

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND COLLECTIVE
SELF-RELIANCE AND ITS RELATION WITH THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT;
IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

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The view that there is a close interdependence between the social role of women and overall social development, understood as an integral economic and social process designed to mobilize all the material and human resources of each country and of the world community, is now widely accepted. Its formulation came, as part of the general aspirations for positive changes in the world and the removal of contradictions which still burden it, within the United Nations Organization, particularly during the International Women's Year in 1975, at the World Conference in Mexico City, and in the 1976-1985 Decade for Women under the general theme of "Equality, Development, Peace".

The close correspondence between the progressive conclusions of the International Women's Year and the fundamental orientations of the policy of non-alignment was confirmed by the Non-Aligned Ministerial Conference in Lima, decisions of the conference in New Delhi, the Fifth Non-Aligned Summit Conference in Colombo in 1975, and the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference in Belgrade. On all these occasions it was stressed that the full and complete development of the non-aligned countries presupposed the participation of both women and men in all fields of national activity under conditions of equal rights and responsibilities. It was also noted that the defined objectives, strategies and measures intended to improve the social position of women and strengthen their role in development should be a component part of the national development plans and of the overall effort to establish the New International Economic Order, based on the policy of collective self-reliance of the non-aligned and other developing countries.