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PRESS NOTICE - for immediate release

Tribune '75

Frustrated by the lack of communication between the IWY Tribune and the official UN Conference on IWY, women are demanding that their voice be heard in Tlatelolco.

A delegation of 15 women, representing over a dozen nations, who are attending the Tribune will call on Helvi Sipila, Secretary-General of the IWY Conference, at 10:15 a.m., Thursday, June 26th to present changes to the proposed UN World Plan of Action. A press conference will be held immediately following this meeting on the main plaza outside the Conference Building.

The proposed changes are the result of an extraordinary meeting of 2000 women at the Tribune held on June 25th. The first meeting organized by the women themselves to act on the proposed World Plan of Action about to be adopted by the UN.

The agreed upon changes proposed include the right of a woman to control her own body, her right to health for her own sake and a demand for more funds to eliminate discrimination. Also the right of women from developing countries to plan and decide on UN development programs in their countries.

A strong implementation section, missing in the present plan, demands a new UN Office for Women's Concerns at the Under-Secretary level. This Office would be headed by a woman committed to women's rights and its staff would be two-thirds women.

The Office for Women's Concerns would review and monitor the World Plan of Action, issue annual public reports and investigate complaints of violations of human rights against women. It would also analyze and report on the impact on women of the various UN development programs.

The united women of the Tribune also supported UN employees in their demand that the UN cease discrimination in its recruiting, hiring and promotion practices, which has resulted in only 21.7% women on the Secretariat staff.