

of the ozone layer and biodiversity; they cannot accept that some should acquire *permission to pollute*;

2. specific strategies and concrete ecological measures to master the runaway pollution of vast metropolitan areas condemned by HABITAT II;
3. steps to create awareness among both adults and children of the gravity of these problems and to initiate environmental education programmes.

Supporting statement:

Serious pollution problems condemned on several occasions by resolutions of the International Federation of University Women (1971 n° 9, 1989 n°2, 1995 n°17), and underlined at two recent environment summit meetings – the Summit of the Group of Eight (Denver, June 1997) and the third session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climatic Change (Kyoto, December 1997) are rapidly increasing and these problems have a serious impact on the health of populations, particularly that of girls, as young children and teenagers.

Action plan:

1. pursuing study and research on this problem;
2. networking with other associations on national and local levels;
3. activation of the environment (and health) network of the International Federation of University Women;
4. lobbying governments for the establishment of coordinated health and environment policies.

14) **RESOLUTION ON DESERTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT**
Proposed by the Canadian Federation of University Women

The 26th Conference resolves:

that NFAs urge their governments to ratify the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and furthermore to:

1. promote the full participation of local women in political, economic and technical decision-making in areas affected by drought and desertification;
2. support research on, and the transfer of, alternative renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind, for individual and community use; and
3. support the dissemination of culturally specific information on economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable alternative renewable energy technologies, and on the more efficient use of traditional methods to communities and families.

Supporting statement:

Desertification with its threat of reduced food production and potential famine has long been and continues to be a growing global problem. One-sixth of the world's population is affected by the degradation of dryland and desert encroachment.

Article 6 of the Convention which now has 40 signatories, establishes the basic obligations of developed countries to respond to the needs of affected countries, "particularly in Africa, by providing substantial financial resources to help develop and implement plans and strategies; exchange technology and knowledge; and encourage the financial participation of the private sector and the non-governmental community".

In many areas where wood is the principal source of energy, in order to survive, agriculture, forest and water sources have been exploited. Ways to combat fuel shortages could include reforestation (a long term goal), and the use of more efficient wood burning stoves. However, well-researched, alternative resources such as solar and wind energy should be easily obtainable where appropriate. Women who are the main users of the fuel for their cooking tasks, often walk further and further each day for this essential item. It has been well demonstrated that if they are involved in the decision-making process, in planning and in the teaching of different methods, great progress will be made. Culturally sensitive dissemination of alternative technologies is of great importance and must be considered.

Action plan:

1. NFAs to urge ratification of this convention in their respective countries;
2. NFAs to educate members and others about alternative sources of energy and how they are being used in the NFA's own country;
3. NFAs to contact other affiliates in which desertification is a problem to learn how the problem is being dealt with and provide their national governments with information.

15) RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
Proposed by the Canadian Federation of University Women

The 26th Conference resolves:

that NFAs urge their respective governments to make a commitment to the United Nations *Convention on Biological Diversity, Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Statement of Forest Principles* by:

- **supporting programs in reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands that are relevant, environmentally sound, and culturally acceptable;**
- **requiring and enforcing the use of appropriate, environmentally sound, sustainable methods of harvesting wood while maintaining the forest base;**
- **pursuing through the Global Forest Dialogue the successful negotiation and implementation of the global forest convention, whose goal is the protection and sustainable development of the world's forests.**