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CONFERENCE BACKGROUND PAPER

THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD AID TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF
WOMEN'S STATUS

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Addendum^{1/}

1/ Extract from the report of the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme on the contribution of food aid to the improvement of women's status.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

The Contribution of Food Aid to the
Improvement of Women's Status 1/

"119. The Committee expressed appreciation of the speeches made at the commencement of the Session to commemorate International Women's Year and for the comprehensive report by the Executive Director on the contribution of food aid to the improvement of women's status. The Executive Director was commended for his initiative in taking the opportunity, occasioned by International Women's Year, to take stock of what WFP had done to improve the status of women and enhance their contribution to development and to identify what the Programme may do in the future.

"120. The Committee recognized the important contribution that WFP assistance could play in improving the welfare and status of women. It noted that, while considerable attention had been given to improving their health and nutrition, more needed to be done to involve them in education and training projects, particularly in agriculture and for rural development, and to increase their employment in WFP-supported projects, as well as in employment and production. The Committee underlined the need for conscious effort to integrate women fully in the development process on the basis of equality. It recognized the substantial role that women already played, which could be enhanced through effective education and training and employment opportunities and through their greater involvement in the planning and formulation of projects, as well as in decision-making generally.

"121. It was suggested that on-going projects, as well as those under approval, should be scrutinized to determine how they affect women's status. This exercise could help in the future planning of projects by the Programme, as well as by the developing countries themselves.

"122. The Committee gave broad agreement to the guidelines established by the Executive Director for project planners to ensure that conscious efforts were made to involve the participation of women in the development process, as outlined in paragraphs 121 to 127 of his report. It was informed that USAID and CIDA had established similar guidelines for their activities. The observer for IFAP expressed her organization's appreciation and support.

"123. The Committee took note of WFP activities which are to be undertaken during International Women's Year and agreed that a report on these activities should be given to the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee under the agenda item dealing with interim evaluation and terminal reports. The Committee took particular note of the in-depth evaluation of WFP assistance and the role of women in development which was being undertaken by a woman consultant.

1/ Extract from the report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme (WFP/IGC: 27/19) on the contribution of food aid to the improvement of women's status (document WFP/IGC: 27/15).

"124. A number of delegations suggested that there should be a more important role for women in the administration of the Programme and requested governments to give a more significant place to women in their delegations.

"125. The Committee underlined that, although International Women's Year had stimulated the Programme and other aid agencies to take conscious note of the role of women in development and the improvement of their status this year, such consideration should become a continuing built-in feature of WFP activities in the future. It emphasized, however, that it was the primary responsibility of sovereign governments to take the necessary steps to improve the status of women and to increase their role in the development process and that all aid agencies and Programmes, including WFP, could play their part in fortifying these efforts."

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