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Strategy

An assessment will be made of the impact on women of current international economic trends, particularly salient sectoral trends. Efforts will be made to identify the policies that have been the most effective in advancing women's role in development and to document the various contributions of women to the achievement of national development goals. A comprehensive study will be made of women's roles in the development process over time, drawing on regional and sectoral studies.

On the basis of legislative guidance from the appropriate policy-making bodies of the United Nations system, a number of specific issues will be addressed such as national machinery for monitoring and improving the status of women; equality in economic and social participation; equality in political participation and decision-making; vulnerable women, including migrant women; elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination against women; problems of rural women, including food, water resources, agricultural technology, rural employment, transportation and environment; education and eradication of illiteracy, employment, health and social services, including population issues and child care; negative effects of the international economic situation on the improvement of the status of women; national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations; integration of women in the process of development; access to information, education for peace, and efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society; full participation of women in the construction of their countries and in the creation of just social and political systems; women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation and threats to peace; refugee and displaced women and children; and equal participation in all efforts to promote international co-operation, peace and disarmament. The information available will be assembled and analysed jointly by the organizations concerned through inter-agency meetings and informal consultations. As one area of emphasis, studies, pilot projects and meetings will be undertaken with a view to developing policies and promoting action to enable women fully to play their part as both beneficiaries and agents of cultural development, to develop their creative talents and to participate in international cultural exchanges.

Special efforts will be made to develop methodology for elaborating comprehensive guidelines for monitoring and review and appraisal of activities related to women and development at all levels and in all sectors.

The success of the system in completing high-quality analyses of the interrelationships of factors will depend to a great extent on the improvement of national and regional research and planning capabilities. A concerted effort will be made to assist national and regional institutions in policy research and planning, beginning with a needs assessment and followed by technical co-operation as requested by interested Governments.

The organizations primarily responsible for implementing this subprogramme are the United Nations (CSDHA, DIESA, ESCAP, ECA, ECLAC, ESCWA, UNEP), INSTRAW and UNIFEM.

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