PARIS SEMINAR ON "MAINSTREAMING" WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The French Ministry of Co-operation and Development hosted a seminar on "mainstreaming" women in development in Paris on 19th-20th May. The seminar, which was organized by the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s (DAC) Expert Group on Women in Development, brought together participants from both the OECD/DAC Member countries and multilateral organisations as well as representatives from the development banks.

The seminar aimed to promote communication and co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral agencies to encourage the full involvement of women in development and to support them in changing the development agenda so their needs are recognised. The seminar concentrated on how best to do this at all levels within partner countries in the South and reviewed the roles of the different official and non-official institutions concerned.

There was consensus on the need for increased long-term co-operation and co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral agencies in the context of declining resources. It was emphasised that co-operation and co-ordination would be particularly important in the context of preparations for the 4th UN Conference on Women and Development which will be held in China in September 1995. The need to support initiatives within countries in the South in preparing for the conference was set as a priority.

The conclusions and recommendations from the seminar were drawn up by the OECD/DAC Expert Group on Women in Development and a report will be available shortly from the OECD’s development co-operation secretariat.