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I. Background

1. In its resolution 35/78 of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive detailed outline for a multisectoral and interdisciplinary world survey on the role of women in overall development, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Copenhagen, as well as results of the relevant United Nations conferences on development issues, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In its resolution 36/74 of 4 December 1981, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare the *Survey* in close collaboration with appropriate

Development for the consideration of the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and, as in the past, to focus on selective emerging development issues that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels.

7. The present Conference Room Paper serves to inform the Commission on the

III. Issues to be addressed in the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*

10. International migration has increased significantly during the past decades. The *Survey* will examine a number of factors that contribute to this increase,

opportunities at home, they will generally not be forced to move to support themselves and their families. During what is sometimes referred to as the development-induced “migration hump”, migrant women can contribute to further economic development through their financial resources as well as their skills, entrepreneurial activities and support for democratization and human rights. Women and girls left behind by migrating spouses and fathers are also affected by migration, particularly through the receipt of remittances and the new gender roles they assume in the absence of male family members. Possible negative repercussions from migration, particularly brain drain in developing countries, will also be assessed in the *Survey*.

15. The *Survey* will examine international conventions and protocols relating to the status and rights of women migrants. In addition to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the *Survey* will discuss the impact and potential impact of such instruments as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of Refugees; the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the 2000 Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish

role of refugee and displaced women in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction will be a further area of analysis.

18. Human trafficking is a growing problem. A majority of trafficking victims are women, most under the age of 25. The *Survey* will explore the reasons that place women and girls at risk of trafficking for prostitution, forced labour and other exploitive purposes. It will also detail effective efforts to prevent trafficking, hold traffickers accountable for their abuses and protect the victims of trafficking operations from further exploitation.

19. The *Survey* will make recommendations regarding data and research on women and migration. Improvements are needed in the collection of data on both internal and international migration, with particular attention paid to collecting statistics disaggregated by age and sex. The *Survey* will also present an agenda for additional research needed to expand understanding of the causes of female migration and mobility, the impact of migration and mobility on women and the impact of female migration and mobility on source and destination countries.
