

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE  
AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

“The Rights of Women and Children  
within the  
Framework of Sustainable Human Development”

Preparatory Technical Meeting

La Paz, August 19th to August 22, 1996

REPORT from the RAPPORTEUR

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In La Paz, Bolivia, from the 19th to the 22nd of August of 1996, the Preparatory Technical Meeting for the Sixth Conference of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas took place. This meeting was attended by the technical advisers of the First Ladies, members of the Pro Tempore Secretariat and accredited international organizations which direct their efforts to this end.

The Inaugural Session was held on August 19th under the direction of Mrs. Nina Tamayo de Arnal, National Coordinator for the Pro Tempore Secretariat, Mrs. Carola Muñoz, Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, Dr. Leila Rachid, Head of the Paraguayan Delegation and member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat and Mrs. Leonor Calderón, Head of the Panamanian Delegation and also a member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

Mrs. Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez Lozada, Her Excellency the First Lady of Bolivia, delivered the inaugural address welcoming the distinguished delegates and highlighting the meeting's common goal of "discussing and analyzing the issues which are vital to the neediest sectors of the populations of the Americas: Women and Children."

The First Lady summarized the important advances which have been made in previous meetings of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas as well as touched on some of the central issues of the Sixth Conference such as the need to "consolidate and strengthen the working mechanisms and convert them into a dynamic instrument able to respond to the needs of communities." The First Lady gratefully acknowledged the presence of representatives from international organizations and agencies for cooperation and, after expressing her wishes for the fruitful development of the meeting, she stated, " Only if we unite in a joint effort can the women of Latin

America provide a better future for our children and for our children's children." The full text record of this speech can be found in Annex 1 of this report.

Following the opening ceremonies, the Conference's National Coordinator, Mrs. Nina Tamayo, greeted the distinguished delegations and began the work session. In the interest of facilitating the functioning of the meeting, she asked that the delegations note down and present their expectations of the conference in written form. Mrs. Tamayo then presented the meeting's Agenda and explained its procedure. The text of the Agenda can be found in Annex 2 and the list of delegates can be found in Annex 3 of this report.

The participating delegations expressed their interest in working on the Agenda of the Sixth Conference scheduled to take place this December.

Subsequently, Mrs. Carola Muñoz, Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, summarized the main points to be dealt with and the aims which motivated their consideration on the Agenda of the Preparatory Technical Meeting. She also outlined the important advances made in other meetings of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

She pointed out that the schedule would proceed with the introduction of specific topics by experts from the organizations for cooperation. The follow-up on the agreements reached at this Conference was to be considered a way in which to evaluate the development of these topics and the results of the efforts by the First Ladies in regard to their commitments. The instruments issuing from this meeting would be presented at the plenary session wherein one of these would be approved for implementation. Regional initiatives constitute further topics for discussion and approval as does the final drawing up of a regional plan of action.

She noted that the introductory assistance from the representatives of the international organizations would establish a referential base of information as well as present for consideration the instruments to be used in the follow up of these agreements in order that they be carried out in the most appropriate way. She likewise stressed the importance of establishing a work timetable.

Mrs. Tamayo emphasized that the Preparatory Technical Meeting should address the Agenda for the Sixth Conference of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

## **EVALUATION OF THE MEDIUM RANGE GOALS OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON CHILDREN**

This topic was introduced by Mr. Jorge Jara Valencia, UNICEF Representative in Bolivia. After a short summary of developments in this area since 1970, he pointed out that, in accordance with the agreed-upon goals reached in Nariño, 15 countries in the

region of the Americas have recorded immunization coverage of over 85% of their populations. Nevertheless, he noted that some countries are still very much behind on this project.

In regard to acute respiratory infections, and particularly to pneumonia, he maintained that there remains not only a problem of costs in overcoming this problem but also one of opportunities and he therefore urged that concrete action be taken on a widespread social level in order to successfully combat these diseases.

He noted that Brazil, Colombia and Mexico have made important advances in the fight against neonatal tetanus. In Haiti and Peru, however, he stated the situation is such that this disease continues to be a serious problem.

He also reported on the diseases linked to iodine deficiency and declared that initiatives to add iodine to salt should be undertaken in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

He reported that important gains in the fight against measles had been made in the British Caribbean. Likewise, Bolivia and Ecuador had notably lowered their measles indexes thanks to intensive campaigns in these countries.

Concerning breast-feeding, Dr. Valencia pointed out that this practice should be promoted both in the home and by health care services. In regard to malnutrition, he stated that even though this problem is linked to poverty, this is no reason to weaken initiatives to fight it. Likewise, he indicated that the proportion of school breakfast programs is not adequate to completely defeat malnutrition and stated that governments must concentrate their efforts on developing programs to combat this condition in the under 2 years old age group.

Dr. Valencia commended the implementation in Bolivia of a Maternity and Childhood Fund which is financed by the federal government.

His final recommendations were:

1. That the Pro Tempore Secretariat begin initiatives to coordinate the agreements and initiatives which will come out of the Sixth Conference of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and take these conclusions to be adopted and endorsed as measures of their governments' Public Policy Programs by the Presidents at the Hemispheric Summit to be held in Santa Cruz.
2. That it is of the utmost importance that countries committed to reaching certain goals release their latest statistics which would indicate any recent advances as well as reflect the present state of affairs.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN**

In the discussion of this topic, Mrs. Sirka Korpela, Resident Representative of the United Nations Program for Development in Bolivia, referred to, in the style of previous presentations, the different World Conferences of the United Nations held over the past three years.

She pointed out that even though the advance toward the goal of equality between men and women has been considerable, discrimination, violence and unequal access to opportunities continues to be a phenomenon throughout the world against which we must direct joint efforts.

In regard to poverty, it was noted that women constitute about 60% of the world's rural poor population which exceeds a figure of one billion people; as a strategic objective in eradicating poverty, Governments must revise and maintain macro-economic policies and strategies of development which address the needs of women and support their efforts to overcome this situation.

In regard to education and training, it was noted that of the 905 million illiterate people registered world-wide in 1990, 587 million (65%) of these were women who, for the most part, live in rural areas.

It was pointed out that the best investment a country can make is one which is directed toward the education of its population and, specifically, toward the education of women, as the return on this investment is greater than that of the total given the role women play both in the family and in the organization of society.

She stated that the Plan of Action in Education means that governments must commit themselves to insuring universal access to education in the lower grades and strive for the goal of having at least 80% of the school-age girls in their countries complete primary school by the year 2000.

In the area of health, she noted that it is 12 times more likely that women in the southern hemisphere die from pregnancy and birth-related causes than women in the northern hemisphere. Death due to childbirth is the cause of 500,000 deaths annually. These statistics are in direct relation to the access to health care systems, to high-quality and low-cost services and to information which allows women to take relevant decisions in these situations. Likewise, it was pointed out that the responsibility for sexual behavior and reproduction should be assumed by both men and women.

In regard to violence, it was noted that in the United States a woman is beaten every 18 minutes and that about 3 or 4 million women are battered annually around the world.

The lack of legislation protecting women and preventing abuse as well as the continuation of ignorance or non-compliance with the laws only perpetuates the

violence committed against women. The plan of action considers these areas as targets for strategic action and urges that the States work collectively for the approval and implementation of all international measures designed prevent and eliminate violence against women.

She stated that statistics show that women now constitute 41% of the work force in developed countries and 34% of the world work force. Nevertheless, the salary for women is 30% to 40% lower than that received by men for the same job. These figures do not consider the maternal work day of these women which is similar to or often more intense than that of a job outside the home.

In this respect, she noted that priority must be given to job training along with access to credit and the markets.

Finally, she pointed out that the long term goal of the participation of women, which has come to gain legitimacy and weight, has also become an indispensable condition for human development.

#### **AGENDA OF THE PREPARATORY TECHNICAL MEETING OF THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS**

The National Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat presented for consideration by the participants of the session, the topics on the Agenda and the working methods which the Technical Advisors of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government will develop in the Preparatory Technical Meeting of the Conference in December.

The Delegate from Paraguay and member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat stated that the subject is a crucial one but that the Agenda must be reduced and developed in order that topics already discussed not be repeated and only a brief summary of these items be presented.

The Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat informed the group that while even though topics from the meetings held in Paraguay and Santa Lucia are repeated, what must be done now is to establish guidelines for the processes needed to follow up in these areas.

The Delegate from Panama and Member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat pointed out that the repetition of these topics occurs in the introductions which is, in the majority of cases, familiar information.

Costa Rica proposed the development of tasks in a group only when is necessary or when controversy or confusion arises. In this way the tendency of working in a group is eliminated.

Finally, the work agenda and procedures for the Preparatory Technical Meeting were approved.

## INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT PLANS FOR THE ACCELERATED REDUCTION OF THE INDEX OF MATERNITY-RELATED DEATHS AND ILLNESS IN THE AMERICAS

The presentation of this topic was made by Dr. Marjorie A. Koblinsky, Director of Mother Care, who pointed out that there are an estimated 585,000 women who die each year from pregnancy-related causes. More than half of these deaths occur in Asia.

She stated that the Latin American woman, in general, has a moderate Fertility Rate (3.1) and a Childbirth Mortality Rate (190), but that 23,000 women die annually from pregnancy-related causes.

She detailed the some of the causes of childbirth mortality such as obstetric complications and continued to point out the need for basic safety measures. Drawing on the experience of Mother Care, she reviewed the way such programs are run and offered suggestions on possible ideas and strategies.

Dr. Koblinsky indicated that governments need to establish both a regional and national system for maternal care including the provision of resources at every level of pre-natal care. Attempts at training, in many cases, have not been enough to save lives and reduce mortality rates. Latin America should focus its resources on increasing the level of attention given in childbirth especially when the level of this care is low. It also must be determined whether this problem is the result of the woman's or her family's refusal of medical services or if it is the absence of infrastructure and trained personnel in this area.

In places where these birthing services are used, one should make sure that attention is given to:

- The development of procedures to outline how complications should be managed.
- Training in the use of life saving techniques as well as training in interpersonal communications
- The installation of committees to determine the factors which resulted in hospital deaths, to conduct qualitative internal checks and to discourage too much patient intervention such as Cæsarian sections.

Concerning the link between reproductive health care and healthy births, she pointed out that in Latin America it is estimated that more than 23,000 women die each year out of a total 20 million pregnancies; that four million pregnancies end in abortion, that there are three million infant deaths and that 15%, approximately 1.8 million women, are subject to life-threatening complications during pregnancy. These are problems which affect opportunities for survival, fertility, productivity and quality of life.

It is estimated that approximately 550,000 children die in Latin America, half during childbirth and one third in the first week of life.

Dr. Koblinsky indicated that a program which has as its objective the reduction of childbirth mortality rates should also significantly affect the number of prenatal deaths. This effect is possible by providing mothers with better prenatal care: the treatment of anemia and reproductive tract infections through research and improved services. Additionally, an improvement in post-partum infant care using better diagnostic techniques including the management of sepsis puerperal and maternal hemorrhaging is also necessary.

The Guatemalan Delegate emphasized that each member country must make an effort to determine their country's progress in this area and present a report in December in relation to the objectives outlined in the World Summit on Children.

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE FOLLOW UP ON THE PLANS TO REDUCE CHILDBIRTH MORTALITY RATES IN THE AMERICAS**

The Technical Coordinator of Pro Tempore Secretariat noted that only five countries: El Salvador, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Mexico have managed to reduce their childbirth mortality rates more than 15%, coming up short of the 30% reduction which was programmed for 1995.

Four countries reported reductions in this index of less than 25%; these countries are: Brazil, Chile, Cuba and Canada. Six countries reported a small increase: Haiti, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Uruguay and the United States. Four countries made no report concerning this matter.

Early pregnancy was cited as another risk to women's health considering that one out of every five women under the age of fifteen becomes pregnant. Having taken all of these problems into account, last year the First Ladies formulated a proposal to support, in their respective countries, plans for the reduction of childbirth mortality rates and committed themselves to playing strong roles in their current offices as Wives of the Heads of State.

The Delegate put forward for consideration by the participants the suggestion that the office of First Lady should take action in the following areas:

- The summoning of all of society to join in the effort to reduce the rate of childbirth mortality.
- The active participation of cabinet ministers at the initiative of the First Ladies.
- The active participation of the media through the provision of information and services which would enable families to exercise their options in family planning and avoid unwanted pregnancies and abortions.
- The promotion of better reproductive care for the population as a whole.



- The promotion of information to the general population as to the availability and quality of reproductive health care.
- The promotion and education of the population as concerns the necessity of monitoring pregnancy with at least five medical pre-natal check ups.
- The summoning of the community to take action on what they identify to be obstetric emergencies.
- To include in the reports of each country the records of immediate attention and guarantee of evacuation in all cases of obstetric emergencies.
- To promote the accurate reporting of childbirth mortality rates as to the monitoring plan to prevent and reduce childbirth mortality rates to the international organizations.

After the presentation by the Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat; the Delegate from Costa Rica observed that her country has not worked directly in the area given that the Ministry of Health has the responsibility. In this case a report from the Health Ministry would be submitted making it clear that this issue was not the responsibility of the First Lady.

The Delegate from Paraguay stated her disagreement noting that there are instances in which the ministries present information on their activities in these areas.

The delegate from Guatemala shared the opinion that the topics dealt with should correspond to those which the First Lady has direct bearing upon.

It was agreed that each First Lady should address only those topics which interest her and any reports released should only concern these subjects.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat proposed that October 30th would be the deadline for the delivery of the follow up report.

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE REGIONAL PROJECT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY**

The introduction of this topic was presented by the representative of UNFPA, Lilian Frierio Berguio, who indicated that UNFPA distributes funds to national programs by country to be used in implementing program with duration periods of four or five years.

This year the approval of a new system of assigning funds is foreseen in which countries are divided into three groups (A, B and C).

Group A will receive the largest percentage of UNFPA funds, only two countries in Latin America, Haiti and Nicaragua, are included in this group.

Seventeen countries are included in group B and receive, on a percentage basis, less funds. And finally, the countries in group C receive funds earmarked for specific programs. In addition, there also exists a fund, of 3 million dollars destined for regional programs.

The project in question was reformulated and is now oriented to meeting the general goal of national policies and programs concerned with preventing teen-age pregnancies by sharing experiences, referring to reports from each country, exchanging regional and sub regional information as well as national policies. Among the local projects and programs are training and services for adolescents. There are 21 designated countries and US\$ 742,000 in funds and US\$ 176,000 in subsidies have been approved.

At this moment subsidies are available under this regional project with Bolivia, Paraguay, Santa Lucia, Saint Kitts, Nicaragua, Suriname and pending Costa Rica.

The representative of UNFPA indicated that it is essential that the cabinets of Wives of the Heads of State of the Americas recuperate the regional character of this project as there were no applications made for these funds. What is lacking in order to distribute these funds are specific proposals.

In this regard, the Pro Tempore Secretariat informed the session that on the 15th of August, 1995 it was agreed that the funds designated for regional projects be distributed in three of the countries which had adhered to the stipulated program.

The delegate from Costa Rica noted that these funds did not arrive to her country. The delegation from Panama indicated that no an additional planning was necessary and that the funds were to be shared amongst the interested countries.

It was agreed to establish a time period in which the countries would present their interest in a regional program and that the First Ladies would also express their interest in becoming part of this program.

#### **INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF MALNUTRITION DUE TO IRON DEFICIENCY IN THE AMERICAS**

The Bolivian delegation through the Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, Carola Muñoz, made a presentation on this initiative pointing out that among the micro-nutritional deficiencies, without doubt, that of iron deficiency is the most prevalent.

It is estimated that one out of every five inhabitants on the planet suffers from iron deficiency. According to WHO criteria, 2,150 million persons suffer from iron deficiency and 1,200 million suffer from anemia. In Latin America it is estimated that about 94 million people succumb to anemia due to iron deficiency. Iron deficiency fundamentally affects women and children.

As to strategies, it was indicated that there are three approaches recommended by committees of experts and organizations specialized in the problem of iron deficiency and other micro-nutrients: a) supplementary medication of groups at risk, b) strengthening of mass consumption foods and c) diversification of the diet to improve the ingestion of these micro-nutrients.

The fortification of mass consumption foods is recognized as the most efficient method in terms of cost benefit because this measure reaches the majority of the population and results in an improvement in nutritional reserves and, moreover, avoids risks in the most vulnerable sectors: pregnant women and children.

It was pointed out that of 34 Latin American countries, 11 have iron fortification programs of wheat flour, 4 are in the process of initiating such programs, 2 have no fortification programs and 17 did not report information on this topic.

The proposal is included within the First Ladies' initiative to support plans for reducing the maternity-related death rate. The program puts emphasis on the use of a mass consumption food common to the region with the intention of fortifying it and thus contributing to reaching the objective: the reduction of the child and maternity-related mortality rates through the reduction of nutritional anemia during pregnancy and in children.

The proposal intends to accommodate itself to the reality and nutritional habits of each one of the countries.

A plan of action was set forth which is comprised of the following steps:

- Encourage the establishment of measures to control the deficiency of micro-nutrients in general.
- Set up local inter-institutional commissions to promote the proposed plan of action.
- Identify the most vulnerable groups and adopt measures to complement their diet as well as guarantee the consumption of these foods.
- As regards regulations, seek out common points in legislation which regulate the fortification of food.
- Promote the fortification of wheat flour in general.
- Facilitate this process with the involvement of the First Ladies.

It was noted that the approval of this initiative would allow giving the program a regional scope given the existence of International Organizations interested in its implementation.

The delegations from Argentina and Guatemala presented information on experiences in this area which have taken place in their countries.

Finally, it was resolved that the Pro Tempore Secretariat would see to it that an information form on the initiative to reduce malnutrition due to iron deficiency be sent out to the countries by the 30th of September of this year.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat was designated in charge of subsequently presenting support measures to the International Agencies and Organizations.

The representative of the OPS/WHO in Bolivia, Dr. Carlos Linger, brought up the possibility that the regional character of this project would be looked upon favorably.

The World Food Program, WFP, formulated a proposal for coordination between this organization and the First Ladies of the Americas.

The Director of WFP in Bolivia, María Inés Tornvall, pointed out that any project is possible if only it involves all participants. In Bolivia, 60% of the national food requirements are produced in the country wherein women have a high degree of participation.

Likewise, she noted that in a rural Bolivian socio-economic survey, it was shown the structural reforms being developed by the National Government are being carried out in such a way as to involve and, in the long term, benefit the rural sector.

The WFP is making an effort to have women administer the food aid measures, help evaluate food needs and food distribution. In certain projects, it will seek to promote education to a greater degree assigning to girls more than 50% of the resources for school food programs. It intends to increase aid to refugees in programs teaching them integrated ways of family planning and health care and nutrition education directed at decreasing vitamin and mineral deficiency in women.

Among the characteristics required for WFP aid were mentioned:

1. That the projects supported by the organization are appropriate to a problem, a specific necessity, and be solicited by the Government which commits itself to providing the materials and human resources for the project.
2. That the WFP projects support the poorest sectors of the population.
3. That in these projects, the participation of the community and the inclusion of provisions for training are fundamental.

The beneficiary must participate in the successful execution of the project:

- Identifying problems, objectives and activity priorities,
- With his work, for example, in farm production,
- With his material support in sanitation activities, improvement in housing and
- With his school attendance.

## **PREVENTION OF DEATH FROM CANCER IN WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS**

The introduction of the topic was given by the representative of PAHO/WHO, Dr. Carlos Linger, who informed those present that in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, even though 250 million dollars have been spent in the diagnosis and treatment of uterine cancer, a notable decrease in the mortality rate for this type of malignancy has not been reached.

In the region of the Americas, there are approximately 68,000 new cases of uterine cancer annually. The lowest rate of incidence is found in Canada and the United States and the highest rates are found in Peru and Paraguay.

The representative of the PAHO/WHO indicated that the object of the program for early detection is to reduce the mortality rate from cancer. The basic strategy consists of offering a screening test which identifies which women are prone to developing cancer.

Likewise, he noted the adoption of a joint plan which will not only permit the optimal use of existing resources but also channel support from outside cooperation agencies to assist the efforts being made for this cause.

The Representative of the Association of Ibero-American Leagues against Cancer, Dr. Ricardo Alba, delivered an evaluative report on the "Latin American Program against Cancer" noting that the problem of cancer is not only a health problem but also a social and educational problem.

He said that the objective of the Program is to contribute to reducing the incidence of the disease and mortality rates from cancer in 18 beneficiary countries by encouraging prevention measures along with the promotion of sound health practices.

The program, through an integrated plan of action directed toward the development of informational, educational and preventative efforts, intends that the population become aware of ways to avoid disease, to control risk factors, and to be informed about possible therapeutic treatment and assistance centers in the community.

Within this frame of reference, the ALICC is developing a pilot program in three countries in the region: Colombia (Andean Region), Costa Rica (Central American Region) and Paraguay (Southern Cone Region).

He pointed out that the implementation of this program has achieved the hoped-for results:

- An increase in the population's general level of awareness about cancer as well as an increase in the level of education about the disease and measures for its prevention.
- Appropriate planning strategies in the fight against cancer.

Finally, he informed the assembly that for the purpose of initiating this program, he had signed a financial agreement between the European Community and the Association of Ibero-American Leagues against Cancer for the sum of 15 million ECU's.

## **FOLLOW-UP ON THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MEASLES AND FOR THE IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS**

The introduction to the topic was given by Christina Nogueira representing the PAHO/WHO, who shared some statistics on the progress made in some countries as regards the elimination of measles in the Americas, the same statistics are found in bulletins which have been distributed through the offices of the First Ladies in each of the countries.

She pointed out that the initiative on the elimination of measles began in the individual countries: for example in Cuba in 1987 where coverage of 97% was achieved and in Brazil in 1992 where an average of 95% was attained.

The impact of these massive immunization campaigns has resulted in a significant reduction in the incidence of this disease. The United States, through its control systems, does not report any cases of measles imported from Latin America thus demonstrating the importance of strengthening epidemiological controls.

She noted that among the most important strategies, the first is the strengthening of permanent inoculation programs directed toward attaining a high degree of coverage; the second is a follow-up program in which every four or five years there is control of susceptible children in cases where the efficiency of the vaccination was less than 6% and did not reach zero conversion; and the third is a monitoring program which measures the impact of inoculation campaigns, the identification of risk areas and the detection of problems (deficiency in the strategies of the vaccination program).

She indicated that there are various international agencies which support these strategies: BID, UNICEF and AID with contribution of 8 million dollars; PAHO, with 8 million dollars; the Government of Spain with 1 million dollars and the Government of Holland with 500 thousand dollars designated for the strengthening of monitoring programs.

The elimination of measles in the Americas requires a total of US \$700 million dollars through to the year 2000.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE EVALUATION REPORT OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MEASLES IN THE AMERICAS**

The presentation was made by the delegate from Panama and Member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, Ms. Leonor Calderón, who emphasized the importance of the convocal effect of involving the First Ladies in their campaigns for the elimination of measles.

The follow-up procedure for the evaluation report on the plan of action for the elimination of measles corresponds with the steps and efforts which are in the proposal.

- Step 1. Guarantee the purchase of vaccines and refrigeration capacity in each country in which the efforts of the First Ladies would assure the assignment of budgetary funds.

The indicators of the evaluation which the Delegate from Panama proposed were:

- Percentage of countries specifically disposed to guarantee the purchase of vaccines and syringes in the national budget.
- Percentage of countries with a national budget which covers the costs of the purchase of refrigeration equipment.
- Percentage of countries which finance all costs incurred in the delivery of the immunizations.

- Step 2. Guarantee the participation of the society as well as the creation of national supervisory commissions to control the elimination of measles.

The indicators of the evaluation are:

- The number of countries with periodic meetings of an inter-agency coordinating committee.
- The percentage of countries with national control commissions which include the participation of both the public and the private sectors.

- The number of countries with plans of action for the elimination of measles which include the participation of other sectors of the society.

Step 3. Evaluate the accomplishment of the national goal by means of ongoing permanent contacts with corresponding cases:

The indicators in the process are:

- The number of cases of measles per country
- The number of countries with vaccination coverage by municipality of more than 95% of the children up to one year of age.

Step 4. Close follow-up on the process of regional campaigns initiated by PAHO and the maintenance of the topic on the First Ladies' agenda

The indicators of the evaluation are:

- Presentation of trimestral reports to the Pro Tempore Secretariat.
- Number of national and regional events organized by the offices of the First Ladies for the purpose of reaching their goal.

Step 5. Communicate the First Ladies' commitment at the regional and national levels.

The indicators are:

- The number of countries which, through the offices of the First Ladies, disseminated the plan of action to eliminate measles approved in the Fifth Conference

It was agreed that the Pro Tempore Secretariat will prepare a report by the 15th of November inasmuch as the countries have their reports submitted by this date.

## **THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS**

The elimination of barriers which impede access to and permanence of women and girls in the educational system.

The introduction of the topic was delivered by the UNICEF Representative, Vicky Colbert who reported that in Latin America advances in this area have been achieved. On the other hand, problems in the efficiency and quality of education have been detected and the first of the principal problems is failure due to the high rate of grade repetition.



As reasons for the low quality of education, she pointed out the emphasis on memorization as opposed to understanding; the methods used and the lack of material for educational development, the cultural conflict between the reality of the student and the content of the texts; the lack of time in reference to the number of school hours; and the problem of a child's own history (nutritional problems and lack of early stimulation, among others).

She pointed out that the majority of educational reforms remained in the ministries and in the administrative sphere. She proposed, therefore, to center the actions of the First Ladies on the following strategies:

1. Improve the operation of the schools in order they be more effective and make sure that the methods and materials are more effective.
2. Improve the child's ability to learn through methods based on the family and the community and by raising the parents' awareness of the total development of the child.
3. Promote more flexible programs able to be adapt to the conditions of a school-age population.
4. Promote planning and the follow-up mechanism in education and encourage the participation of the students, teachers, parents and administrators.
5. Promote the participation of key actors in the civil society such as NGO's, churches and others.

The speaker described the development experience in the area of non-traditional pre-primary education in Chile which makes use of mobile nurseries in the rural areas wherein the time in which the child was cared for coincided with the time the mother worked.

#### **THE INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AS WELL AS ACCESS TO AND PERMANENCE OF GIRLS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

The Delegate from the United States, Ms. Nicole Rabner, made a presentation on the topic indicating that the initiative titled PERA (Partnership for the Revitalization of Education in the Americas) was started at the Fifth Conference in Paraguay by the First Lady of the United States.

She referred to the document on the make up of the partnership to revitalize education in the Americas.

The concept of the partnership highlights the inter-dependence among the nations of the Americas and different social sectors, institutions and their component groups, governments, multi-lateral organizations, non-governmental organizations and national and international networks which work in the field of education.

The association has the following as its aims:

- Convert education into a priority for public and private policy on the continent
- Strengthen the ability of governments, non-governmental organizations and other work systems are able to contribute to broadening and improving education.
- Call meetings and distribute information on efficient programs, research and successful policies in terms of the preparation of human resources, and
- Encourage dialogue, learning and exchange among the countries of the Americas.

She pointed out that the common objectives of our countries are: Improvement in the quality of education and assurance of access to schools particularly with a consideration for the equality of opportunities and the inclusion of women in the labor force.

She stated that at the Summit in Miami the measures reflected recognition of the importance of education and considered it as one of the goals of priority in the hemisphere. In these same measures, it was agreed to create an association to serve as a forum as well as to promote the necessary reforms in educational policies such as the more efficient use of available resources.

She recalled that the First Lady of the United States committed the U.S. government, through the instrument of AID, to providing financing in order to advance the development of this project. Similarly, in the Declaration of Paraguay, the Wives of the Heads of State and Government agreed to encourage hemispheric dialogue on educational reforms.

She indicated as well that the organization "Inter-American Dialogue" was selected to meet with the Secretariat in the project of organizing regional work groups in the area of de-centralization and quality and equality of education.

The Latin American and Caribbean Office for the United States Agency for International Development will supply technical support and financing for the initial phase of putting the association into operation.

The Delegate from Cuba pointed out the importance of taking into consideration different perspectives in education and programs which involve early stimulation.

The Delegate from Costa Rica stated the possibility of bringing Education Project 2005 to the December meeting along with other already developed projects which are presently in operation in her country.

The Delegate from Paraguay requested that the UNICEF Representative, Vicky Colbert, coordinate a work group which would consolidate these proposals.

In this regard, the Representative from UNICEF suggested that before December, the First Ladies identify the most significant experiences of the poorest schools in each of their countries.

It was agreed that the Pro Tempore Secretariat in coordination with UNICEF would draw up a working group which would channel requests for the PERA Program and coordinate actions for the development of the initiative on Friends of Infant Schools. This coordination will be completed not later than the 30th of September and the results will be communicated to all the countries.

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RURAL WOMEN'S ACCESS TO TRAINING**

The presentation was made by the Representative from the Christian Children's Fund, Adolfo Peters, and the Representative from Save the Children, Richard Embry.

The Representative of the Christian Children's Fund noted the importance of combining the forces, resources and abilities of four agencies of cooperation: the Christian Children's Fund, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision in order to advance in the initiative of improving the education and training of girls in rural areas.

He expressed that the goal of equality of the sexes and support in the development of girls is fundamental for human development.

The rural girl is the most disadvantaged person in society - marginalized from opportunities, access to work and decision making. Therefore, human development must concentrate its efforts on girls born in the rural areas.

The speaker said that early pregnancy of rural girls affected their development as well as their life expectancy. In addition, the fact that parents consider girls as only born to marry, an attitude which is the reason why parents do not value an investment in the education of female offspring.

He indicated that an improvement in the education and training of rural women will aid in lengthening the life span of children, improve their economic production, reduce the rate of early pregnancy and improve their quality of life.

Likewise, he informed the assembly that the actions of the inter-agency project for improvement the access of rural women to training sought to:

- Assure entrance into the educational system
- Establish specific objectives and time periods for reducing the gap between differing levels of primary schooling.
- Preferably recruit women as teachers and trainers.
- Conceive innovative programs which take into consideration apprentice learning a measure that results in increased incomes for rural women and girls.
- Make educational programs suitable for rural sectors.
- Create brief technical skills manuals.

He pointed out that the program which is being developed in Bolivia dealing with girls reached 40,000 children, almost 6% of the total population.

Regional activities benefit 5 million people with an approximate annual investment of 145 million dollars.

This inter-agency collaborative project seeks to develop leadership profiles and community social management - programs which involve a high degree of participation on the part of the rural women. It also seeks to insure the sustainability of the project on the basis of the education and training of rural women.

The representative of Save the Children's Fund, Richard Embry, informed the assembly that a diagnostic study of 6 provinces on the Bolivian altiplano is in its final phase. According to information thus far gathered, it is shown that unfavorable socio-economic conditions can be detected which limit the participation of the girl in the educational system. Among these are the low incidence of entrance into school, early pregnancy and low valorization of a girl's education accompanied by little support from parents.

With regard to educational quality, he pointed out that the low quality of education is due to the poor training of teachers, inadequate infrastructure and arbitrary and violent surroundings.

He also referred to social stereotypes which de-valued women and young Aymara girls.

Among the strategic objectives, he indicated were: the reduction of the school drop-out rate, the promotion of centers which motivated a change in attitude and behavior toward education and learning, the reduction of early pregnancy in adolescent girls, the reduction of sexual aggression and the reduction in the costs of opportunities.

Among these key strategies, he singled out the promotion of an operational investigation, the creation and provision of boarding schools, the inclusion of reproductive health, rights and female leadership in the curriculum, the provision of appropriate surroundings and training programs for parents and school leaders, a bilingual and bi-cultural integrated curriculum, the creation of places for the education and training of non-school attending youth, material and technical assistance to the schools and the implementation of training programs for parents and families in basic skills, nutrition and the role of stimulation in development of the child.

He indicated that the project could be repeated in other countries and receive support from the international agencies.

The Technical Coordinator of the ProTempore Secretariat asked about the possibility of broadening this program to the regional level and that if this would be a project carried out in conjunction with the First Ladies.

The Representative of the Christian Children's Fund endorsed the importance of the regional extension of these projects. He stated that in any case the agencies have a presence and representation in each one of the countries and that this situation offers the possibility of inter-agency coordination.

In this regard, the participants ordered the Pro Tempore Secretariat to send out a questionnaire to the countries regarding their interest in participating in a project of this nature and, at the same time, compile the observations and comments on the project.

## **TOPIC AGENDA AND WORKING FORMAT FOR THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMERICAS**

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented for consideration by the plenary session of the topic agenda and working format, noting that it was both taking into account differing interests of the meetings of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government and taking into consideration that the conclusions of these meetings are always adopted by consensus. The text of the tentative agenda for the Sixth Conference is found in Annex 4.

The Delegate from Uruguay expressed interest in presenting the topic of education as her country is directing its efforts toward the universalization of education and has already worked to a great extent at the level of nursery schools.

The Delegate from Colombia proposed that the Pro Tempore Secretariat take more time to review the agenda as regards each one of the countries.

The Delegate from Paraguay suggested restructuring the agenda into a two part format: in one part, those projects in operation and, in the other part, new projects to be developed.

The Delegate from Costa Rica agreed with the observation of the Paraguayan Delegate and suggested that looking for a larger space wherein the technical delegations working on the issues would generate a more fruitful debate.

Likewise, the Delegates from Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay supported the positions of Paraguay and Costa Rica.

It was proposed that the Pro Tempore Secretariat draft follow-up reports with the assistance of the international organizations in order to find a common report format. Moreover, the participation of these organizations would be an opportunity in which to introduce them to the topics of the working groups.

The Delegate from Paraguay suggested that the introductions be done by the First Lady of the host country in a presentation. Subsequently, the First Ladies would work in groups alongside an organization and a First Lady as rapporteur. Also, plenary sessions would come together and adopt the declaration and plan of action.

In regard to working procedures, the Pro Tempore Secretariat proposed:

- To include topics which have the possibility of financial backing,
- To consider a working group in relation to a specific topic,
- That the evaluation report on the accomplished tasks of the First Ladies be drawn up by the Pro Tempore Secretariat whose chairman, the First Lady of Bolivia, would present a final follow-up report with the input of different countries,
- To present new regional projects which receive the support of countries as well as technical and financial cooperation.
- To draw up groups to deal with issues of interest to the countries.
- To generate the necessary space in which the First Ladies can participate and develop concrete themes on the defined agenda for the Conference. In regard to evaluation, criteria must be developed for those issues which are already under discussion as well as those which have only been recently placed on the agenda.
- The international organizations will also develop a support role within the working groups and they will have the assistance of input from the report and follow-up of synthetic models such as the one used by the Bolivian

Delegation in the evaluation of the summit's goals concerning children.

- The Pro Tempore Secretariat will prepare summaries on the projects which have been initiated since the meeting in Santa Lucia.

All topics dealt with are found within the framework of the global theme of Human Rights and it is suggested that this distinction be clarified for both the population and for the press.

It was agreed that the First Ladies only deal with those topics which interest their countries and in which they will be directly involved.

**TOPICS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA PROJECT  
FOR THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE AMERICAS.**

1. Health of Women
  - Childbirth Mortality Rate
  - Early Pregnancy
  - Malnutrition due to Anemia
  - Mortality Rate from Cancer
2. Health of Children
  - Elimination of Measles
3. Education and Training of Women
  - Improvement in the Access to and Quality of Education
  - Training of Adult Women
  - Literacy of Rural Women
4. Intrafamily Violence
5. Participation of Women in Decision-making and Power Structure
  - Political Participation of Women
6. Rights of the Child

The issue of the rights of the child was suggested by the Delegate from Chile who proposed that the treatment of this topic follow-up on the international convention on the rights of the child.

It was agreed that the Pro Tempore Secretariat will send out the project of the Agenda for the Sixth Conference of Wives of the Heads of State and Government based on the

topics agreed to at the meeting by the 30th of August. The countries will review these observations by the 30th of September.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat will circulate the conclusions of the meeting and a form inquiring as to each country's participation.

The questions on the part of the countries should be formulated by the 30th of September and the definite agenda should be prepared by the 31st of October.

## **PROJECT ON THE BOLIVIAN DECLARATION AND GUIDELINES FOR A PLAN OF ACTION**

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented the text of the Project for the Declaration and Plan of Action up for consideration by the different delegations in order that each one of the countries review and make comments by the 30th of September as was agreed.

It was also agreed that the projected modifications should not deal with the possibility of changing the agreed upon achievements of topics approved in the agenda.

At the suggestion of the Delegate from Paraguay, it was agreed that the First Ladies consult their governments on the possibility that this document be included in the Declaration of the Chiefs of State at the Hemispheric Summit which will take place in Santa Cruz, Bolivia in the month of December of this year.

The Delegation from Costa Rica proposed that the first paragraph of the Draft Declaration include mention of the new topics which have been incorporated into the present meeting.

The Delegate from Panama, in reference to the paragraph on violence, pointed out that this consideration surpasses dealing with legal norms and should also contemplate concrete prevention measures as well as public policies in regard to this issue.

Various delegations noted the need of making a distinction as regards the Miami Summit and the meetings of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government in order that the accomplishments of other meetings be taken into account.

In closing, it was agreed to make specific mention of the Symposium "Children in the Americas" which was developed within the framework of the Miami Summit.

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## **VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY THE REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN**

The introduction of this topic was presented by the PAHO/WHO representative Dr. Graciela Uriburu, who informed the assembly that women's deaths resulting from domestic violence are increasing at an alarming rate in this region and, due to its deep rooted character, the issue has become a public health problem in the Americas.

She indicated that acts are considered violent when parents, tutors, guardians or spouses place the physical or psychological integrity of a family member in danger. Likewise, acts of violence are also those acts committed against the elderly or the handicapped.

The causes of domestic violence are very complex, but the source of such brutality lies in the social organizational structure which is based on age and gender inequality.

The speaker indicated that the factors which lead to domestic violence are related to conditions of malnutrition, unemployment, poor education, cultural patterns and the weakening of legal control systems.

Likewise, he informed the assembly that PAHO/WHO Advisory Committee has issued Resolution No. 19, which calls on governments to establish international policies and plans thereby creating a series of issues to which almost all the countries in the region are committed. These issues encompass equality, political compromise, civil development, social awareness and participation.

He pointed out the concern over the incidence of violence against women on the part of health services which is carried out by health caretakers in the form of poor care, incorrect diagnoses, absence of health care services and, subsequently, the morbidity and mortality of women. A regional project in which Bolivia will participate is being developed to remedy such flaws.

The representative from PAHO/WHO pointed out that it has been five years since this organization has been working in Central America to establish networks against domestic violence; three such programs are operating in Andean countries: Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru with the aid of funds from Holland.

## **CONCRETE EXPERIENCES OF THE COUNTRIES**

The Costa Rican Delegation declared that PAHO support is absolutely marginal and concrete, and that they have no support from the United Nation's system of agencies.

Likewise, they described an experience which occurred in 1994, in reference to the National Plan against domestic violence which defined the problem of family abuse as

one of society's problems and a problem with multiple causes. There is currently a new law against domestic violence.

It was stated that there will be both legislative and publicity campaigns organized in such a way that all institutions along with the public sector will agree on one set of rules which regulate harassment in the school and on the job.

She pointed out that Costa Rica has developed a project in coordination with the NGO's. By 1996 the construction of a shelter for abused women will be completed, and, in 1997 another shelter will be finished. In this way, municipalities have a high level of participation in the opening of offices for women's issues, along with the support of the Ministry of Justice and the Center of Support for Women.

The Delegation from Chile announced that their country has a law against domestic violence which was approved in 1993 sanctioning minor physical violence. Its objective is the punishment of child abuse.

She indicated that sanctions are of a re-educational nature, socially therapeutic and not in violation of freedoms.

The speaker related that Chile has developed an innovative process of sensitivity training for its police corps which focuses mainly on the prevention of violence.

The Delegate from Bolivia commentated on the National Plan against Violence which includes a strategy of National Priority; This strategy has a legal component, a health care component, an educational and sensitivity training component and one other training component.

The legal component has classified domestic violence as a public offense, has modified the procedural code and has created integral legal services related to the prevention and sanction of violence focusing on family protection squads.

Within the framework of the Educational Reform, the curriculum has incorporated the prevention of violence. There is a training program for legal administrators and a system of case registration has been developed.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE PREVENTION, SANCTION AND ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

On this subject, the Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat proposed the following actions:

- Standardize domestic violence in penal codes.
- Insure access to a shelter where a woman and her children can take momentary refuge in cases of domestic violence.

- Work at length with all sectors of society on this problem.
- Encourage programs in the communications media which will deal with the subject of domestic violence in an unbiased and direct manner.
- Divulge, on a national and international level, the First Ladies' agreement.

The proposal rests for the consideration of the participating nations and the date of 30th of September was established as the deadline for the formulation of suggestions.

## **PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF POWER AND DECISION-MAKING**

The subject was introduced by the Representative of the Inter-American Women's Commission from the Organization of American States, Margarita Roque, who pointed out that development is only possible if it includes the participation of all sectors of society which means women as well.

She indicated that in the 1993 Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, at the Summit of the Americas held in Miami in 1994, as well as at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, issued of equality between men and women was endorsed and the inclusion of the rights of women as an integral part of human rights was also approved. She stated that in all these meetings, special attention was given to women's rights such as their participation in political, economic and social decision-making.

On the other hand, it was emphasized that the Inter-American Women's Commission recognizes women's political and civil rights and supports those countries in the hemisphere in their efforts to make advances in favor of women.

She indicated that among the accomplishments of the CIM were the approval of the nationality for woman and, following this, the concession of civil and political rights. The most recent achievement in this area was the 1994 adoption of the Convention of Belem do Pará which prevents, sanctions and eradicates violence against women.

She informed the assembly that the CIM in 1988 drew up an action plan, establishing goals on the presence of women in parliaments, such as the discrimination and stereotyping of women, and, the Strategic Plan of 1994 which determines the participation of women in institutions of power, decision-making and education as a priority for the next five-year period along with women's participation in the elimination of domestic violence and the eradication of poverty.

The CIM representative formulated the following proposals:

- Take into account the importance of measuring the incorporation of women in the political process, in order to, on the basis of information

gathered, detect the reasons which impede this advance in the preparation of dependable and successful projects.

- Formulate projects directed at interesting women in taking advantage of the opportunities to participate in politics and in creating the means and appropriate conditions for this to come about.
- Encourage the formation of female leaders among the youth thereby facilitating a greater awareness of social reality. A low cost project would include the exchange between the leading youth of different countries.
- Keep in mind that the economic factor is a determining element in the participation of women in politics.

### THE PARTICIPATION OF IDB

The Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, presented a summary of its initiative in regard to the leadership and participation of women to be carried out in 1997 with the collaboration of the Norwegian Government, UNIFEM, UNICEF, CIM, OAS and PNUD.

He indicated that the concern of the initiative came out of the World Conference on Women which took place in Beijing and seeks to encourage and promote the leadership of women in public and civic spheres by offering financial resources to institutions which have projects with a similar purpose. Toward this objective, IDB has programmed US\$2,500,000 dollars and the Norwegian Government another US\$ 500,000 dollars which will be used to finance the proposed projects.

The categories of donations established by IDB for these projects are:

- Amounts under US\$5000, with a maximum annual spending of US\$25,000.
- Amounts between US\$5,000 and US\$25,000
- Amounts between US\$25,000 and US\$100,000 for projects which may last for the duration of more than one year.
- Amounts destined to projects of a regional nature.

The program plans to promote networks of leading women in the region, encouraging the exchange of information, experiences and practices.

The representative of the IDB informed the assembly that the evaluation of the projects will be the responsibility of the IDB Council Advisor; for this purpose, professional local consultants and professionals with experience in the field will be hired.

He pointed out that the project will be presented in November of this year and proposals will be accepted beginning in 1997.

The decision process to finance the projects will be handled under an institutional entity separate from IDB.

He indicated that there is a possibility of working with the First Ladies if they, through their offices, formulate proposals for projects. In this regard, IDB suggested that the Pro Tempore Secretariat present a proposal before the 30th of October of the present year.

The Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat consulted the countries on the possibility of proposing to the OAS. the development of projects on a rural level such as projects for political participation and self esteem with emphasis on young women.

The Canadian Delegate reported that her government has a fund for projects dealing with equality and gender which is reserved and available for Latin America. This fund is presently working in six countries in the region, each country having selected the project according to its own priority.

#### **THE BOLIVIAN EXPERIENCE: THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN BOLIVIA.**

The presentation was made by the Director of International Cooperation of the National Secretariat of Popular Participation, Mrs. Veronica Balcazar.

The speaker referred to the Law of Popular Participation, in effect since 1993, which constitutes one of the structural reforms implemented by the Bolivian Government.

The Law originates in having diagnosed a reality of extreme marginality, a scenario in which local governments were not municipal and were of scant legitimacy in their failure to recognize the peasant organizations and indigenous groups; moreover, these circumstances were accompanied by the poor relationship between the State and society along with inefficient growth in social politics.

In all these situations, women are always those who are marginalized and so the path of urgent action needs to be defined and carried out. Under this Law, the development of the training of women has been fortified and there exists a greater possibility that women penetrate both governmental and social spheres of influence.

She pointed out that before the approval of the Law, there were 24 municipalities. Now, there are 311 municipalities.

The Law has created equality in the distribution of funds in accordance with the number of inhabitants per community; in this way, the old centralism system in which funds are destined only to the capitals of the department and state is overcome.

She indicated that the monies generated from legal taxation are directed towards the financing of concrete projects and funds which have counterpart arrangements with town governments and international cooperation organizations. For this purpose, the Popular Participative Plan puts emphasis on sexual equality in order that women are able to participate to an important degree in the political process. The result of this procedure is the Annual Operative Plan.

She indicated that in Bolivia today, there are 11,128 legal entities, in other words, Base Territorial Organizations. Likewise, in some of regions of the country, there are indigenous districts in which various sub- mayors are the indigenous leaders.

Finally, the speaker reported that the Secretariat of Popular Participation trained women in management, political participation, legal issues and supervision.

The Technical Coordinator of the ProTempore Secretariat declared that the introduction of the Law indicates that 50% of the Base Territorial organizations should be composed of women, as the law states.

She emphasized the necessity for women to take possession of the positions which belong to them. Of more than a thousand counselors to the mayors, only 135 are women and only 11 women are mayors.

The position of the Under-Secretariat of Gender Issues in Bolivia reminded the assembly of the position proposed by the CIM in Paraguay in which 50% of the power institutions and representative positions must be occupied by women.

The Argentine Delegate reported that her country has had a quota law for many years now, which establish that for every two places which men occupy, there must be one occupied by a woman.

The Delegate from Panama underlined the importance of the institutionalization of the position of women.

The Delegate from Cuba emphasized the important role of the communications media in the transmission of the gender perspective and the elimination of barriers and stereotypes. She also related that her country has a 23% female representation in parliament, as well as 2 ministers and 17 vice-ministers. She noted the fundamental importance of the role of young women in this area and also of working with young organizations in order to train these people.

The Delegate from Chile informed the assembly that ever since 1993, her country has carried out an Equal Opportunity Plan which makes concrete proposals on the incorporation of gender clauses in public policies in such a manner that the advance of female participation can be measured.

## PROPOSAL FOR THE FOLLOW UP ON THE ACTIONS OF THE WIVES OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS IN RELATION TO THE BEIJING CONFERENCE

The presentation of the procedure for reporting follow-up regarding the First Ladies actions in relation to the Beijing Plan of Action was led by the Pro Tempore Secretariat's Technical Adviser, Carmen Camacho, who indicated that the Beijing Action Platform establishes a number of priority measures for the next five years.

She also explained that the purpose of the Action Platform was the empowerment of all women in society and that it took into account the World Summit Meeting in Favor of the Child, the World Conference for Human Rights, the World Summit Meeting for Social Development, the United Nations Conference for the Environment and Growth and the International Conference for Population and Growth.

She indicated that the objective strategies for the Action Plan singled out the following matters:

- Women and poverty
- Education and training of women
- Women and health care
- Violence against women
- Women and armed conflicts
- Women and the economy
- Women and the exercise of power and decision-making
- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- Women's Human Rights
- Women and means of communication
- Women and the environment
- The young girl

She recounted that the First Ladies gathered in Paraguay in 1995 and signed a document in which they promised to encourage and promote the Action Platform, which deals principally in health-care, education and the rights of women and children.

The issues of common interest between the Action Platform of Beijing and the aims of the Meetings of the First Ladies are:

### Health

- Accelerated reduction of childbirth mortality and morbidity rates
- Prevention of early pregnancy
- Reduction of malnutrition
- Prevention of death due to cancer

### Education

- Removal of the barriers that impede women's access to and performance in the educational system

-Literacy and training of rural women

Elimination of domestic violence

Women's participation in places of power and decision- making.

The Technical Adviser of the Pro Tempore Secretariat indicated that some guidelines have been established along the lines of these four themes and that the proposal includes only referential terms:

In the health field, the process indicators are :

- National summons by the First Ladies for the reduction of childbirth mortality rates.
- Communication and social action campaigns for the protection of the right to receive information and services.
- Increased pre natal and birthing care.
- Support and promotion of access to quality health care for pregnant women
- Organization of prompt post-partum care.
- Organization for the early identification of obstetric emergencies.
- Promotion of epidemiological monitoring.
- Organization of childbirth mortality and/or maternal security committees.
- Promotion of cancer treatment for women
- Promotion of sex education for adolescents

In the education area the process indicators are:

- Improving children's attendance at school.
- Promotion of literacy and training programs for rural women.

In the area of intrafamily violence, process indicators are:

- The promotion of the elimination of violence directed at women.



- The ratification of the agreement to prevent, sanction and eradicate all forms of violence against women.

In the area of participation, the process indicator is:

- The promotion of the participation of women within the power structure and decision making

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented a follow-up procedure in regard to the application of the Action Plan and established a deadline of the 30th of September for the submission of observations by the participants. The Pro Tempore Secretariat also presented a form to the delegates which should be filled out and submitted before the coming 15th of October.

## **PROPOSAL FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE SECRETARIAT PRO TEMPORE IN THE MEETINGS OF THE WIVES OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE AMERICAS**

The Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat made the presentation of the proposal based on the following premises:

- It proposed that an organization of the Pro Tempore Secretariat which has an inter-communicative network and an organic communication function in the base country, bear the responsibility of accompanying, along with the member countries, the implementation of the resolutions agreed upon by the First Ladies.
- The country which completes its mandate shall have the responsibility of following up and monitoring it for a period of one year beyond its commitments in the country and coordinate this work with a Plan of Action which will be drawn up in conjunction with the members of the Pro Tempore Secretariat.
- The new country headquarters should present for consideration at the meeting a list of new problems and social policies which will later undergo discussion and analysis and possibly become agenda items for the Meeting of the Wives of the Heads of State of the Americas.
- In order to ease the work of the ProTempore Secretariat, each office of the First Ladies should make a work team made up of advisers available; on the basis of thematic links which countries will have, there will be a thematic network through which coordination with colleagues in other countries is possible.
- It is suggested that an electronic Internet network be used to exchange information as well as reduce costs.

-It is suggested there be an international Latin American publication created by the Pro Tempore Secretariat under the care of the country headquarters; this publication would contain the resolutions and recommendations of the meetings and reports on the advances made in each country.

The methodology of this publication would be that the country responsible for creating the master edition, send each country a copy so that it can be reproduced in the format of the country's choice.

-It is proposed there be at least two yearly meetings for the functioning coordinators at which those persons responsible for the coordination along with team leaders for each country be present.

-The creation of an Annual First Lady Award is proposed, which takes into account the main theme of the meeting. Each national award will compete with those of other countries, and the award will be presented at the meeting or conference of the First Ladies.

The Costa Rican Delegate reported the fact that it was impossible for her country to create an Internet network due to budgetary problems, but it could use the networks of other countries. Likewise, she observed that budget of her country is not sufficient for two annual meetings nor for hiring specialists to work part-time on the issues.

The Panamanian Delegate and member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat declared her agreement with the proposal and initiated the search for places and times in which they could meet and re-enforce the work of the First Ladies.

The Guatemalan Delegate shared the opinion and point of view of the Delegate from Panama.

The Technical Coordinator of the ProTempore Secretariat made it clear that the proposal to strengthen the group is based on obtaining the support of the international community.

The PAHO/WHO Representative informed the assembly of the role and of the support which they could give to international organizations involved in these projects.

It was suggested that there be a more formal request for support drawn up in order that there be a commitment for a more active participation on the part of the international agencies in the follow up of the projects and not only one of financial support.

The Costa Rican Delegate announced her concern over the possible lack of communication which might hamper coordination in the work between the countries.

For this reason, she requested that communication should be carried out in an ongoing manner.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat restated that the participating countries may send their observations in to the office until the 30th of September, and, from that date on a commission to prepare a technical proposal will be created.

As regards the projects, the following deadlines must be adhered to:

It has been established that the deadline for new countries to be included in the Prevention of Premature Pregnancy Project which has financing from the United Nations Population Fund will be September 30th, 1996.

Regarding the project for the Reduction of Malnutrition through the Provision of Micro-nutrients, the Pro Tempore Secretariat will send out a questionnaire to the countries which must return this form by September 30th.

With respect to the Follow-up Instrument for the Evaluative Report on the Action Plan for the Elimination of Measles, countries should send in their informational reports by the 15th of November.

In regard to the follow-up on the support project for the rapid reduction of Childbirth Mortality Rates in the Americas, the countries' reports should be in by the 30th of October.

For the reception of adherences to the proposals for the meeting, the deadline will also be the 30th of October. In this phase, the subject "intrafamily violence" will also be included.

The National Coordinator of the ProTempore Secretariat summarized the issues agreed-upon as topics for discussion at the Sixth Conference of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and which will be part of the agenda:

1.) WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- Maternal mortality
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Malnutrition due to anemia
- Mortality due to cancer
- Elimination of the Measles

2.) EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF RURAL WOMEN

- Improvement in the quality of education
- Integral training of the rural woman
- Literacy for the rural woman
- Early education

### 3.) INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE

### 4.) PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PLACES OF POWER AND DECISION MAKING

### 5.) THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Pro Tempore Secretariat will send out the project agenda for the Sixth Meeting of the Wives of the Heads of State of the Americas by the 30th of August. The topics on this project agenda are based on the agreements of the present meeting.

The suggestions and observations of the countries and of international organizations should be formulated by the 30th of September.

The reformulated agenda based on the observations and suggestions submitted by the participating countries will be sent out on the 10th of October.

The subject of education will be developed by the Pro Tempore Secretariat until the 30th of September at which time a joint project proposal will be sent out. In the case that this project will be carried out in conjunction with IDB, the deadline will be the 30th of October.

Regarding the organizational strengthening of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, until the 30th of September the countries' responses will be accepted; after this date a work committee will draw up the proposal for consideration at the Sixth Meeting of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

### REGARDING THE DRAFT DECLARATION

The National Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat indicated that the countries and organizations should have completed their comments before the 30th of September. The delegations should consult their governments as to the possibility that their document be incorporated in the Declaration of the Hemispheric Summit in Santa Cruz.

The Technical Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat proposed as an option the inclusion of the conclusions of the meeting of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government on the Agenda of the Hemispheric Summit in a presentation which would last about 15 minutes.

### CONSIDERATION OF THE PRELIMINARY OPERATIVE MANUAL

The National Coordinator of the Pro Tempore Secretariat placed the Preliminary Operative Manual before the assembly for consideration and informed the group that by the end of September countries will be sent at the definitive Operative Manual.

She also reported that by the 30th of September a biographical summary of the "attachee" that will accompany the First Lady of each country in December will be sent out.

It was also announced that in the month of October there will be an advance meeting of the Directors of Protocol of the Ministries of Foreign Relations of the Americas in Santa Cruz at which time details of the organization of the Hemispheric Summit will be determined. The Pro Tempore Secretariat will be available to respond to any questions or doubts as concerns the organization of the Sixth Meeting of the Wives of the Heads of State of the Americas at this time.

Finally, the National Coordinator of the ProTempore Secretariat, Mrs. Nina Tamayo, declared the work session closed and the First Lady of the Republic of Bolivia, Mrs. Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada, concluded the Preparatory Technical Meeting of the Sixth Conference of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas on the 22nd of August, 1996.

## **INDEX OF ENCLOSURES**

### **ANNEX N° 1**

Address of the First Lady of Bolivia, Her Excellency Mrs. Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada, at the inauguration of the Technical Preparatory Meeting of the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. La Paz, Bolivia, August 19, 1996.

### **ANNEX N° 2**

Work Agenda of the Technical Preparatory Meeting of the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. La Paz, Bolivia August 19 - 22, 1996.

### **ANNEX N° 3**

List of participants of the Technical Preparatory Meeting of the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. La Paz, Bolivia, August 19 - 22, 1996.

### **ANNEX N° 4**

Tentative Work Agenda for the VI Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, to be held in La Paz, Bolivia, from December 3 - 5, 1996.

# ANNEX NO. 1

SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY OF BOLIVIA  
MRS. XIMENA ITURRALDE DE SANCHEZ DE LOZADA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE  
TECHNICAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE  
VI CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE  
AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

AUGUST 19, 1996

WIVES OF MINISTERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, MEMBERS OF  
THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS, REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISMS, SPECIAL GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

BOLIVIA RECEIVES YOU TODAY AND WELCOMES YOU WARMLY SO THAT  
TOGETHER WE MAY SUCCESSFULLY BRING FORWARD A MEETING WITH  
IMPORTANT AND HIGH OBJECTIVES. I WANT TO WELCOME YOU MOST  
CORDIALLY TO THIS LAND OF MILLENNARY CULTURES, OF PROLIFIC ETHNIC  
DIVERSITY AND A HIGH SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND INTEGRATION.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THIS HOSPITABLE CITY OF *NUESTRA SEÑORA DE  
LA PAZ* WHERE I HOPE YOU HAVE A VERY ENJOYABLE STAY. MAY POSITIVE  
RESULTS BE THE CULMINATION OF THE TASK WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN IN  
FAVOR OF AMERICA, LAND OF PEACE AND HOPE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.

WE MEET WITH A COMMON OBJECTIVE: TO ANALYZE AND DISCUSS TOPICS  
WHICH CONCERN THE MOST NEEDY SECTORS OF THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA:  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



SINCE THE FIRST MEETING, HELD IN VENEZUELA IN 1991, FOLLOWED BY COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, SAINT LUCIA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE LAST REUNION HELD IN PARAGUAY, THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OUR COUNTRIES FACE COMMON CHALLENGES AND THAT ONLY THROUGH A JOINT EFFORT WILL WE BE ABLE TO FACE AND RESOLVE THEM.

OUR PERMANENT CONTACT WITH SOCIETY INVOLVES US AND COMMITS US TO A UNITED EFFORT IN FAVOR OF THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS. THEREFORE, WE HAVE CALLED THE VI CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS "THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF HUMAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT".

THIS SELECTION WAS NOT CASUAL BECAUSE ALL OF OUR ACTIONS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE NEED TO FOCUS THE JOBS OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE HUMAN BEING, WHO CONSTITUTES THE ELEMENT WHICH GIVES MEANING TO THE ACTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT !

FOR THIS REASON, TOPICS SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, THE FIGHT AGAINST INNER-FAMILY VIOLENCE AND, FINALLY, PARTICIPATION ARE CONCEIVED AS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN THE AREA OF HEALTH, THE RAPID REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY IS ONE OF THE ISSUES OF PREOCCUPATION IN THE AMERICAS.

PREMATURE PREGNANCY IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO WOMEN'S HEALTH AND PRODUCES SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IN ADOLESCENT MOTHERES AND NEWBORN CHILDREN.

PREVENTION AGAINST MORTALITY DUE TO CANCER IS ANOTHER OF THE GREAT CHALLENGES THAT WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS FACE.

REDUCTION OF MALNUTRITION DUE TO IRON DEFICIENCY, AS WELL AS THE ELIMINATION OF CHICKEN POX AND PROMOTION OF INFANT IMMUNIZATION ARE NEEDS THAT ONCE SATISFIED WILL GUARANTEE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRIES.

WE BELIEVE THAT GIRLS' ACCESS TO AND A PERMANENCE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ARE FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS TO ACHIEVE THEIR INSERTION IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN NATIONS. IN THIS CONCERN, ACTIONS TAKEN IN EDUCATION SHOULD CONSIDER WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS A PRIORITY BECAUSE THEY ARE THE POOREST AMONG THE POOR.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE MOST LAMENTABLE PHENOMENA THAT PERSIST IN OUR SOCIETIES TODAY. EVEN MORE LAMENTABLE BECAUSE 75% OF CASES OF VILLENCES OCCURS IN THE HEART OF THE HOME. FOR THIS REASON, TO WORK IN FAVOR OF PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE IS TO WORK IN FAVOR OF A HARMONIOUS AND INTEGRAL GROWTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL, WHERE LIBERTY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PERSONS IN THE DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEIR LIVES PREVAIL.

NEVERTHELESS, IN ORDER TO FACE THE GREAT CHALLENGES WHICH THE REALITY OF OUR AMERICAS PRESENT, WE MUST CONSOLIDATE AND STRENGTHEN OUR WORK MECHANISMS AND TURN THEM INTO A DYNAMIC INSTRUMENT WHICH RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLES.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THE DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISMS AND COOPERATION AGENCIES WHO ARE HERE TODAY AT THIS MEETING FOR JOINING THIS PROCESS WHICH DEMANDS THE EFFORTS OF SOCIETY IN ITS ENTIRETY.

WE ARE ALL CONVINCED THAT THIS PREPARATORY MEETING, WITH THE WORK WE HAVE BEFORE US FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IS GREATLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR COUNTRIES. I REITERATE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU MY WARMEST WELCOME AND THE HOPES THAT YOU TAKE WITH YOU FROM THIS MEETING A FRUITFUL EXPERIENCE AND THE BEST OF RESULTS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF EACH OF OUR NATIONS. ONLY IF WE UNITE AND JOIN OUR EFFORTS WILL THE WOMEN OF AMERICAS ACHIEVE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THE CHILDREN OF OUR CHILDREN!

THANK YOU.

# ANNEX NO. 2



6ª CONFERENCIA DE ESPOSAS  
DE JEFE DE ESTADO  
Y DE GOBIERNO  
DE LAS AMERICAS  
Secretaría Pro-Temore

## **Sixth Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas**

### **PREPARATORY TECHNICAL MEETING**

### **"Rights of Women and Children Within the Framework of Sustainable Human Development"**

La Paz, 19 to 22 August, 1996

### **WORKING AGENDA**

#### Conceptual Reference Topics

1. Presentation of the Declaration and Action Plan of the IV World Conference on Women.  
Presentation: UNDP
2. Presentation of the evaluation of the mid-term goals of the World Summit for Children for the American Region.  
Presentation: UNICEF

#### **Health of Women and Children in the Americas**

3. Follow-up of the "Initiative to Support Plans for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in the Americas."
  - 3.1. Introduction to the topic  
Presentation: Mother Care

Despacho de la  
Primera Dama  
de la Nación

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5<sup>a</sup> CONFERENCIA DE ESPOSAS  
DE JEFE DE ESTADO  
Y DE GOBIERNO  
DE LAS AMERICAS  
Secretaría Pro Tempore

- 3.2. Presentation of the instrument for the Follow-up report to the Initiative to Support Plans for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in the Americas.

Presentation: Pro-Tempore Secretariat.

### **Prevention of Early Pregnancy**

- 3.3 Introduction to the topic

Presentation: UNFPA

- 3.4. Presentation of the instrument for the evaluation report on prevention of early pregnancy.

Presentation: Pro-Tempore Secretariat

### **Presentation of the Regional Project**

- 3.5. Presentation of the "Initiative to Support the Reduction of Malnutrition due to Iron Deficiency in the Americas"

Presentation: Bolivia

- 3.6. Proposal of working coordination between PMA and Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas.

Presentation: PMA

## **4. Prevention of Mortality due to Cancer in Women of the Americas**

- 4.1. Introduction to the Topic

Presentation: PAHO/WHO

- 4.2. Evaluation report on the "Latin-American Program Against Cancer"

Presentation: Asociación de Ligas Iberoamericanas Contra el Cancer ALICC



## **Immunization of Children in the Americas**

5. Follow-up of the "Action Plan for the Elimination of Measles and for the Immunization of Children in the Americas".
  - 5.1. Introduction to the topic  
Presentation: PAHO/WHO
  - 5.2. Presentation of the instrument for the evaluation report on the Action Plan for the Elimination of Measles  
Presentation: Pro-Tempore Secretariat

## **Education/Training of Women and Children in the Americas**

6. Elimination of barriers that hinder girls and women's access to and continuation in the educational system.
  - 6.1 Introduction to the topic  
Presentation: UNICEF
  - 6.2 Presentation of the Initiative to improve the quality of education and the continuation of girls in the educational system  
Presentation: U.S.A.
7. Presentation of the initiative to improve access to training for rural women.
  - 7.1 Introduction to the topic  
Presentation: Christian Children's Fund

## **Presentation of the Regional Project**

8. Presentation of the Regional Project for the Literacy Campaign for Women.  
Presentation: Pro-Tempore Secretariat



## **Intra-family Violence**

### **9. Regional Program for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

#### **9.1 Introduction to the Topic** Presentation: PAHO/WHO

#### **9.2 Presentation of concrete experiences** Presentation by countries

## **Presentation of the Regional Project**

#### **9.3 Presentation of the Regional Initiative to Prevent, Sanction and Eliminate Intra-family Violence** Presentation: Pro-Tempore Secretariat

## **Participation of women in the power structure and in decision making**

### **10. Participation of women in the decision-making process**

#### **10.1 Introduction to the topic** Presentation: OAS

#### **10.2 Presentation of experiences to promote the participation of women** Presentation by countries

#### **10.3 Presentation of the "Initiative to Support the Participation of Women in the Power Structure** Presentation: OAS

### **11. Follow up to the IV World Conference on Women**





6ª CONFERENCIA DE ESPOSAS  
DE JEFES DE ESTADO  
Y DE GOBIERNO  
DE LAS AMÉRICAS  
Secretaría Pro Tempore

11.1 Presentation of the instrument for the follow-up report on the actions of First Ladies regarding the application of the Beijing Plan of Action  
Presentation: OAS

12. Proposal for the Strengthening of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas

12.1 The Role of the First Ladies

12.2 The Role of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat

12.3 Proposal for the Regional Organizational Structure  
Presentation: Pro-Tempore Secretariat

13. Consideration of the Declaration of La Paz

# ANNEX NO. 3

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# ANNEX NO. 4

## **TENTATIVE WORK AGENDA**

### **Introductory Topics**

1. **Presentation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the IV World Conference on Women.**  
Address by Mrs. Gertrude Mongella  
President of the Fourth World Conference on Women
2. **Presentation of the Evaluation of the Mid-term Goals of the World Conference for Children in the Region of the Americas**  
Address by Mrs. Martha Mauras, Regional Director of UNICEF
3. **Follow-up Report on the Commitments Assumed by the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas**  
Address by Mrs. Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada, Pro Tempore Secretariat
4. **The Health of Women in the Americas**
  - 4.1 Maternal Mortality
  - 4.2 Early Pregnancy
  - 4.3 Reduction of Malnutrition from Iron Deficiency in the Americas
  - 4.4 Mortality from Cancer
5. **The Health of Children**
  - 5.1 Immunization of Children in the Americas
6. **The Education and Training of Women and Girls in the Americas**
  - 6.1 Strengthening the Quality of Education
  - 6.2 Schools as Friends of Children
  - 6.3 Literacy/Training of the Rural Woman
  - 6.4 Project Girl/Woman

7. **Intrafamily Violence**
  - 7.1 Regional Initiative to Prevent, Sanction and Eliminate Intrafamily Violence
8. **Participation of Women in the Power Structure and in The Taking of Decisions**
  - 8.1 Political Participation of Women
9. **The Rights of Children**
  - 9.1 Program for the Protection of the Child in the Americas
10. **Organizational Structure of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Conferences of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas**
11. **Approval of the "Declaration of La Paz"**

WORK TIMETABLE AGREED UPON AT  
THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE  
SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS, HELD IN LA PAZ  
FROM 19 TO 22 AUGUST 1996

**General Coordination Issues**

Date: 03.09.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat  
Technical Coordination  
Task: Distribution of the Report of the Technical  
Preparatory Meeting of the Sixth Conference of  
Wives of Heads of State and of Government of  
the Americas.  
Each of the First Lady's Offices will confirm in  
all cases and in writing receipt of documents.

**Working Agenda for the VI Meeting of Wives of Heads of State  
and Government of the Americas**

Date: 03.09.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: Distribution of the Tentative Agenda of the Sixth  
Conference of Wives of Heads of State and  
Government of the Americas.

Date: 03.09.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: Distribution of observations on the Working  
Agenda for the Sixth Conference of Wives of  
Heads of State and of Government of the  
Americas.



Date: 31.11.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: Distribution of the final Agenda for the Sixth Meeting of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

**Proposal for the Organizational Strengthening of the Pro Tempore Secretariat**

Date: 30.09.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: Based on the document presented at the Technical Preparatory Meeting countries should present their observations to the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

Date: 30.10.96  
Responsibility: Working Commission should present a proposal for the organizational structure of the Pro Tempore Secretariat to be sent to countries for their consideration.  
Task: Proposed formulation of a document on the organizational structure of the Pro Tempore Secretariat to be sent to countries for their consideration.

Date: 10.11.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: Distribution of observations concerning the document for the proposal on the organizational structure of the Pro Tempore Secretariat

Date: 20.11.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat  
Task: Distribution of the final organizational proposal for the Pro Tempore Secretariat

### **Declaration of La Paz and Proposed Plan of Action**

Date: 30.09.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: Distribution of observations to the proposal presented at the Technical Preparatory Meeting

Date: 30.10.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: Distribution of the corrected version of the Declaration of La Paz and the Plan of Action. The Offices of the First Ladies will have until 15.11.96 to make known their observations to the new version. If they have not done so the document will be considered final.

### **Follow-up of the Commitments Assumed in the Declaration of Paraguay**

Date: 30.09.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies of each country  
Task: Distribution of the response to the form "Follow-up of the Commitments Assumed by the Wives of Heads of State and of Government in Paraguay." This task remains for the countries which have not yet sent their responses.

This material is of great importance for orienting the activities First Ladies carry out in their respective countries and for identifying their working tasks.

## **Evaluation of the Mid-term Objectives of the World Summit for Children in the Region of the Americas**

**Date:** 31.10.95

**Responsibility:** Office of the First Lady of each country with the support of UNICEF. The Office for each country.

**Task:** Based on the format of the follow-up presented by Bolivia, each Office should carry out the follow-up of the mid-term objectives of the World Summit for Children with the technical support of UNICEF (the Office for each country), if each Office of the First Lady requires it.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat initiates efforts with UNICEF so that publications of the said evaluation can be published with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. Office of the country.

The Technical Coordination of the Pro Tempore Secretariat will prepare the consolidated report on the said evaluation with the support of UNICEF.

## **Follow-up of the "Initiative to Support the Plans for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Americas"**

**Date:** 31.10.96

**Responsibility:** Offices of the First Ladies of the Americas Support of PAHO/WHO (the Office for each country).

**Task:** On the basis of the follow-up instrument approved at the Technical Meeting, with the technical support of PAHO/WHO (the Office for each country), and if each Office of the First Lady requires it, the follow-up report should be sent. The Technical Coordination of the Pro Tempore Secretariat will prepare the consolidated report on the initiative.

## **Project for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy**

Date: 30.09.96

Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat and Offices of the First Ladies

- Information on the project for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy
- Incorporation of new countries in the project, sending their proposals based on information supplied by the Secretariat.

Date: 10.10.96

Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies with the support of the Pro Tempore Secretariat

- Transacting with UNFPA to redistribute resources by developing or enlarging projects in each country.
- Each country should send the Technical Coordination of the Pro Tempore Secretariat a copy of the projects to be presented to UNFPA's office in each country so that their efforts can be supported.

## **Regional Project to Support the Reduction of Malnutrition due to Iron Deficiency in the Americas**

Date: 30.09.96

Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination

- Task:
- Distribution of the Form for the adherence of countries to the project
  - Response on the part of countries on their adherence to the Project including information required by the Technical Coordination of the Pro Tempore Secretariat
  - Development of the Regional Project based on the Profile approved at the Technical meeting.

### **Follow-up of the "Plan of Action to Eliminate Measles and for the Immunization of Children in the Americas"**

Date: 15.11.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies of the Americas  
Support of the PAHO/WHO office in each country.

Task: Based on the follow-up instrument approved in the Technical Meeting, with the technical support of PAHO/WHO (the Office in each country), the follow-up report should be sent, if each Office of the First Lady so requires.  
The Technical Coordination of the Pro Tempore Secretariat will produce the consolidated report on the Plan of Action.

### **Proposal of Work to support the Education of Girls**

Date: 30.09.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: Together with UNICEF to develop a model project proposal for the First Ladies to carry out: "schools as friends of children."  
-To energize the PERA project, presented by the Delegation of the U.S.A., to develop an initiative so that the First Ladies can contribute to improving the quality of education and the continuation of girls in the educational system.  
  
-The Pro Tempore Secretariat will distribute the proposal and until 30.10.96 will consider observations made; additionally, it will send a form of adherence to the project by each country, which the respective Offices will respond to by 15.11.96.

## **Proposal of Work in Connection with the Project "Girl Woman"**

Date: 30.10.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: To develop the Model Project with the Christian Children Fund, Save the Children, Plan Internacional and Vision Mundial to repeat the project in those countries indicating interest. Until 15.11.96 countries will consider the project and will make observations, as well as respond to the form of adherence to the project.

## **Proposal of Work for the Training of Rural Women**

Date: 15.10.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: To develop with IICA a proposal for a Regional Project with the goal of promoting the training of rural women. To send the proposal to the Offices of the First Ladies for their consideration and adherence on the part of countries.

Date: 30.10.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: To send observations and the form of adherence on the above-mentioned projects.

Date: 15.11.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: Based on observations presented by countries, to send the amended project to be presented to sources of financing.

### **Initiative to Support the Regional Project for the Elimination of Intrafamily Violence**

Date: 30.09.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: To send observations to the Initiative presented in the Technical Preparatory Meeting  
To respond to the form of adherence to the Initiative.

### **Participation of Women in the Power Structure and in the Taking of Decisions**

Date: 30.10.96  
Responsibility: Pro Tempore Secretariat Technical Coordination  
Task: To present for the consideration of countries a regional work proposal to be carried out with the IDB and CIM-OAS to promote female leadership based on the proposals presented in the Technical Preparatory Meeting which already have a financial base.

Date: 15.11.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: Observations and adherence of countries to the proposal presented based on the response to the form to be sent by the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

Date: 20.11.96  
Responsibility: Offices of the First Ladies  
Task: Final project for the promotion of female leadership

## **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women**

**Date:** 30.09.96  
**Responsibility:** Offices of the First Ladies  
**Task:** Based on the presentation of the follow-up instrument on the actions of First Ladies with regard to the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action, presented in the Technical Preparatory Meeting, countries should send their observations.

**Date:** 15.10.96  
**Responsibility:** Pro Tempore Secretariat  
**Task:** Distribution of the corrected form for follow-up of First Ladies' actions with relation to the Beijing Plan of Action

**Date:** 30.10.96  
**Responsibility:** Offices of the First Ladies  
**Task:** Response to the form in order that the Pro Tempore Secretariat may prepare the follow-up report to the actions carried out by First Ladies on the Beijing Plan of Action to be presented to the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas.

**Date:** 31.11.96  
**Responsibility:** Pro Tempore Secretariat General Coordination  
**Task:** Sending of the Operative Manual of the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas.