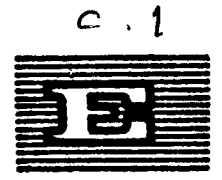
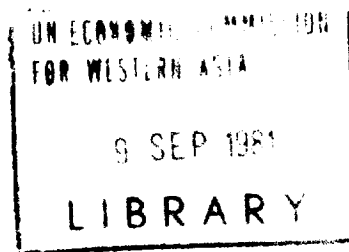




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The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women:
Equality, Development and Peace (Copenhagen, 13-30 July 1980)

(Note from the Executive Secretary)

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women was held at Copenhagen as a follow-up to the Mexico Conference of 1975 and as part of the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations which declared the period from 1975 to 1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women. The Copenhagen Conference was held at the mid-point of the Decade for three purposes: to evaluate progress in the first half of the Decade, to identify the obstacles and problems that accompanied the implementation of the World Plan of Action and **ensuing regional plans**, and to elaborate a Programme of Action for the second half of the Decade (1980-1985).

In preparation for the Copenhagen Conference, the ECWA secretariat organized a Regional Preparatory Meeting at Damascus (10-13 December 1979) and acted to place the subject of Palestinian woman on the agenda of the World Conference, in response to the wishes of the members of the Commission, as expressed in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in the ECWA Region which was adopted

at the Amman meeting of 29 May-4 June 1978. That document called for action to place an item on Palestinian women on the agendas of all international and regional meetings that deal with the issues of women and development. The Copenhagen Conference placed on its agenda a separate item on the "Effects of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories".

The Regional Preparatory Meeting held at Damascus adopted the following documents which had been prepared by the ECWA secretariat and submitted them to the Copenhagen Conference:

1. Regional Programme of Action for Western Asia for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women (Copenhagen document A/CONF.94/18).
2. Social and economic conditions of Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories. (Copenhagen document A/CONF.94/21).
3. Special measures of assistance to Palestinian women. (Copenhagen document A/CONF.94/4).

The statement by the Executive Secretary concerning the progress of women in the region and the efforts deployed to this end in the member countries of ECWA was delivered before the plenary session of the Conference at Copenhagen. A delegation from the ECWA secretariat participated actively in the Conference. Working in close consultation and co-ordination with the representatives of the members of the Commission and with the Conference secretariat, the ECWA delegation co-operated in drafting a number of paragraphs of the World Plan of Action as well as the recommendation concerning "assistance to Lebanese women in general and women in southern Lebanon in particular". The delegation also co-operated in organizing a press conference on the problems of Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories. In following up the World Programme of Action and the Regional Programme of Action for Western Asia, which were adopted by the Copenhagen Conference, the secretariat, in co-operation with the members of ECWA, pursued its activities and programmes for the progress of women and their integration in the development process as follows:

(a) The secretariat printed the Regional Programme of Action for Western Asia for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women in both Arabic and English and arranged for its wide distribution;

(b) It provided consultation services in matters concerning women to the members of the Commission upon their request;

(c) It participated in technical meetings and seminars on the problems of women in development;

(d) The secretariat followed up the implementation of the projects financed by the Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Decade for Women. These included projects undertaken by the General Union of Palestinian Women and the Governments of Oman, Bahrain, Lebanon, Yemen and Democratic Yemen. In addition, the secretariat made preparations for a number of regional research projects and seminars.

The ECWA secretariat also prepared a number of national and regional projects which it submitted to the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Decade for Women for consideration at its April 1981 meeting. These projects, which are listed below, were identified in accordance with the requests of the members of the Commission and to meet the needs of women in the region:

1. Improving the skills of women workers in the national handicraft programme (Democratic Yemen);
2. Training women in maintenance skills for household appliances and related electronic equipment (Jordan);
3. Education and training of women for income generation (Lebanon);
4. Programme for self-reliance and community participation for female industrial workers (Egypt);
5. Seminar on community leadership roles of women (regional);
6. Logistic support for women's programmes in the region (regional);
7. Regional workshop on the production of communications and audio-visual materials for female rural extension programmes (regional).