

Hollins University

Hollins Digital Commons

Mildred E. Persinger Papers

Manuscript Collections

1976

Background Summary, UN Decade for Women

Mildred Emory Persinger

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.hollins.edu/persinger-papers>



Part of the [Women's History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Persinger, Mildred Emory, "Background Summary, UN Decade for Women" (1976). *Mildred E. Persinger Papers*. 26.

<https://digitalcommons.hollins.edu/persinger-papers/26>

This Government/NGO/Court Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at Hollins Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mildred E. Persinger Papers by an authorized administrator of Hollins Digital Commons. For more information, please contact lvilelle@hollins.edu, millerjc@hollins.edu.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY: UN Decade for Women

1976-1985, The Decade for Women established by the United Nations on recommendation of the 1975 World Conference of International Women's Year is designed to encourage governments, international agencies and citizen organizations to focus attention and action on measures to implement the Decade's goals: equality of men and women, full integration of women in the life of society and women's increasing involvement in the strengthening of world peace.

Specific objectives are contained in the World Plan of Action adopted by the Mexico Conference and subsequently by the UN General Assembly, which has targeted such areas as education, employment, health for special attention at a Mid-Decade Conference scheduled for 1980 in Iran. A system of progress-reporting has been set up as an incentive to governments and intergovernmental bodies.

Within the UN system, an interagency program for the Decade has the purpose of stimulating greater efforts on behalf of integrating women into staffs and programs as well as encouraging cooperating governments to do likewise. Agencies are directed to assess the impact of their programs on women and to report progress to the General Assembly.

One new international institution has been proposed in connection with the Decade. Proposed by the Mexico Conference, The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women is to meet pressing needs for data and training opportunities.

The U.S. is among the countries which have contributed to the Institute, but it awaits \$3 million in pledges before it can begin operations. A report

on plans, however, is being prepared. The U.S. Congress, encouraged by women's voluntary organizations, has also made a pledge to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade. The Fund, under strict requirements, will go primarily to support projects undertaken by women themselves in the regions. As requests come through governments, and governments have not given high priority to women's projects, there has been a lag in the use of the fund. At the end of 1977, the General Assembly called for prompt action to put the fund to use for women.