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

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FACT SHEET

NGO Special Project to Follow Up on IWY Tribune

9/1/76

An active non-governmental constituency which continues to promote the goals of the U.N. Decade for Women; equality, development and peace, has grown out of 1975 International Women's Year meetings in Mexico.

The International Women's Year Tribune was one of a series of Special Projects undertaken by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It brought to Mexico City, June 19 - July 2, 6000 persons from almost 100 countries. The Tribune included 35 simultaneously interpreted panel sessions and 200 other meetings on IWY themes: equality, development and peace. Like other NGO-sponsored parallel activities in conjunction with UN world conferences, the IWY Tribune ran concurrently with the World Conference of International Women's Year. Planning and administration had been delegated by the NGO Conference board to a committee of NGO representatives. The Tribune's purpose was to facilitate communication and interaction on issues presented by the intergovernmental conference. Participants were persons and groups of the widest possible diversity in background, life experience and geographic region.

The IWY Tribune office was to be closed, participants in Mexico were informed, as soon as business was completed and a report to the funding agencies prepared. Nevertheless, an insistent stream of visits, inquiries and requests, almost all from developing countries, has continued.

Access to the UN Secretariat and to the IWY Tribune Constituency from the developing countries, it was recognized, presented an opportunity to help support the momentum generated by IWY for implementation of the World Plan of Action until the UN Decade for Women and the proposed Institute for Training and Research on Women are fully underway.

Responding to Tribune-related requests has absorbed much volunteer time and resources. After discussions in February, 1976, between the Canadian International Development Agency and Mildred Persinger, who chaired the IWY Tribune Organizing Committee, the NGO Conference Board, at its March 10 meeting, decided to sponsor, as a follow-up of the IWY Tribune, a special project, to which CIDA would contribute approximately \$50,000. The CIDA funds, given to support one or two professional staff, mailings and travel, will give strength and substance to needed work which could not be accomplished on a voluntary basis.

The project falls naturally into four parts: 1. Assembling information about what Tribune participants and non-governmental organizations are doing to further the goals of the Decade for Women, 2. Responding to requests for information, about projects, resources, and implementation of the World Plan of Action, 3. Strengthening the bridge between the United Nations, which has called for non-governmental involvement in the Decade for Women, and women who are already building the Decade, 4. Cooperation with organizations which may wish to offer information on their programs and to use services the project can offer.

Personnel originally consisted of volunteers, Mildred Pèrsinger and Rosalind Harris, former NGO Conference President, who had been handling the aftermath of the IWY Tribune. They were assisted by members of the Tribune Organizing Committee. In April, 1976, Gail Gowanlock, who in 1975 conducted a special IWY/NGO project for CIDA, joined the team as its one staff member. Dr. Anne S. Walker, a citizen of Fiji, came in August to work as a consultant, carrying forward the preparation and testing of proposed resource manuals and other materials, as well as assisting with future planning.

To continue Tribune contacts and confirm the evidence of needs volunteers and staff had collected, one or two members of the project team attended three conferences during the summer of 1976. The Conference on Women and Development held at Wellesley College in Massachusetts was a good opportunity to consult with many of the 200 participants from developing countries who were present at that conference. A number of these women had served as resource persons at the IWY Tribune in Mexico City, and were therefore especially interested in follow-up activities and plans. The other two conferences presented a unique opportunity, without great expense, to consult with participants from many countries, particularly within the Caribbean region. The International Conference on Social Welfare was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Hemispheric Conference for Women was held in Miami, Florida. Both were excellent gatherings at which to test the form in which it might be possible to meet the demand for resource information. An interview schedule and a draft of a possible resource manual were used by Tribune personnel to stimulate comments and criticisms. Reaction has been enthusiastic from the NGO sector particularly. Indeed, the proposed Caribbean Resource Manual is already being requested before its final form and content have been determined.

An INGO Advisory Group has been established in accordance with suggestions by committees concerned with issues affecting women, based in Geneva and New York. It consists of Members of the IWY Tribune Organizing Committee, designated by their organizations.

September 1, 1976