

# ACWW Conference Decisions:

## RESOLUTIONS

The following policy resolutions were passed at the 21st ACWW Triennial Conference:

### Ad Hoc Committee on Agriculture

In order to stress the importance of agriculture for the majority of ACWW membership, and its potential for alleviating poverty, be it resolved that ACWW establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Agriculture, consisting of at least three members from different areas, to be appointed by the Board, specifically to study ways and means for empowering rural women worldwide to achieve a balanced participation in agricultural decision making. Costs to be covered from a separate fund (external to the ACWW budget) to be formed for this purpose.

### Women and Children in War-Torn Areas

Be it resolved that the ACWW Representatives to the United Nations express our concerns at the atrocities being perpetrated against women and children in war-torn areas.

### The Export of Medicines

Be it resolved that ACWW, through the United Nations, urge all governments to ban the export of medicines - for sale or distribution - that are banned or not licensed in the country of exportation.

### Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion

Be it resolved that ACWW urge the World Health Organization (WHO) to adopt a revised and strengthened version of its "Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion," first published in 1988.

### Labelling Pharmaceuticals

Be it resolved that ACWW member organizations urge their governments and the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure that information (labelling) accompanying pharmaceuticals for export have, as a minimum, the same quality and high standard as required for the home market, in the language of the country of destination.

### Plant Genetic Resources - Farmers' Rights

Be it resolved that ACWW member societies urge their governments to support Farmers' Rights by contributing to the International Fund on Plant Genetic Resources.

### International Year of the Family

Be it resolved that ACWW urge the United Nations to continue to build on the awareness created in the International Year of the Family (IYF) by proclaiming an International Decade of the Family to further implement and carry out the plans established in 1994.

### Resolutions

are mandates

which must be worked on by  
ACWW and its members.

### Recommendations

are suggested lines of action

which societies  
may choose to follow.

That ACWW and its member societies continue to promote the aims of the IYF beyond 1994 to their governments using the most appropriate approach in order to achieve equity and equality of opportunity for all.

### Bovine Somatotropin (BST)

Be it resolved that ACWW member societies urge their governments to ban the use of Bovine Somatotropin (BST) and to withhold the granting of product licences for the distribution of BST products within their countries.

### Rights of the Child

Be it resolved that ACWW urge all countries who have not yet ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so.

### AIDS and Social Diseases

Be it resolved that ACWW member societies be asked to support the work of their governments, in co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO), in the control of AIDS and social diseases through the further strengthening of programs, particularly those directed to youth, and to raise awareness of and the response to the serious dangers threatening the global community.

### Water

Be it resolved that ACWW urge the United Nations to make every effort to ensure that, as water is a scarce and precious commodity, it does not become the tool of cartels and business interests.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were also accepted:

### Land Ownership

Be it recommended that governments legislate and implement the right of women who are the tillers of the land to own the land, either individually or communally.

### Family and Farming and Small Rural Enterprises

Be it recommended that ACWW member societies urge their governments to give family farming and other small rural enterprises high priority when allocating resources or signing international agreements.

### Older Women

Be it recommended that, taking into account the cultural differences in various countries, the following items are placed on political agendas: (a) recognition of the importance of the specific contribution of older women to society; and, (b) the improvement of their social position.

### The Debt Burden in Developing Countries

Be it recommended that ACWW member societies urge their governments to adopt the principle of the Rio Declaration of the Environment 1992, that all states and all people shall co-operate in the essential task of eradicating poverty and relieving their debt burden as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

### Rights of Rural Women

Be it recommended that members of ACWW undertake advocacy to ensure the rights of rural women, especially land rights, and their access to and control of other community resources, such as water and energy.

### Fair Trade Policies

Be it recommended that ACWW member societies urge governments to implement fair trade policies, particularly with regard to non-tariff barriers.

*The above report on the Associated Country Women of the World's 21st Triennial Conference was reprinted from The Countrywoman, April-June, 1995.*

## ACWW Executive, 1995-1998 Triennium

### President

Lyndsay Hackett-Pain - England

### Deputy President

Hilda Stewart - Northern Ireland

### Secretary

Noel Whamond MBE - Scotland

### Treasurer

Margaret Munro - Canada