

MEETING IN MEXICO



WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, 1975



Faces at IWY.



United Nations

ISSUED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SECRETARIAT
BY THE CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION/OPI



The IWY symbol in the Plaza of the Three Cultures outside the main conference centre. The abstract design

combines the dove of peace, the mathematical sign of equality and the biological symbol for female.

**WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR**

19 June - 2 July 1975

**DECLARATION OF MEXICO
PLANS OF ACTION**



UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS
December, 1975

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DECLARATION OF MEXICO ON THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, 1975

The World Conference of the International Women's Year,

Aware that the problems of women, who constitute half of the world's population, are the problems of society as a whole, and that changes in the present economic, political and social situation of women must become an integral part of efforts to transform the structures and attitudes that hinder the genuine satisfaction of their needs,

Recognizing that international co-operation based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations should be developed and strengthened in order to find solutions to world problems and to build an international community based on equity and justice,

Recalling that in subscribing to the Charter, the peoples of the United Nations undertook specific commitments: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom",

Taking note of the fact that since the creation of the United Nations very important instruments have been adopted, among which the following constitute landmarks: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order based on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Taking into account that the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considers that: "discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity",

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year and that the Year was to be devoted to intensified action with a view to: promoting equality between men and women, ensuring the integration of women in the total development effort, and increasing the contribution of women to the strengthening of world peace,

Recalling further that the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1849 (LVI) adopted the Programme for International Women's Year, and that the General Assembly in its resolution 3275 (XXIX) called for full implementation of the Programme,

Taking into account the role played by women in the history of humanity, especially in the struggle for national liberation, the strengthening of international peace, and the elimination of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign occupation, zionism, alien domination, racism and *apartheid*,

Stressing that greater and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making shall decisively contribute to accelerating the pace of development and the maintenance of peace,

Stressing also that women and men of all countries should have equal rights and duties and that it is the task of all States to create the necessary conditions for the attainment and the exercise thereof,

Recognizing that women of the entire world, whatever differences exist between them, share the painful experience of receiving or having received unequal treatment, and that as their awareness of this phenomenon increases they will become natural allies in the struggle against any form of oppression, such as is practised under colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, thereby constituting an enormous revolutionary potential for economic and social change in the world today,

Recognizing that changes in the social and economic structure of societies, even though they are among the prerequisites, cannot of themselves ensure an immediate improvement in the status of a group which has long been disadvantaged, and that urgent consideration must therefore be given to the full, immediate and early integration of women into national and international life,

Emphasizing that under-development imposes upon women a double burden of exploitation, which must be rapidly eliminated, and

that full implementation of national development policies designed to fulfil this objective is seriously hindered by the existing inequitable system of international economic relations,

Aware that the role of women in child-bearing should not be the cause of inequality and discrimination, and that child-rearing demands shared responsibilities among women, men and society as a whole,

Recognizing also the urgency of improving the status of women and finding more effective methods and strategies which will enable them to have the same opportunities as men to participate actively in the development of their countries and to contribute to the attainment of world peace,

Convinced that women must play an important role in the promotion, achievement and maintenance of international peace, and that it is necessary to encourage their efforts towards peace, through their full participation in the national and international organizations that exist for this purpose,

Considering that it is necessary to promote national, regional and international action in which the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year should make a significant contribution for the attainment of equality, development and peace,

Decides to promulgate the following principles:

1. Equality between women and men means equality in their dignity and worth as human beings as well as equality in their rights, opportunities and responsibilities.
2. All obstacles that stand in the way of enjoyment by women of equal status with men must be eliminated in order to ensure their full integration into national development and their participation in securing and in maintaining international peace.
3. It is the responsibility of the State to create the necessary facilities so that women may be integrated into society while their children receive adequate care.
4. National non-governmental organizations should contribute to the advancement of women by assisting women to take advantage

of their opportunities, by promoting education and information about women's rights, and by co-operating with their respective Governments.

5. Women and men have equal rights and responsibilities in the family and in society. Equality between women and men should be guaranteed in the family, which is the basic unit of society and where human relations are nurtured. Men should participate more actively, creatively and responsibly in family life for its sound development in order to enable women to be more intensively involved in the activities of their communities and with a view to combining effectively home and work possibilities of both partners.

6. Women, like men, require opportunities for developing their intellectual potential to the maximum. National policies and programmes should therefore provide them with full and equal access to education and training at all levels, while ensuring that such programmes and policies consciously shall orient them towards new occupations and new roles consistent with their need for self-fulfilment and the needs of national development.

7. The right of women to work, to receive equal pay for work of equal value, to be provided with equal conditions and opportunities for advancement in work, and all other women's rights to full and satisfying economic activity are strongly reaffirmed. Review of these principles for their effective implementation is now urgently needed, considering the necessity of restructuring world economic relationships. This restructuring offers greater possibilities for women to be integrated into the stream of national economic, social, political and cultural life.

8. All means of communication and information as well as all cultural media should regard as a high priority their responsibility for helping to remove the attitudinal and cultural factors that still inhibit the development of women and for projecting in positive terms the value to society of the assumption by women of changing and expanding roles.

9. Necessary resources should be made available in order that women may be able to participate in the political life of their countries and of the international community since their active participation in national and world affairs at decision-making and other levels in the political field is a prerequisite of women's full exercise of equal rights as well as of their further development, and of the national well-being.

10. Equality of rights carries with it corresponding responsibilities; it is therefore a duty of women to make full use of opportunities available to them and to perform their duties to the family, the country and humanity.

11. It should be one of the principal aims of social education to teach respect for physical integrity and its rightful place in human life. The human body, whether that of woman or man, is inviolable and respect for it is a fundamental element of human dignity and freedom.

12. Every couple and every individual has the right to decide freely and responsibly whether or not to have children as well as to determine their number and spacing, and to have information, education and means to do so.

13. Respect for human dignity encompasses the right of every woman to decide freely for herself whether or not to contract matrimony.

14. The issue of inequality, as it affects the vast majority of the women of the world, is closely linked with the problem of under-development, which exists as a result not only of unsuitable internal structures, but also of a profoundly unjust world economic system.

15. The full and complete development of any country requires the maximum participation of women as well as of men in all fields: the under-utilization of the potential of approximately half of the world's population is a serious obstacle to social and economic development.

16. The ultimate end of development is to achieve a better quality of life for all, which means not only the development of economic and other material resources but also the physical, moral, intellectual and cultural growth of the human person.

17. In order to integrate women into development, States should undertake the necessary changes in their economic and social policies because women have the right to participate and contribute to the total development effort.

18. The present state of international economic relations poses serious obstacles to a more efficient utilization of all human and material potential for accelerated development and for the improvement of living standards in developing countries aimed at the elimination of hunger, child mortality, unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance and backwardness, which concern all of humanity and women in

particular. It is therefore essential to establish and implement with urgency the New International Economic Order of which the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States constitutes a basic element, founded on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, on the principles of peaceful co-existence and on the promotion by the entire international community of economic and social progress of all countries, especially developing countries, and on the progress of States comprising the international community.

19. The principle of full and permanent sovereignty of every State over its natural resources, wealth and all economic activities as well as its inalienable right of nationalization as an expression of this sovereignty, constitute fundamental prerequisites in the process of economic and social development.

20. The attainment of economic and social goals, so basic to the realization of the rights of women, does not, however, of itself bring about the full integration of women in development on a basis of equality with men unless specific measures are undertaken for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them. It is therefore important to formulate and implement models of development that will promote the participation and advancement of women in all fields of work, provide them with equal educational opportunities, and such services as would facilitate housework.

21. Modernization of the agricultural sector of vast areas of the world is an indispensable element for progress, particularly as it creates opportunities for millions of rural women to participate in development. Governments, the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other competent regional and international organizations should support projects designed to utilize the maximum potential and to develop the self-reliance of rural women.

22. It must be emphasized that, given the required economic, social and legal conditions as well as the appropriate attitudes conducive to the full and equal participation of women in society, efforts and measures aimed at a more intensified integration of women in development can be successfully implemented only if made an integral part of over-all social and economic growth. Full participation of women in the various economic, social, political and cultural sectors is an important indication of the dynamic progress of peoples and their development. Individual human rights can only be realized within the framework of total development.

23. The objectives considered in this Declaration can be achieved only in a world in which the relations between States are governed, *inter alia*, by the following principles: the sovereign equality of States, the free self-determination of peoples, the unacceptability of acquisition or attempted acquisition of territories by force and the prohibition of recognition of such acquisition, territorial integrity, and the right to defend it, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of States, in the same manner as relations between human beings should be governed by the supreme principle of the equality of rights of women and men.

24. International co-operation and peace require the achievement of national liberation and independence, the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, foreign occupation, zionism, *apartheid*, and racial discrimination in all its forms as well as the recognition of the dignity of peoples and their right to self-determination.

25. Women have a vital role to play in the promotion of peace in all spheres of life: in the family, the community, the nation and the world. As such, women must participate equally with men in the decision-making processes which help to promote peace at all levels.

26. Women as well as men together should eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, foreign domination and occupation, zionism, *apartheid*, racial discrimination, the acquisition of land by force and the recognition of such acquisition, since such practices inflict incalculable suffering on women, men and children.

27. The solidarity of women in all countries of the world should be supported in their protest against violations of human rights condemned by the United Nations. All forms of repression and inhuman treatment of women, men and children, including imprisonment, torture, massacres, collective punishment, destruction of homes, forced eviction and arbitrary restriction of movement shall be considered crimes against humanity and in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.

28. Women all over the world should unite to eliminate violations of human rights committed against women and girls such as: rape, prostitution, physical assault, mental cruelty, child marriage, forced marriage and marriage as a commercial transaction.

29. Peace requires that women as well as men should reject any type of intervention in the domestic affairs of States, whether it be

openly or covertly carried on by other States or by transnational corporations. Peace also requires that women as well as men should also promote respect for the sovereign right of a State to establish its own economic, social and political system without undergoing political and economic pressures or coercion of any type.

30. Women as well as men should promote real, general and complete disarmament under effective international control, starting with nuclear disarmament. Until genuine disarmament is achieved, women and men throughout the world must maintain their vigilance and do their utmost to achieve and maintain international peace.

Wherefore,

The World Conference of the International Women's Year,

1. Affirms its faith in the objectives of the International Women's Year, which are equality, development and peace;

2. Proclaims its commitment to the achievement of such objectives;

3. Strongly urges Governments, the entire United Nations system, regional and international intergovernmental organizations and the international community as a whole to dedicate themselves to the creation of a just society where women, men and children can live in dignity, freedom, justice and prosperity.

PLANS OF ACTION

A. WORLD PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

INTRODUCTION

1. In subscribing to the Charter, the peoples of the United Nations undertook specific commitments: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and . . . to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

2. The greatest and most significant achievement during recent decades has been the liberation of a large number of peoples and nations from alien colonial domination, which has permitted them to become members of the community of free peoples. Technological progress has also been achieved in all spheres of economic activity during the past three decades, thus offering substantial possibilities for improving the well-being of all peoples. However, the last vestiges of alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and neo-colonialism in all its forms are still among the greatest obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of developing countries and of all the peoples concerned. The benefits of technological progress are not shared equitably by all members of the international community. The developing countries, which account for 70 per cent of the population of the world, receive only 30 per cent of world income. It has proved impossible to achieve uniform and balanced development of the international community under the present economic order, and, for this reason, it is urgent to implement a new international economic order in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI).

3. Conventions, declarations, formal recommendations and other instruments have been adopted since the Charter came into force¹ with a view to reinforcing, elaborating and implementing these fundamental principles and objectives. Some of them seek to safeguard and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons without discrimination of any kind. Others deal with promotion of economic and social progress and development and the need to

¹ See the Appendix to the Plan.

TRIBUNA



AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LA MUJER



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR



L'ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE de la FEMME



Unidad de Congresos del Centro Médico
National Medical Convention Center
Centre Medical National
México, D.F. México

19 Junio — 2 Julio
19 June — 2 July
19 Juin — 2 Juillet



Tribune de l'Année Internationale de la Femme

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Tribune of International Women's Year

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Tribuna del Año Internacional de la Mujer

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Introduction

La Tribune de L'Année Internationale de la Femme est organisée par un comité nommé par la Conférence des Organisations Non-Gouvernementales ayant un statut consultatif auprès du Conseil Economique et Social des Nations Unies, et en consultation avec les Nations Unies et le Gouvernement du Mexique. Conçue comme une activité parallèle à la Conférence Mondiale des Nations Unies pour l'Année Internationale de la Femme, et ayant lieu en même temps que celle-ci, elle en est pourtant indépendante.

La Tribune se propose de rassembler des hommes et des femmes de toutes les régions géographiques et d'origines diverses, afin de permettre un échange de connaissances et d'opinions sur la position des femmes dans la vie économique et sociale, d'examiner les travaux de la Conférence de l'O.N.U., et de chercher les moyens par lesquels les buts de l'Année Internationale de la Femme—l'égalité, le développement et la paix—peuvent se réaliser.

Introduction

The International Women's Year Tribune is an independent parallel activity held concurrently with the United Nations World Conference of International Women's Year. It was organized by a committee appointed by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and in consultation with the United Nations and the government of Mexico.

The Tribune's purpose is to bring together men and women from all geographic areas and varied backgrounds to exchange information and opinions on the position of women in economic and social life, to give consideration to the U.N. Conference, and to seek ways of achieving the International Women's Year objectives of equality, development, and peace.

Introducción

La Tribuna del Año Internacional de la Mujer es una actividad independiente y paralela que se celebrará simultáneamente con la Conferencia Mundial de las Naciones Unidas del Año Internacional de la Mujer. La Tribuna ha sido organizada por la Conferencia de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales con status consultivo ante el Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas, y en consulta con las Naciones Unidas y el Gobierno de México.

El objetivo de la Tribuna es reunir a hombres y mujeres de todas las latitudes geográficas y culturales para intercambiar informaciones y puntos de vista sobre la situación de la mujer en la vida económica y social, tomar cuenta de la labor de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas, y examinar los medios para alcanzar los objetivos del Año Internacional de la Mujer: igualdad desarrollo y paz.

Notes Sur Le Programme

Le programme officiel de la Tribune consiste en une séance inaugurale, suivie de vingt séances qui sont décrites dans les pages suivantes. Les séances sous format de table ronde fourniront le cadre intellectuel et théorique de sujets qui feront la matière des discussions. Il y aura également des séances où il sera donné des exemples de projets en cours, ainsi que des exemples d'approches pratiques visant à résoudre les problèmes dont il sera question. La participation des spectateurs a été prévue pour chacune des séances.

Le programme qui suit comprend la période du 19 au 27 juin. Il y aura également des séances au Mexique pendant la période du 30 juin au 2 juillet. Les personnes désirant proposer des sujets de discussion pour cette deuxième période sont priées de s'adresser au Service Administratif pour obtenir les formulaires nécessaires.

La Tribune n'a pas de parti pris quant aux problèmes qui feront l'objet des discussions, à part

Program Notes

The formal program of the Tribune consists of an inaugural session and twenty panel sessions described in the following pages. The sessions have been developed through a format of panel discussions which will provide the intellectual and theoretical framework for subjects under discussion, and sessions designed to provide examples of on-going projects and practical action-oriented approaches to the issues. Each session has been designed to insure adequate time for audience participation. In addition to the following program through June 27, sessions will be planned in Mexico for June 30-July 2nd. Persons wishing to make suggestions for topics to be scheduled during these days should ask for appropriate forms at the Administrative Office.

The Tribune does not have a point of view on the issues involved, other than that they are important for all participants to consider. There shall be no formal statement of a Tribune position on any or all of the issues. Individuals and groups may

Notas Sobre El Programa

El programa oficial de la Tribuna incluye una sesión de apertura, y veinte sesiones plenarias—indicadas en las páginas siguientes. Las sesiones han sido programadas en un formato de paneles de discusión que proporcionarán la base intelectual y teórica de los temas a examinar y sesiones a base de modelos de trabajo diseñados para ilustrar programas de desarrollo y acción. Cada sesión se ha preparado de manera de permitir tiempo suficiente para un debate general. Además de las sesiones programadas entre el 19 y el 27 de junio, indicadas en las páginas que siguen, se organizarán sesiones en México desde el 30 de junio hasta el 2 de julio. Quienes deseen sugerir temas de discusión para estos últimos tres días deben dirigirse a la Oficina Administrativa para obtener los formularios de solicitud.

La Tribuna como tal no expresa opiniones sobre los temas a discutirse, excepto estimarlos importantes para su consideración por los participantes. Los individuos o grupos partici-

Notes Sur Le Programme

la conviction que ces problèmes méritent la considération de tous ceux qui y participeront. Aucune déclaration officielle ne sera faite par la Tribune à la suite des réunions. Les individus ou groupes désirant faire des déclarations peuvent se prononcer sur n'importe quel sujet, mais non pas au nom de la Tribune.

Une annexe au programme, comprenant le nom des rapporteurs qui auront confirmé leur participation après l'impression du programme, sera à la disposition des participants au Centre Médical.

Il y aura des salles de conférence à la disposition des groupes désirant approfondir les discussions sur des sujets du programme officiel, ou pour discuter des questions ne figurant pas au programme.

Des bulletins de demande pour l'utilisation de ces salles peuvent être obtenus au Service

Program Notes

make whatever statements they wish, but not in the name of the Tribune.

Addenda to the program will be available at the Medical Convention Center listing the names of additional program participants whose acceptances were received after this program went to press.

Meeting rooms are available in the Medical Convention Center for the use of groups who wish to pursue some of the issues raised in the formal program in greater depth, or to discuss issues which may not have been included in the program.

Applications for the use of rooms can be obtained from the Tribune's Administrative Office, and will be considered daily by the Tribune's Organizing Committee. Applications should be received no less than 24 hours in

Notas Sobre El Programa

pantes pueden expresar las opiniones que deseen. La Tribune no formulará declaraciones de su posición sobre ninguno de los temas.

Una lista de los conferencistas que confirmaron su participación después de la impresión de este programa se distribuirá en la Unidad de Congresos del Centro Médico.

Habrán salas de reuniones a la disposición de individuos o grupos que deseen utilizarlas para profundizar las discusiones de las sesiones oficiales, o bien para discutir temas que no están incluidos en el programa oficial. Las correspondientes solicitudes de salas se pueden llenar en la Oficina Administrativa. Dichas solicitudes deberán presentarse con 24 horas de anticipación y serán consideradas diariamente por el Comité Organizador de la Tribune. En estas salas no habrá interpretación simultánea.

Administratif de la Tribune. Les demandes seront revues tous les jours par le comité d'organisation de la Tribune. Les personnes intéressées sont priées de les soumettre au moins vingt-quatre heures à l'avance. Il n'y aura pas d'interprétation simultanée dans ces salles.

Tous les matins à 9:00 heures il y aura un exposé sommaire de la Conférence Mondiale des Nations Unies pour les participants à la Tribune.

Il est recommandé aux participants inscrits de consulter les annonces aux tableaux d'affichage qui se trouvent à l'entrée du Centre Médical et dans le journal de la Tribune au cas où il y aurait des modifications au programme ou des séances non-programmées d'avance.

Toutes les séances figurant au programme seront interprétées simultanément en anglais, espagnol et français.

advance in order to be considered. Simultaneous interpretation will not be available in these rooms.

Each morning at 9:00 there will be a briefing on the proceedings of the United Nations World Conference for Tribune participants.

All registrants are urged to review the announcements posted on the bulletin boards at the entrance of the Medical Convention Center and in the Tribune newspaper for changes in the program and for listings of new sessions.

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish will be available for all the sessions listed in this program.

Cada mañana a las 9:00 horas habrá una sesión de información sobre los acontecimientos de la Conferencia Mundial de las Naciones Unidas.

Se ruega a los participantes consultar diariamente el tablero de anuncios y el periódico de la Tribuna para informarse sobre cambios en el programa y organización de sesiones adicionales.

Habrà interpretación simultánea al español, inglés y francés de las sesiones oficiales del programa de la Tribuna.