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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Item 3 (a)

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN
DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Statement submitted by the International Council of Women,
a non-governmental organization in Category I consultative
status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Secretary-General has received the following statement which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

THE CONVENTION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

- (1) The International Council of Women (ICW), 88 years old but always young, unites 70 affiliated-councils. They comprise different nationalities, races, religions, political ideologies, and cultural traditions.
- (2) ICW encourages women to be aware of their rights and of their duties, and to apply the golden rule:
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".
- (3) ICW is actively represented at the United Nations, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF and regionally also at the regional commission.
- (4) ICW pledged full support to the Women's Decade and to the International Women's Year World Plan of Action. For this purpose it has held regional seminars in all continents.
- (5) Recently, at the 21st Triennial Conference in Vancouver (21 June - 2 July 1976) all the national Councils of Women voted unanimously to study and apply the New World Economic Order in its actions worldwide. They also passed 26 resolutions and 2 recommendations including:
 - the equality of men and women,
 - the protection of mothers and their role in children's education,

- the increased participation of women in policy-making, and
 - the encouragement of women to take full advantage of possibilities to reach the higher echelons in the fields of economic activity.
- (6) ICW underlines the necessity of establishing national, regional, and international research and training institutes designed to assemble, assess and disseminate information and research findings on the advances in the Status of Women, and of making full use of the existing institutes.
- (7) ICW most strongly recommends that:
- the importance of training women in all UN development-related activities be recognized,
 - the women who left the working force to assume their family responsibilities be reintegrated after adequate training,
 - the importance of the Voluntary Fund, so important to support the efforts in reaching the goals of the Decade, be recognized, and
 - the Voluntary Fund make full use of the JWC's emblems in all forms as part of the fund-raising campaign.
- (8) The ICW, in its several statements to this Commission, stressed especially also: "We believe that the improvement of the living and working conditions of women in rural areas is a subject that requires urgent attention".
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