

World Conference of the U.N. for Women:

EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE,
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.

The "Mid-Decade World Conference of the United Nations for Women", held at Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-30 July 1980, marked the end of five years, or half of the decade, fixed by the Mexico Conference of 1975 for the implementation of the World Plan of Action, which aimed at the realization of complete equality between the sexes(1)

The new Plan of Action adopted by the Conference for the second period (1980-1985), stressed the importance of women's action for peace. Equality, development and peace, which constituted the theme of the Conference, were redefined. Equality does not mean only legal equality but also equality of rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women in total development and in all dimensions of human life.

The plan also recommended mutual cooperation between governments and non-governmental organizations, (NGO's), in implementing the program of action for the second half of the Decade.

Another recommendation was "to promote research aimed at developing effective methodologies of planning for women's development and at evaluating their participation in the informal sectors of the economy, the health of women, the double burden of working women and so on."

As to the "Resolution and Decisions" adopted by the Conference covering 156 stencilled pages and published in six languages, they reemphasize former resolutions such as the implementation of family planning and the control of illegal traffic in drugs.

Women's specific needs are dealt with in paragraphs claiming help to the following categories of women :

(1) Al-Raida, Vol. 1, no. 5, Aug. 1978, p.11

1. Disabled Women

The Conference appeals to all women and men of the world to support and contribute to the success of the International Year of Disabled Persons, 1981.

2. Migrant Women

The government of host countries should devote particular attention to the problems of migrant women by eliminating all discrimination against them as regards their access to labor markets.

3. Eldery Women

The Conference requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant international agencies, to prepare a comparative study on the availability of social and economic security for elderly women.

4. Women and Peace

Women should be provided with new opportunities to become more closely involved both on a national and international level, in the process of preparing for peace.

5. Lebanese Women

The Conference urges the United Nations and its specialized agencies to give the necessary attention to the needs of the Lebanese women in general and women in South Lebanon in particular, to study means of meeting those needs and to provide financial, material and technical assistance from various international sources.

6. Palestinian women living inside and outside the occupied territories are entitled to assistance measures as well.

7. Women refugees and displaced women the world over :

The Conference urges the Office of U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other concerned U.N. agencies and international and non-governmental organizations, to establish the programs necessary for dealing with the special needs of displaced and refugee women, especially in the areas of health, education and employment.

World Peace and Freedom at WILPF's 21st Triennial

Nearly 500 delegates, participants and guests from the United States and 27 other countries met at Quinnipiac College, Connecticut, U.S.A. for the 21st Triennial Congress of the World International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)(1) held on Aug. 17-23, 1980.

International President Kay reported on the state of the world and the menace of world war, concluding with two proposals : first that WILPF convene in Washington, D.C. a World Women's Peace and Disarmament in March 1982; second, a three-year million dollar improvement program that would be used for, among other things, international office staff, field representatives, annual student institutes and promotion of women's centers in developing countries.

One of the delegates, Lucille Mair, secretary-general of

the World Conference of the U.N. Decade for Women, said that the conclusions of the Mid-Decade Conference reflected a fuller understanding of the status of women around the world.

A panel on WILPF priorities, workshop sessions in which representatives from the various WILPF sections reported on their work, were followed by a round table meeting at Yale University, where four women who had been personally involved in national liberation movements described the changing role of women in their countries. They came respectively from Grenada (West Indies), Vietnam, Cuba and the Philippines.

On the final day of the Congress, 22 resolutions were discussed and adopted, and new international officers were elected : Carol Pendell (U.S.), president ; Ruth Osborne (U.K.), Anissa Najjar (Lebanon) and Rigmor Thomsen (Denmark), Vice-presidents, and Evelyn Rothfield (Australia), treasurer.

(1) WILPF, 1213 Race, Philadelphia, Pa., 19107, U.S.A.