

- (iv) To help women become better-informed consumers;
- (v) To prevent and reduce family violence.

United Nations system objectives

(i) To promote the concept of sharing parental and family responsibilities between the family and society by establishing child-care facilities and, where applicable, care for the elderly and disabled, as important components of social and economic policy for improving the status of women and their productivity;

(ii) To complete a study of the extent to which women have primary responsibility for the care of dependent members of the family and community and the consequences, in order to develop measures to ensure that men and women share domestic and parental responsibilities equitably;

(iii) To complete initial proposals for new strategies to meet the challenge of changes in the family, in women's roles and in relations between men and women; strategies should aim at the creation of an environment that fosters equality, social justice, respect for the dignity of individuals, and peaceful resolution of conflicts;

(iv) To promote the application of international norms and standards for the provision of social infrastructure for the care of dependants.

Strategy

Experience has shown that women traditionally assume primary responsibility for dependent members of the family. If women are to be able to work outside the home, adequate social infrastructure, including arrangements for child-care, must be developed. Although some progress has been made in advancing this concept in both developed and developing countries, a significant effort must still be made to encourage more countries to adopt policies and programmes to make adequate provision for dependants. Studies conducted during the Decade showed that women bear a disproportionate responsibility not only for domestic work and rearing children but also for caring for other dependent members of the family and community, such as the disabled, unemployed youths and frail elderly persons. The extent of the problem, which can be expected to become more acute with increasing modernization and urbanization, and its consequences are not well known; nor are measures to deal with it well articulated. Accordingly, a diagnosis will be made of the problem, and guidelines will be developed that will set out the respective roles of the public and private sectors, including the role of the family, in addressing the problem.

Research will be undertaken on the prevention, effects and extent of the problem of violence against women in family and in society and a kit on the subject will be produced for public information purposes. National and international co-operation in solving the problem of domestic violence will be promoted by providing a clearing-house for information relating to the nature and extent of the problem and by assisting Member States in the development and evaluation of appropriate criminal justice legislation.

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