

UNITED NATIONS

Centre for Human Rights

Global Consultation on the Realization of the  
Right to Development as a Human Right

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**Paper submitted by the International Council of Jewish Women**

As a signatory to the joint NGO Statement to the Global Consultation, the International Council of Jewish Women of course agrees with the analysis contained therein. We would, however, like to elaborate on some of its points, specially as regards the participation and integration of women in development.

We note with satisfaction that "Women and the right to development as a human right" is on the agenda under item III,<sup>N</sup>Specific examples of the implementation of the right to development as a human right." But, since there will be no progress in the realization of the right to development unless and until women are completely integrated and participate equally at all levels of the development process, we believe that women's participation and integration should also be discussed under item II B "the right to development as a human right! and traditional development strategies."

It is the traditional development strategies which have not recognized women's role in the development process. It is also they which have prevented women from taking their rightful place as promoters of development.

One mechanism to assess progress should be a provision to measure women's participation and integration in the development process, both nationally and internationally.

Another place where women's role should be considered is item V A "International development policies, international organizations and the realization of the right to development as a human right." Here too, mechanisms should include the continuation of women.

As is noted in the joint NGO statement and has been previously presented both at the Commission on Human Rights and at the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, women's work is largely unnoticed and taken for granted. This is a violation of their human dignity. (Universal Declaration of Human Rights; inter alia Articles 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 of the Declaration on the Right<sup>1</sup> to Development, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, to name but the most obvious of UN instruments}.

One way to facilitate the realization of the right to development as a human right would be a different evaluation, not to say definition, of the concept of work. The reason that much of women's work is unnoticed is that this work is unpaid and therefore ignored -- see NGO joint statement, <sup>this</sup> part 2, Development: an evolving concept, para 3.

But the idea that this work should be redefined and recognized in national accounts is spreading. We refer to the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, para. 120; the resolution 33/5 passed at the last session of the Commission on the Status of Women CE/1989/11, E/CN. 6/1989/11, p. 33; the 1989 State of World Population Report, "Investing in Women: the Focus of the Nineties" (Published by UNFPA, New York).

A more recent example of <sup>✓</sup>this is the new basic program of the German Socialist Party (SPD) as reported in Le Monde, 22 December 1989: "The idea that the concept of work should be profoundly rethought, abolishing the traditional difference between salaried work and the activities not recognized in this framework, such as household work, the education of children, etc. has already been analyzed in a book that Oskar Lafontaine wrote last year, The Future Society." Another example is the bill introduced this year in the House of Commons, UK, calling for the inclusion of "women's unremunerated work" in the GNP. Although the bill did not pass, a precedent has been set.

Moreover, the Conference of European Statisticians, the ECE/INSTRAW joint meeting on statistics for women, held in Geneva from 13 to 16 November last, gave much attention to the unpaid and informal sectors of women's employment.

We emphasize here again that, whether women are salaried or not, the work in the household, including subsistence farming, must go on. The report to the ECE/INSTRAW meeting from the Federal Republic of Germany CCES/AC. 60/32, INSTRAW/AC. 4/32, 4 Sept. 1989) begins as follows (p. 2, para 1): "In terms of income generation and expenditure, the household sector is by far the most important sector of national accounts; the households, in fact, are the financiers of national investments. They hardly ever appear, however, as producers." It states a new idea of how to treat the question in para 4, p. 4: "Since national accounts cannot and should not claim to represent the entire economic and social reality, it is suggested to show household production in a supplementary system. Such a system is often referred to as 'satellite accounts'". In para 5, it states "The scope would extend far beyond of

what is now covered by the GNP. .An important requirement would be the -..'possibility of linking and combining as many data of the satellite accounts on household production as possible with the national accounts data."

For the same meeting, the International Labour Office in its paper, Valuing Domeetic Activities CCES/AC. 60/34, INSTRAW/AC. 4/34, 29 Aug. 1988 states, p. 2, para 4, "It should however be remembered that the measuresen and valuation of these activities is meaningful, not only for a clarifi-\* cation of women's economic status, but also for the overall improvement of economic statistics." Two paras further on, it is stated: "Data covering both the recorded and heretofore unrecorded sectors of the economy are needed on which to base economic policies, employment poli- cies, income distrbution policies, equitable distribution of the workload between genders, equitable social security provisions for unpaid workers, etc...."

There is, moreover, a broader view of this subject that was proposed in Great Britain's report, Survey of Informal Carers CCES/AC. 60/33, INSTRAW/AC. 4/33, 30 Aug. 1989). This report covers another aspect of unpaid work which is essential for the realization of the right to development as a human right in order to meet the fundamental needs of all people. The report begins: "I em presenting a paper on informal care at a conference on women because caring is typically thought of es women's work. However, as will be discussed later, one of the most suprising and controversial findings of our survey was that a substantial proportion of men were involved in caring." It described the results of a 1985 study to identify people looking after a disabled or elderly person.

The informal care given by women end men is certainly an important contribution to the health and social welfare of any society and, therefore, part of the human face of development as a human right. It should be considered in some way in national accounts, perhaps to be included in the satellite accounts proposed by the FRG.

Asl;n organization composed of volunteers, the International Council of Jewish Women would indeed be remiss if we did not call attention to other kinds of volunteer work related to the right to development in which our one million members ar-B engaged all over the world, principally in edo- cation, social welfare, cultural and health services. This is specially important at the present time when governments all over the world are

cutting back on these seential services. Whatever the reason For this, ideological and/or economic, the implication is that the shortfall should b« made up by unpaid work<sup>3</sup>ers, male as well as female. This kind of work has not been quantified at all. Yet, the Declaration o»» the Right to Development states, Art. 2, para 1 "The human person is the central subject of development, and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development." Surely one way to implment the above would be to recogniz<sup>4</sup> the unpaid sector not only in household work but also in edúcatíonal, health, social service and cultural work and to include all these aspects in the national accounts.

Submitted by Leila Seigel, Hon. Vice-Pres. and Rep. in Geneva, ICJW.  
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