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Recommended Citation

Persinger, Mildred Emory, "Draft Statement to [UN] Commission on the Status of Women, 26th Session, Item 4B" (1970). *Mildred E. Persinger Papers*. 20.

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IWY TRIBUNE 1975 — NON-GOVERNMENTAL FORUM
WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

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DRAFT Statement to Commission on the
Status of Women 26th Session, Item 4b

I am speaking as a member of the Organizing Committee of the IWY Tribune which involved more than 6000 persons in the discussion of women's issues in Mexico City at the time of the IWY Conference. These two events have undoubtedly had a significant impact on women all over the world and, it would appear, on the plans and work that are going forward to implement the World Plan of Action. In this connection I believe the Commission will be interested in knowing that Tribune participants have been especially eager to maintain their relationships, consider new programs and projects and to make a real contribution to the goals of IWY and the Decade.

The NGO community, in particular those closely associated with the IWY programs, has been deluged with requests for information and assistance in developing projects to aid women. Because some of the immediate reaction to Mexico City was the request that participants "be kept in touch" the Tribune issued a directory of participants which lists persons from more than 90 countries, most of whom are actively engaged in a variety of projects ranging from profound scholarly research to village development work. It is clear that one of the main needs is for a better sharing of information and experience among all types of groups.

ROSALIND W. HARRIS, President, *Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council*
MILDRED E. PERSINGER, Chairman, *IWY Tribune Organizing Committee*
MARCIA XIMENA BRAVO, Director

This would, of course, include both governmental and non-governmental activities. We look forward to the time when a United Nations Institute might serve as a data resource bank and information on "women's projects" is included in the various development project computer banks. Meanwhile we hope to maintain the momentum initiated during IWY, especially that of Mexico City, to provide a service to the Tribune participants and their colleagues.

For this reason the Tribune organizers, representatives of several NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, have undertaken to respond to the requests directed to them and to develop an information sharing system which may be immediately useful and may also be taken up by a more permanent institution in the future. The emphasis, of course, is on the work and possibilities for groups in the non-governmental sector. However, we are keenly aware that in many areas there must be co-operative ventures among voluntary groups, government programs and inter-governmental programs. Thus the Tribune group believes it can assist by working closely with the UN Secretariat as well as its non-governmental constituency.

There is a small office in New York which welcomes information about projects and programs affecting women. It also frequently welcomes visitors who have been most generous in sharing their views on the immediate and long-range requirements for implementing the Plan of Action.

Among other activities the staff is presently working on the idea of regional resource manuals. This responds to the frequent question, "who is at work near me to discuss my ideas with?" Preliminary work has been done on a Caribbean area

manual, stimulated by opportunities to meet with a number of persons from that area in the past few months. Comments and suggestions are welcomed from all about the content, format and distribution of such resource handbooks. We would be pleased to have comments from the members of the Commission on this and on any other immediate service which they believe might be useful.