's health care is often deficient in various ways, depending on local circumstances. [Women are frequently not treated with respect, nor are they guaranteed privacy and confidentiality, nor do they always receive full information about the options and services available.] Furthermore, in some countries, over-medicating women's life events is common, leading to unnecessary surgical intervention and inappropriate medication.

105. Statistical data on health are often not systematically collected, disaggregated and analysed by age, sex and socio-economic status, and [race and ethnicity] [and other relevant variables] among others. Recent and reliable data on mortality and morbidity of women and conditions and diseases particularly affecting women are not available in many countries. Relatively little is known about how social and economic factors affect the health of girls and women of all ages, about the provision of health services to girls and women and the patterns of their use of such services, and about the value of disease prevention and health promotion programmes for women. Subjects of importance to women's health have not been adequately researched and women's health research often lacks funding. Medical research, on heart disease for example, and epidemiological studies in many countries are often based solely on men; they are not gender specific. Clinical trials involving women to establish basic information about dosage, side-effects and effectiveness [including contraceptives] are noticeably absent and do not always conform to ethical standards for research and testing. Many drug therapy protocols and other medical treatments and interventions administered to women are based on research on men without any investigation and adjustment for gender differences.

106. In addressing inequalities in health status and unequal access to and inadequate health care services between women and men, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender

of women; ensure that immunization is provided to women and girls according to established ethical medical standards;]

(Second alternative)

[Ensure that before medication is prescribed, mechanical devices inserted or sterilization performed, women are examined by a physician, who must give them full information, orally and in writing, on the potential dangers, side effects and contraindications of all the available methods of family planning; ensure that immunization of women and girls does not include experimental drugs, vaccines or abortifacients;]

- (i) Strengthen and reorient health services, particularly primary health care, in order to ensure universal access to quality health services for women and girls, [recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] to reduce ill health and maternal morbidity and to achieve worldwide the agreed-upon goal of reducing maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by the year 2015; ensure that the necessary services are available at each level of the health system; and make reproductive health care accessible, through the primary health-care system, to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015;
- (j) [Recognize and deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern, as agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;]

[Paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development states: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion 15/ as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions."]

needs arising from age, socio-economic and cultural differences, among others, and include women, especially local and indigenous women, in the identification and planning of health-care priorities and programmes; [and remove all barriers to women's health services] [and provide the widest possible access to a broad range of health-care services];

- (d) [Allow women access to social security systems in equality with men throughout the whole life cycle;]
- (e) Provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including [sexual and reproductive health care as well as family planning information and services] and giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care [as contained in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development] [as agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development];
- (f) Redesign health information, services and training for health workers, so they are [gender] sensitive and reflect the user's perspectives with regard to interpersonal and communications skills and the user's right to privacy and confidentiality. [recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children, and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] These services, information and training should adopt a holistic approach [as defined by WHO];
- (g) [Ensure that all health services and workers conform to human rights and to ethical, professional and gender-sensitive standards in the delivery of women's health services aimed at ensuring responsible, voluntary and informed consent.] [Develop, implement and disseminate widely codes of ethics in this regard.] [Nothing, however, in the present Platform for Action is intended to require any health professional or health facility to provide (or refer for) services to which they have objections on the basis of religious belief or moral conviction as a violation of conscience];
- (h) [Take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful, medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions, as well as inappropriate medication and over-medication of women. All women should be fully informed of their options, including likely benefits and potential side effects;]

(First alternative)

[Ensure that women are fully informed by properly trained personnel orally, and in writing where appropriate, of the potential dangers, side effects and contraindications as well as the likely benefits of their health-care options, including medication and any surgical interventions, among others; all appropriate measures should be taken to eliminate harmful, medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions, as well as inappropriate medication and over-medication

- (s) Establish mechanisms to support and involve non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, professional groups and other bodies working to improve the health of girls and women, in government policy-making, programme design, as appropriate, and implementation within the health sector and related sectors at all levels;
- (t) Support non-governmental organizations working on women's health and help develop networks aimed at improving coordination and collaboration between all sectors that affect health;
- (u) Rationalize drug procurement and ensure a reliable, continuous supply of high-quality pharmaceutical, [contraceptive] and other supplies and equipment, [using the WHO Model List of Essential Drugs as a guide;] and ensure the safety of drugs and devices through national regulatory drug approval processes;
- (v) Provide improved access to appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services for women substance abusers and their families;
- (w) Promote and ensure household and national food security, as appropriate, and implement programmes aimed at improving the nutritional status of all girls and women by implementing the commitments made in the Plan of Action on Nutrition of the International Conference on Nutrition 16/ including a reduction worldwide of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under the age of five by one half of 1990 levels by the year 2000, giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition, and a reduction in iron deficiency anaemia in girls and women by one third of the 1990 levels by the year 2000;
- (x) Ensure the availability of and universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation and put in place effective public distribution systems as soon as possible;
- (y) Ensure full and equal access to health care infrastructure and services for indigenous women.

Strategic objective C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that address threats to women's health

Actions to be taken

108. By Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, the mass media, the private sector and relevant international organizations, including United Nations bodies, as appropriate:

- (a) [Give priority to both formal and informal educational programmes that support and enable women to develop self-esteem, acquire knowledge, make decisions on and take responsibility for their own health, [achieve mutual respect in matters concerning] sexuality and fertility

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- (k) [Consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions;]
- (l) Give particular attention to the needs of girls [taking into account the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] especially the promotion of healthy behaviour, including physical activities; take specific measures for closing the gender gaps in morbidity and mortality where girls are disadvantaged, while achieving internationally approved goals for the reduction of infant and child mortality - specifically, by the year 2000, the reduction of mortality rates of infants and children under five years of age by one third of the 1990 level, or 50 to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less; by the year 2015 an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000;
- (m) Ensure that girls [taking into account the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] have continuing access to necessary health and nutrition information and services as they mature, to facilitate a healthful transition from childhood to adulthood;
- (n) Develop information, programmes and services to assist women to understand and adapt to changes associated with ageing; and to address and treat the health needs of older women, paying particular attention to those who are physically or psychologically dependent;
- (o) Ensure that girls and women of all ages with any form of disability receive supportive services;
- (p) Formulate special policies, design programmes and enact the legislation necessary to alleviate and eliminate environmental and occupational health hazards associated with work in the home, in the workplace and elsewhere [with special attention to pregnant and lactating women];
- (q) Integrate mental health services into primary health care systems or other appropriate levels, develop supportive programmes and train primary health workers to recognize and care for girls and women of all ages who have experienced any form of violence especially domestic violence, sexual abuse or other abuse resulting from armed and non-armed conflict;
- (r) Promote public information on the benefits of breast-feeding; examine ways and means of implementing fully the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, and enable mothers to breast-feed their infants by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support;

the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child]];

- (h) Develop policies that reduce the disproportionate and increasing burden on [mothers] women [who have multiple roles within the family and the community] by providing women with adequate support and programmes from health and social services;
- (i) Adopt regulations to ensure that the working conditions, including remuneration and promotion of women at all levels of the health system, are non-discriminatory and meet fair and professional standards to enable them to work effectively;
- (j) Ensure that health and nutritional information and training form an integral part of all adult literacy programmes and school curricula from the primary level;
- (k) Develop and undertake media campaigns and information and educational programmes that inform women and girls of the health and related risks of substance abuse and addiction and pursue strategies and programmes that discourage substance abuse and addiction and promote rehabilitation and recovery;
- (l) Devise and implement comprehensive and coherent programmes for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, a condition that predominantly affects women;
- (m) Establish and/or strengthen programmes and services, including media campaigns, that address the prevention, early detection and [treatment of breast, cervical and other cancers of the reproductive system];
- (n) Reduce environmental hazards that pose a growing threat to health, especially in poor regions and communities; apply a precautionary approach, as agreed to in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 17/ and include reporting on women's health risks related to the environment in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21;
- (o) Create awareness among women, health professionals, policy makers and the general public about the serious but preventable health hazards stemming from tobacco consumption and the need for regulatory and education measures to reduce smoking as important health promotion and disease prevention activities;
- (p) [Ensure that medical school curricula and other health care training include comprehensive and mandatory courses on women's health as defined in paragraph 91 above];
- (q) Adopt specific preventive measures to protect women, youth and [children] from any abuse - sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking

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and educate men regarding the importance of women's health and well-being, placing special focus on programmes for both men and women that emphasize the elimination of harmful attitudes and practices, including female genital mutilation, son preference (which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection), early marriage, violence against women, [prostitution], sexual abuse, which at times is conducive to infection with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, drug abuse, discrimination against girls and women in food allocation and other harmful attitudes and practices related to the life, health and well-being of women, and recognizing that some of these practices can be violations of human rights and ethical medical principles;

- (b) Pursue social, human development, education and employment policies to eliminate poverty among women in order to reduce their susceptibility to ill health and to improve their health;
- (c) Encourage men to share equally in child care and household work and to provide their share of [adequate] financial support for their families, even if they do not live with them;
- (d) [Reinforce laws, reform institutions and promote norms and practices that eliminate discrimination against women and encourage both women and men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour; [ensure full respect for the physical integrity of the human body]; [and take action to ensure the conditions necessary for women to exercise their reproductive rights] [and eliminate, where possible, coercive laws and practices];]
- (e) [Prepare and disseminate accessible information, through public health campaigns, the media, reliable counselling and the education system, designed to ensure that women and men, particularly young people, can acquire knowledge about their health, especially information on sexuality and reproduction, [taking into account the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] [as agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development] and [as contained in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development];]
- (f) Create and support programmes in the educational system, in the workplace and in the community to make opportunities to participate in sport, physical activity and recreation available to girls and women of all ages on the same basis as they are made available to men and boys;
- (g) [Recognize the specific needs of adolescents, [boys and girls] and implement specific appropriate programmes, such as information [on sexual and reproductive health issues and] on sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and recognize their right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent; [taking into account

- (g) Support and strengthen national capacity to create and improve [gender-sensitive] policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, including the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves the principal caregivers or economic support for those infected with HIV/AIDS or affected by the pandemic, and the survivors, particularly children and older persons;
- (h) Provide workshops and specialized education and training to parents, decision makers and opinion leaders at all levels of the community, including religious and traditional authorities, on prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and their repercussions on both women and men of all ages; [parental language]
- (i) [Give all women all relevant information about HIV/AIDS and pregnancy and the implications for the baby, including breast-feeding;]
- (j) Assist women [of all ages] [recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] and their formal and informal organizations to establish and expand effective peer education and outreach programmes and to participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of these programmes; [recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child];
- (k) Give full attention to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable [gender relations] and, in particular, to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality, [as agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development] [as contained in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development];
- (l) [Design specific programmes for boys, adolescents, [with the support and guidance of their parents,] [recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child] and men of all ages, aimed at providing [reliable] [complete and accurate] information and encouraging [abstinence until marriage as responsible sexual behaviour.] safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, including voluntary, appropriate and effective male methods for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.] [training in the promotion of safe and responsible sexual behaviour, including voluntary abstinence and [condom use]];
- (m) Ensure the provision, through the primary health care system, of [universal access of individuals and couples] to appropriate and affordable preventive services with respect to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and expand the provision of counselling

and violence, for example - including the formulation and enforcement of laws and provide legal protection and medical and other assistance.

Strategic objective C.3. Undertake [gender-sensitive] multisectoral initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other [sexual and reproductive health] issues

Actions to be taken

109. By Governments, international bodies including relevant United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations:

- (a) Ensure the involvement of women, especially those infected with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases or affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in all decision-making relating to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- (b) [Review and amend laws and practices, as appropriate, that may contribute to women's susceptibility to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, including enacting legislation against [those socio-cultural practices] that contribute to it], and implement legislation, policies and practices to protect women, adolescents and young girls from discrimination related to HIV/AIDS;
- (c) Encourage all sectors of society, including the public sector, as well as international organizations, to develop compassionate and supportive, non-discriminatory AIDS/HIV-related policies and practices that protect the rights of infected individuals;
- (d) Recognize the extent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in their countries, taking particularly into account its impact on women, with a view to ensuring that infected women not suffer stigmatization and discrimination [including during travel];
- (e) Develop [gender-sensitive] multisectoral programmes and strategies to end social subordination of women and girls and to ensure their social and economic empowerment and equality; and facilitate promotion of programmes to educate and enable men to assume their responsibilities to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- (f) Facilitate the development of community strategies that will protect women of all ages from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, provide care and support to infected girls, women and their families and mobilize all parts of the community in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic to exert pressure on all responsible authorities to respond in a timely, effective, sustainable and [gender-sensitive] manner;

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their consequences, including the impact of [gender and] age inequalities, especially with respect to chronic and non-communicable diseases, particularly cardio-vascular diseases and conditions, cancers, reproductive tract infections and injuries, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence, occupational health, disabilities, environmentally related health problems, tropical diseases and health aspects of ageing;

- (e) [Inform women about data which show that hormonal contraception, abortion and promiscuity increase risks of developing cancers and infections of the reproductive tract, so that they can make informed decisions about their health];
- (f) Support and fund social, economic, political and cultural research on how gender-based inequalities affect women's health, including etiology, epidemiology, provision and utilization of services and eventual outcome of treatment;
- (g) Support health service systems and operations research to strengthen access and improve the quality of service delivery, to ensure appropriate support for women as health-care providers and to examine patterns of provision of health services to women and use of such services by women;
- (h) Provide financial and institutional support for research on safe, effective, affordable and acceptable [drugs and] technologies for [reproductive and sexual health] of women and men, including more safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods [such as natural family planning] [for the regulation of fertility] for both sexes, methods to protect against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and simple and inexpensive methods of diagnosing such diseases, among others. This research needs to be guided at all stages by users and from the perspective of gender, particularly the perspective of women, and should be carried out in strict conformity with internationally accepted legal, ethical, medical and scientific standards for biomedical research;
- (i) Since [unsafe abortion] 15/ is a major threat to the health and life of women, research to understand and better address the determinants and consequences of induced abortion, including its effects on subsequent fertility, reproductive and mental health and [contraceptive] practice, should be promoted, as well as research on treatment of complications of abortions and post-abortion care;
- (j) Acknowledge and encourage beneficial traditional health care, especially that practised by indigenous women, with a view to preserving and incorporating the value of traditional health care in the provision of health services, and support research directed towards achieving this aim;

and voluntary and confidential diagnostic and treatment services for women; [and ensure that high-quality condoms as well as] drugs for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases are, where possible, supplied and distributed to health services;

- (n) Support programmes which acknowledge that the higher risk among women of contracting HIV is linked to high-risk behaviour, including intravenous substance use and substance-influenced [unprotected] [irresponsible] sexual behaviour and take appropriate preventive measures;
- (o) Support and expedite action-oriented research on affordable methods, controlled by women, to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, on strategies empowering women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and on methods of care, support and treatment of women, ensuring their involvement in all aspects of such research;
- (p) [Support and initiate research that addresses women's needs and situations, including research on HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases in women, on women-controlled methods of protection, such as non-spermicidal microbicides, and on male and female risk-taking attitudes and practices;].

Strategic objective C.4. Promote research and information dissemination on women's health

Actions to be taken

110. By Governments, the United Nations system, health professions, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, donors, pharmaceutical industries and the mass media, as appropriate:

- (a) Train researchers and introduce systems that allow for the use of data collected, analysed and disaggregated by, among other factors, sex and age, [race and ethnicity] and socio-economic variables, in policy-making, as appropriate, planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- (b) Promote gender-sensitive and women-centred health research, treatment and technology and link traditional and indigenous knowledge with modern medicine, making information available to women to enable them to make informed and responsible decisions;
- (c) Increase the number of women in leadership positions in the health professions, including researchers and scientists, to achieve equality at the earliest possible date;
- (d) Increase financial and other support from all sources for preventive, appropriate biomedical, behavioural, epidemiological and health service research on women's health issues and for research on the social, economic and political causes of women's health problems, and