

UNITED NATIONS

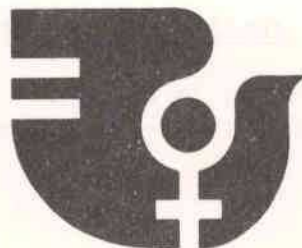


WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro
MEXICO CITY, 19 JUNE TO 2 JULY 1975

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 3 of the provisional agenda



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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

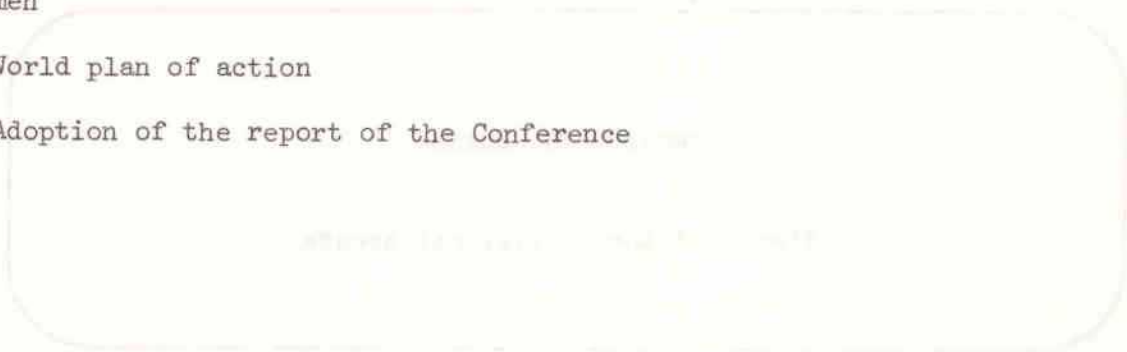
1. Opening of the Conference and election of the President
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Establishment of committees and organization of work
5. Election of officers other than the President
6. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
7. The objectives and goals of International Women's Year: present policies and programmes
8. The involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination
9. Current trends and changes in the status and roles of women and men, and major obstacles to be overcome in the achievement of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities
10. The integration of women in the development process as equal partners with men
11. World plan of action
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

Plenary

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Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference and election of the President

The Conference will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at 11 a.m. on 19 June 1975. The President of Mexico will attend the opening meeting and will address the Conference.

Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that the Conference shall elect a President and rule 40 provides that elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference. It is hoped that elections by secret ballot may be dispensed with as a result of consultations to be conducted during the informal pre-conference meetings.

After the President has been elected, the Secretary-General of the Conference will make a statement.

2. Adoption of the rules of procedure

The provisional rules of procedure of the Conference are contained in document E/CONF.66/2. They are based on the rules of procedure of other conferences convened by the Economic and Social Council.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1849 (LVI) and 1851 (LVI) of 16 May 1974 as well as General Assembly resolutions 3276 (XXIX) and 3277 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974.

4. Establishment of committees and organization of work

The provisional rules of procedure, in addition to providing that the Conference shall appoint a Credentials Committee (rule 4) and set up a General Committee (rules 9 and 10), also provide for the establishment of two main committees, each of which may establish working groups (rule 42).

The two main committees will be committees of the whole. The Secretary-General recommends that the First Committee consider item 11 of the provisional agenda, and the Second Committee, items 9 and 10.

Suggestions concerning the organization of work will be issued shortly.

5. Election of officers other than the President

Under rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference is to elect, in addition to its President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur-General, a

chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur for each of the main committees provided for in rule 42. In the election of officers, account should be taken of the United Nations practice of equitable geographical distribution.

The waiver of the secret ballot referred to in the annotation to item 1 above may also be applied to the election of officers other than the President.

If, as a result of consultations held prior to the opening of the Conference, a single slate of candidates is put forward, the Conference could proceed to the elections without delay. If nominations are to be made from the floor, nominating statements should be limited, in accordance with United Nations practice, to one for each candidate, after which the Conference should proceed immediately to the elections.

6. Credentials of the representatives to the Conference

(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee

Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its membership shall be, as far as possible, the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. The Committee shall examine the credentials of the representatives without delay.

The Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session consisted of representatives of the following Member States: Belgium, China, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Senegal, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

After examining the credentials of the representatives, the Committee shall, in accordance with rule 4, report to the Conference without delay.

7. The objectives and goals of International Women's Year: present policies and programmes

Under this item, the Conference may wish to review and evaluate the progress made in improving the situation of women, and consider what fundamental changes in national and international concepts and policies are needed in the light of current world problems.

The Conference may explore the interaction of the present situation of women and crucial issues of progress and development (economic development; population change; food production and consumption; scientific and technological developments; health (including maternal and child health); levels of nutrition; unemployment, underemployment and mass poverty; education and training; housing; income distribution and levels of living; changes in traditional and cultural norms and attitudes).



It is suggested that this item, together with item 8 of the provisional agenda, should be considered directly in plenary as part of the general debate, focusing on the three closely interrelated objectives and goals of the International Women's Year set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI): equality of the sexes; integration of women in the development effort; and the full participation of women in strengthening international co-operation and peace.

8. The involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination

The Conference will have before it the relevant sections of document E/CONF.66/3.

It is suggested that in considering this item, the Conference might wish to explore how to promote and encourage the full participation of women in the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and in strengthening world peace based on the establishment of justice and equity for all persons.

9. Current trends and changes in the status and roles of women and men, and major obstacles to be overcome in the achievement of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities

The basic document for this item is the report of the Secretary-General (E/CONF.66/3).

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In its consideration of the item, the Conference might focus attention on the obstacles which have impeded and continue to impede the achievement of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities of women with men in society. It may wish to consider the reasons for the wide discrepancies existing in many countries between the de jure and de facto situations of women in the various sectors: political, economic, social, cultural and family life.

In reviewing the current situation and recent changes, the Conference might bear in mind the situation of married and single women in all walks of life, including those in rural areas, the urban poor, professional, industrial and agricultural workers, the young, the aged, migrants and members of minority and ethnic groups.

The main questions asked are: to what extent do women enjoy equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities with men in both urban and rural areas; what are the underlying reasons for the present situation; and what are the major obstacles to be overcome. Differences and similarities among countries at various levels of development might be brought out in the consideration of this item.

It is recommended that this item, together with item 10 of the provisional agenda, be considered by the Second Committee.



10. The integration of women in the development process as equal partners with men

The basic document for this item is the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CONF.66/4).

In the discussion of this item, the Conference might seek to determine where current policies and strategies (both national and international) require strengthening in order to achieve the integration of women in the development process as equal partners with men, and to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sex.

The Conference may wish to consider selected measures which have proved successful in different parts of the world and discuss these from the viewpoint of their value and effectiveness, the factors contributing to their success, and their applicability to situations in other countries. Consideration may also be given to the need for special measures and special programmes for women, especially for an interim period, and for strengthening integrated programmes for the benefit of all members of society, which have often tended to overlook the needs of women.

The Conference may also wish to consider how national development plans and planning machinery could be strengthened by the infusion of more dynamic programmes for the integration of women into development and by the inclusion of women at planning and decision-making levels. Ways and means should be explored of measuring and giving full recognition to the economic contribution of women in areas where this has been especially neglected (e.g., the vast number of rural women who are food producers and who are not yet included either in the gross national product or as part of the economically active population, the housewives, the self-employed women including those working in cottage industries etc.).

The Conference may further wish to discuss the role of multilateral and bilateral aid programmes and the extent to which those programmes are reaching and benefiting women, especially women in rural areas and young women.

The item as a whole should be considered within the over-all context of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970), which recommends that the "full integration of women in the total development effort should be encouraged", as well as of the goals and targets set forth in General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 on the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women. It should also be considered in terms of the new global thinking enunciated in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session in 1974 (resolution 3201 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974), and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, and also in the light of the recognition given in the World Population Plan of Action, adopted by the World Population Conference in August 1974, to the right of women "to complete integration in the development process, particularly by means of an equal access to education and equal participation in social, economic, cultural and political life" and to the need for measures to be taken to facilitate that integration with



family responsibilities which should be fully shared by both partners. It might also be examined in terms of the recognized international standards in the field of human rights and their implementation in practice.

It is recommended that this item, together with item 9 of the provisional agenda, be considered by the Second Committee.

11. World plan of action

In its resolution 1851 (LVI) of 16 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council called for the Conference to "launch an international action programme including short-term and long-term measures aimed at achieving the integration of women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, and at achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination".

The General Assembly, by resolution 3277 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, established a Consultative Committee to advise the Secretary-General on the preparation of an international plan of action to be finalized by the Conference. The Committee met at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 14 March 1975.

The draft plan of action to be submitted to the Conference (E/CONF.66/5) will be prepared by the Secretary-General in the light of the observations of the Consultative Committee.

It is recommended that the item be considered by the First Committee.

12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1851 (LVI), recommended that a separate item entitled "International Women's Year", including the proposals and recommendations of the Conference, should be examined by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session in 1975.

The General Assembly, by its resolution 3276 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, further requested the Conference to submit, if possible, such proposals and recommendations as it deemed appropriate to it at its seventh special session, to be held in September 1975; and decided to consider at its thirtieth session an item entitled "International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the Conference of the International Women's Year", and an item entitled "Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and of co-operation between States".

At its organizational session for 1975, the Economic and Social Council decided to include in the list of items for consideration at its fifty-ninth session one entitled "International Women's Year".

The report of the Conference, adopted in accordance with rule 14 of the provisional rules of procedure, will be before the Council at its fifty-ninth session and before the General Assembly at its seventh special session and its thirtieth session, as called for by the above resolutions.

In accordance with the practice of previous United Nations conferences, the report of the Conference would consist of:

Part one containing the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference;

Part two containing an account of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council action leading to the convening of the Conference;

Part three containing a brief summary of the proceedings of the Conference, including an account of the work of the main committees.

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