

NEWS & VIEWS

Women's Environment & Development Organization

Vol. 5, No. 1

May - June 1992

We in WEDO, the Women's Environment & Development Organization, initiated the internationally acclaimed Women's Action Agenda 21, a new blueprint for incorporating women's concerns about the environment and development into local, national and international decision-making from now on into the next century.



Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the UN Earth Summit, reaches out to WEDO co-chair Bella Abzug, his special adviser on women's issues, at the March 8th International Women's Day Rally in New York.

Women — Visible and Outspoken — Urge Action at the Rio Earth Summit

From every part of our globe, large numbers of women will be among the 30,000 activists converging on the Earth Summit in Brazil June 3-14 to urge action by leaders of 170 UN member nations to restore Planet Earth to health.

Action to clean up the air, water and soil and protect biodiversity. Action to change economic policies that have resulted in 85% of the world's income going to 23% of its people, with women and children a majority of the have-nots. Action to give women their rights to an equal say in determining the fate of our earth.

By their presence and activities at the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the parallel independent Global Forum '92 in Flamengo Park in downtown Rio de Janeiro, women expect to make a difference. Indeed, by their notable accomplishments at the recent UNCED Preparatory Committee IV session in New York March 2-April 3, they proved they already are making a difference.

continued on page 9

The Action Agenda was created at the November 8-12, 1991, World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet in Miami, Florida, by 1,500 women from 83 countries. WEDO, with its International Policy Action Committee (IPAC) of 55 women from 31 countries, organized the Congress.

Since then, thousands of copies of the Action Agenda have been used worldwide to promote women's concerns, their contributions and their active and equal participation in:

- preparing for the June 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil: the Earth Summit. In four 'PrepCom' meetings, the Women's Caucus, led by the WEDO Steering Committee, was recognized as most effective by officials and the grassroots community alike [see page 3];
- developing the Earth Summit plan of action, Agenda 21 [see insert for text of 'Women as a special group'], and other policy-setting documents to be approved by governments at the highest level;
- events parallel to the Brazil conference for non-governmental organizations and activists from around the world. The Women's Tent, organized by WEDO and the Brazilian Women's Coalition, will be the biggest at the site of the '92 Global Forum in Rio [see page 6];
- creating and promoting the use of Community Report Cards to grade the ecological and social health of neighborhoods and communities [see p. 7].

Inside...

	page
Women's Voice Must Be Heard at Summit, An Editorial	2
Women's Caucus Lobbies Negotiators for Earth Summit	3
Negotiators Use Population as a Ploy; Women Fight Back	4
World Women's Congress on Radio and Television	5
Women's Tent at Center of Rio '92 Global Forum	6
STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN—4-Page Insert: Text of UNCED Action Agenda 21 Draft Recommendations	
How Healthy Is Your Community?	7
Getting a Fair Share of Eco-Development Funds	7
Women In—And On—Film: Selected Documentaries	8
Thousands Attend International Women's Day Rally	10
WEDO Acts to Save Eco-Activists	11

News & Views

is published by the

**WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT &
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**



845 Third Avenue, 15th floor
New York, NY 10022, U.S.A.

Telephone: (212) 759-7982

Fax: (212) 759-8647

WEDO is a program of the Women USA Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) educational organization, and the Women's Foreign Policy Council.

The goal is to make women more visible as participants, experts and leaders in public debate on international affairs and in formulating alternative, peaceful solutions to world problems.

CO-FOUNDERS

Bella Abzug and Mim Kelber

INTERNATIONAL POLICY ACTION COMMITTEE (IPAC) CO-CHAIRS

Bella Abzug, U.S.A.

Peggy Antrobus, Barbados

Thais Corral, Brazil

María Eugenia de Cotter, Costa Rica

Elln Enge, Norway

Farkhonda Hassan, Egypt

Wangari Maathai, Kenya

Chief Bisi Ogunleye, Nigeria

Vandana Shiva, India

Marilyn Waring, New Zealand

EDITORS/Writers:

Mim Kelber and Libby Bassett

DESIGNER/DESKTOP PUBLISHER:

Libby Bassett

ALL PHOTOS BY:

Marilynne Herbert and Laura Herbert



Women united for a healthy planet: at the March 8th International Women's Day Rally, organized by WEDO

Women's Voice Must Be Heard At Summit

*Excerpts from an editorial by Jay D. Hair,
President, National Wildlife Federation*

When government leaders from nearly every nation meet in Rio de Janeiro in June for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, there will be a conspicuous absence.

Only 4 percent of the heads of state likely to attend will be women.

Maurice Strong, conference chief, describes the situation as "embarrassing." Indeed it is, since women's roles are critical in environment and development issues to be discussed at the meeting, also called the Earth Summit.

...In wealthier nations, women as consumers exercise choices everyday that affect the use of natural resources, from paper products to fossil fuels to cleaning products.

Women also have long been the backbone of grass-roots environmental projects, from garbage collection in Mexico to tree planting in Africa.

Yet they have been largely excluded from development decisions that impact the environment.

The Earth Summit offers an opportunity for change.

Last fall, more than 1,500 women from around the world met at the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet in Miami. The result was an Action Agenda presented to Secretary-General Strong demanding equal participation for women in all areas of policymaking and project implementation.

Women make up more than half the global population, but they are just beginning to be heard.

As heads of state gather for the Earth Summit, they must listen for the women's voice.

Otherwise their decisions will not reflect the view of more than half of humanity.

International Women's Caucus Successfully Lobbies Negotiators for UN Earth Summit

Political experience pays off. Under former Congresswoman Bella Abzug's direction, WEDO and its Women's International Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) has successfully lobbied negotiators from 160 countries to incorporate women's concerns as a cross-cutting concern for the Earth Summit.

Last August, Ms. Abzug and an ad hoc group of women met daily during the third UN Earth Summit preparatory committee (PrepCom) meeting in Geneva. They may have represented a variety of governmental delegations, non-governmental and peoples' organizations, but they shared one common purpose: to ensure that women's roles and concerns were incorporated into the process and final products of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit.

Their intensive organizing and lobbying paid off, for it resulted in UNCED decision 3/5, which requires that conference documents reflect both the need for women's participation and the effect on women of proposed action plans. The decision clearly directed UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong to "ensure that women's critical economic, social and environmental contributions to sustainable development be addressed...as a distinct cross-cutting issue in addition to being mainstreamed in all the substantive work and documentation."

To hold the UNCED Secretariat to this mandate, WEDO experts analyzed hundreds of pages of draft conference documents, line by line, comparing them with demands in the Women's Action Agenda and preparing proposed additions and stronger language on many issues.

During the final PrepCom at UN headquarters in New York March 2-April 3, WEDO organized daily morning caucuses of women repre-

sending their governments or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for briefings and to discuss tactics. Armed with packets of proposed amendments and additions, the women lobbied members of their own delegations and others and also participated in forums and NGO activities.

For many women, it was their first experience at a UN working conference. Some came for a few days, others for a week or more and a few hardy souls, like Bella, were there morning to night throughout the five-week session.

While negotiations on many issues were unresolved at the end of PrepCom IV, officials and the NGO community agreed that the women's caucus had been extraordinarily effective, thanks to its expert preparation, organization and persistence.

Among those who took turns chairing the women's caucus were Rosina Wiltshire (Barbados), Miriam Wyman and Eleanor Heise (Canada), Jocelyn Dow (Guyana), Vandana Shiva (India), Amelia Zanzebe (Mozambique) Chief Bisi Ogunleye (Nigeria), Priscia Molotse (Zambia), Bella Abzug and Claire Greensfelder (U.S.).

A WEDO analysis of PrepCom IV results showed that, in addition to improved language in a section on 'Strengthening the role of women' [see special insert], language affecting women appeared in many other Agenda chapters: Education, Legal Institutions, Promoting Human Settlement Development, Combating Poverty, Changing Consumption Patterns, Demographic Dynamics, Human Health Conditions, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Freshwater Resources, Land Resources: Deforestation, and Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought. ■

For WEDO's analysis of gains made by women in UNCED's Action Agenda 21, prepared by Bella Abzug and Charlotte A. Price, Ph.D, Faculty of Economics, Sarah Lawrence College, USA, send your name, address and \$5 to WEDO, 845 Third Avenue, 15th floor, New York, NY 10022, U.S.A.



Elin Enge of Norway with Maria Eugenia de Cotter of Costa Rica (above); Chief Bisi Ogunleye of Nigeria talks with India's Vandana Shiva (at right). As WEDO International Policy Action Committee members, they took an active role in the Women's Caucus at the New York preparatory meeting for the UN Earth Summit.



Earth Summit Negotiators Use Population as a Ploy

Women participants in the UN Earth Summit's final preparatory (PrepCom) meeting in New York were outraged at an attempt to use issues of concern to them as a bargaining chip in the ongoing dispute between the U.S. delegation and the G77 group of developing nations; both are male-led.

When the U.S. moved to delete all references to overconsumption in the North from the UN document recommending actions to overcome poverty, G77 leaders retaliated by moving to delete all references to population and family planning.

The women's caucus immediately issued a public statement criticizing PrepCom delegates for abusing "issues of direct concern to women in this negotiating process." It said: "We protest women being used in this manner. We will take whatever steps are necessary to prevent this self-defeating negotiating tactic in which governments are playing dangerous games at the expense of women and the earth."

In quick order, women's caucus leaders held two meetings with the head of G77 and other government leaders and organized a full plenary session of governmental and non-gov-

ernmental representatives, including the G77 head, at which women presented their views on family planning, free choice and population issues, with many developing country women expressing their concern about compulsory sterilization abuses. As a result of this open dialogue, the G77 group abandoned its tactic, and population and family planning services language was restored.

Reproductive rights and family planning services references evolved through various phases of PrepCom deliberations. In the UNCED documents presented initially, the language was minimal and unsatisfactory. As a result of Women's Caucus efforts, the language was strengthened. Although some conditional phrases were attached by delegates, the essence of the Women's Action Agenda call for "women-centred, women-managed" health facilities and family planning services, to ensure that women and men have the right "to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children," was included in the official recommendations of the Earth Summit. For details, refer to WEDO's analysis of Action Agenda 21 [to order, see page 12].



Faye Wattleton, former president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, spoke at WEDO's International Women's Day Rally in New York.

Women Achieve a 'Milestone' at the UN

"The comprehensive incorporation of women in Agenda 21 [the Earth Summit plan of action] is a milestone for a major UN Conference of this type.... It has implications for all areas in the field of environment and development as well as for the Conventions that are currently being negotiated" to combat climate change and the loss of species.

"The draft of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development [a set of 27 ethical principles for nations to adopt] includes a principle on the role of women as Principle 20, which was unanimously and easily endorsed. It states: 'Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieving sustainable development.'"

From a report by Filomina Chioma Steady, Special Advisor on Women to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Consumption of Paradise, a mixed-media exhibit by 14 women artists organized by the YWCA, is co-sponsored by WEDO. The show's themes range from present environmental horrors to visions of a healthy planet. It will be shown at the YWCA, 610 Lexington Avenue in New York City, from June 3rd to August 29th and then go on tour nationwide.

Women all around the world are spreading the message of the World Women's Congress and its Agenda. In Africa, Italy, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the U.S., they are organizing local and regional 'Women for a Healthy Planet' groups and other networks, holding meetings and forums, reporting on the Congress in their local and organizational papers.

In Santa Fe, New Mexico, Congress participant Mary Lou Cook returned home to organize a women's network that meets weekly to study and discuss our Action Agenda. In honor of the Earth Summit, they are holding a tree planting celebration on June 6th. And they have adopted the Santa Fe River as their special concern "in appreciation of precious water flowing through our community."

In Norway, Eva Nordland and other women are bringing WEDO's Community Report Card project into the schools. Women in the U.S., Africa and Canada also have begun using the report cards to assess the total health of their communities.

Spread The Word! The World Women's Congress Is On Tape

The excitement of the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, which drew 1,500 women from 83 countries to Miami last November, can now be relived through two documentary series, one for radio, one for tv.

A series of five one-hour radio documentaries, *Fate of the Earth: A Global Women's Speak-out*, was transmitted over the public radio satellite system to 300 public and community radio stations nationwide during the week of April 13th.

To make sure this series is aired, we urge you to call your local public radio station. If they want it but did not pick up the satellite feed, have the station contact WEDO for master broadcast tapes (see below).

The series includes:

1. **Our Wounded Planet**, with Dr. Rosalie Bertell, the Canadian anti-nuclear campaigner, Bella Abzug, WEDO Co-chair and Congress organizer, and Peggy Antrobus of Barbados.
2. **A Positive Development**: presidential candidate Margarita Arias of Costa Rica, Marilyn Waring of New Zealand and Leonor Briones of the Philippines.
3. **Global Homelessness, Food Security and**

Consumer Power: Magda Renner of Brazil, Ruth Engo of Cameroon and Meenakshi Ramen of Malaysia and the Third World Network.

4. **Appropriate Technologies**: testimony from Vandana Shiva of India, Marilyn Carr of UNIFEM, the UN Development Fund for Women, and former U.S. Congresswoman Claudine Schneider.

5. **Where Do We Go From Here?**: grassroots women speak out in the plenary and in the workshops.

The series was produced for WEDO by Helene Rosenbluth, whose work has been honored by, among others, AP Radio, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (her documentary on the Nairobi International Women's Conference was honored as the best of 1986).

The series is available for use by groups, schools or libraries for \$12 for each one-hour segment, or \$50 for the set. Send your money order or check in US\$ to: WEDO, 845 Third Avenue, 15th floor, New York, NY 10022.

The Video

A five-part video documentary, *Let the*

People Speak!, was produced by Trella Laughlin of Austin, Texas, and co-sponsored by WEDO, The Foundation for a Compassionate Society and Change of Heart, Inc. It is available free of charge to community access television stations and is already slated for broadcast in Oakland, California; Madison, Wisconsin; Corpus Christi and Austin, Texas.

The series of one-hour videocassettes features:

1. Dr. Rosina Wiltshire of Barbados and Magda Renner of Brazil.
2. Marie-Therese Danielsson of Tahiti, Takiara Ingram of the Cook Islands and Louise Aitsi from Papua New Guinea.
3. Winona La Duke of the Anishanibe Nation and Carrie Dann of the Onondaga Nation (U.S.) with Marilyn Manibusan of Guam.
4. Vandana Shiva of India, Ruth Lechte of Fiji, Sissy Farenthold and Mal Johnson of the U.S.
5. A sampler of testimony at the tribunal held before a panel of five eminent women judges.

The VHS tapes are \$40 each from 4 Directions, 2801 Guadalupe, Suite 5, Austin, TX 78705; (1 800) 932-5116. ■



"The Time Has Come." City schoolchildren, led by Gail Lima of Earth Emerge & See, sing at the International Women's Day Rally in New York.

Women's Tent at Center of Rio '92 Global Forum

Women's concerns will be at the center of all 'independent sector' activities at the June 3-14 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

The largest and most central of all structures in Flamengo Park, where the grassroots '92 Global Forum will be held, is the Women's Tent sponsored by WEDO. As many as 30,000 activists from around the world are expected at the Global Forum — and up to 1,100 of them could participate in Women's Tent activities at any one time.

Each day is being programmed by an international women's group around a specific theme in the Women's Action Agenda developed by 1,500 women from 83 countries last November at the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet. UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong said the Agenda "provided invaluable insights into how the gender dimension can serve to enhance action for sustainable development...." To implement policy changes demanded in the Agenda, the emphasis at the tent in Brazil will be on women working together and toward our goal of equality in decision-making.

Events in the tent are being coordinated by WEDO and the Brazilian Women's Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) led by International Policy Action Committee (IPAC) members Thais Corral and Rosiska Darcy de Oliveira. For more information: Women's Office at the Global Forum, Hotel Gloria, Predio Anexo, room 366, Rua do Russel 632, 22212 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Phone: (55 21) 285-5949; Fax: (55 21) 205-4114.

The preliminary schedule for the Women's Tent is:

June	Time	Event	Organized by
1-2	all day	Reception of participants	Brazilian Women's Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and WEDO
2	9 p.m.	Official Opening of Women's Tent followed by all-night vigil at Leme Beach in Copacabana	Brazilian Women's Coalition and WEDO
3	5 a.m.	Celebration of Hope sunrise ceremony, Leme Beach, celebrating the dawn of a compassionate, healthy world	Brazilian Women's Coalition and WEDO
	9:30 a.m.	Diversity and Solidarity	WEED, Canada
	3 p.m.	'92 Global Forum Opens	
4-14	9 a.m.	Daily briefing on UNCED	WEDO task force
4	10:30 a.m.	Biotechnology and Biodiversity	Research Foundation for Natural Resource Policy, India
5	" "	Debt and Trade	DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), Barbados
6	" "	Population Policies, Health and Environment	Brazilian Women's Coalition
7	" "	Code of Environment, Ethics and Accountability	Brazilian Women's Coalition
8	" "	Information and Education	International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), International Women's Tribune Centre, USA
9	" "	Women Entrepreneurs	African Women's Network
10	" "	Nuclear Power and Militarism	Eastern European Women and the PrepCom IV Task Force on Militarism
11	" "	Science and Technology Transfer	Both Ends, The Netherlands
12	" "	Women's Consumer Power	Women and Environment LMO, The Netherlands, Women's Environmental Network, UK
13	" "	Women, Poverty, Land Rights, Food Security and Credit	Central American Women's Network
	Night	Special Farewell Party	Brazilian Women's Coalition
14		End of '92 Global Forum	

SPECIAL INSERT
Text of the UN Preparatory Committee (PrepCom IV) Draft Recommendations
for the Earth Summit Plan of Action, Agenda 21,
on Strengthening the Role of Women

United Nations General Assembly

A/CONF.151/PC/L.72
31 MARCH 1992

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
Fourth session
New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Plenary session, Agenda item 2(c)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS: CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

Strengthening the role of major groups
(Section III, Chapters 1 to 9, of Agenda 21)

1. Critical to the effective implementation of the objectives, policies and mechanisms agreed to by Governments in all programme areas of Agenda 21 will be the commitment and genuine involvement of all social groups.

2. One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, in the more specific context of environment and development, the need for new forms of participation has emerged. This includes the need of individuals, groups and organizations to participate in environmental impact assessment procedures and to know about and participate in decisions, particularly those that potentially affect the communities in which they live and work. Individuals, groups and organizations should have access to information relevant to environment and development held by national authorities, including information on products and activities that have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, and information on environmental protection measures.

3. Any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of United Nations institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups.

4. The programme areas set out below address the means for moving towards real social partnerships in support of common efforts for sustainability.

I. GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE
AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT
(Section III, chapter 1, of Agenda 21)

INTRODUCTION

5. This programme area was prepared on the basis of Preparatory Committee decision 3/5 on women in environment and development in which the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference "to ensure that key elements relating to women's critical economic, social and environmental contributions to sustainable development be addressed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as a distinct cross-cutting issue in addition to being mainstreamed in all the substantive work and documentation particularly Agenda 21, the Earth Charter and the Conventions". Other Agenda 21 programmes of special relevance to women include sustainable agriculture and rural development, freshwater resources, combating poverty, education and health. Recommendations from relevant meetings on women in environment and sustainable development also requested by the Preparatory Committee in decision 3/5 are contained in document A/CONF.151/PC/114.

PROGRAMME AREA

Basis for Action

6. The international community has endorsed several plans of action and conventions for the full, equal and beneficial

integration of women in all development activities, in particular the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which emphasize women's participation in national and international ecosystem management and control of environment degradation. Several conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) and conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have also been adopted to end gender-based discrimination and ensure women access to land and other resources, education and safe and equal employment. Also relevant are the 1990 World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and its Plan of Action (A/45/625, annex). Effective implementation of these programmes will depend on the active involvement of women in economic and political decision-making and will be critical to the successful implementation of Agenda 21.

Objectives

7. The following objectives are proposed for national Governments:

- (a) To implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, particularly with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management and control of environment degradation;
- (b) To increase the proportion of women decision makers, planners, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields;
- (c) To consider developing and issuing by the year 2000 a strategy of changes necessary to eliminate constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioural, social and economic obstacles to women's full participation in sustainable development and in public life;
- (d) To establish by the year 1995, mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women and ensure their contributions and benefits;
- (e) To assess, review, revise and implement, where appropriate, curriculum and other educational material, with a view to promoting the dissemination to both men and women of gender-relevant knowledge and valuation of women's roles through formal and non-formal education, as well as through training institutions, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations;
- (f) To formulate and implement clear government policies and national guidelines, strategies and plans for the achieve-

ment of equality in all aspects of society, including the promotion of women's literacy, education, training, nutrition, health and their participation in key decision-making positions and in management of the environment, particularly as it pertains to their access to resources, by facilitating better access to all forms of credit, particularly in the informal sector, taking measures towards ensuring women's access to property rights as well as agricultural inputs and implements;

(g) To implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and have access to information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values;

(h) To consider adopting, strengthening and enforcing legislation prohibiting violence against women and take all necessary administrative, social and educational means to eliminate violence against women in all its forms.

Activities

8. Governments should take active steps to implement the following:

- (a) Measures to review policies and establish plans to increase the proportion of women involved as decision makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development;
- (b) Measures to strengthen and empower women's bureaus, women's non-governmental organizations and women's groups in enhancing capacity-building for sustainable development;
- (c) Measures to eliminate female illiteracy and to expand the enrolment of women and girls in educational institutions promoting the goal of universal access to primary and secondary education for girl children and for women, and increased educational and training opportunities for women and girls in sciences and technology, particularly at the post-secondary level;
- (d) Programmes to promote the reduction of the heavy workload of women and girl children at home and outside through the establishment of more and affordable nurseries and kindergartens by Governments, local authorities, employers and other relevant organisations and the sharing of household tasks by men and women on an equal basis; environmentally sound technologies which have been designed, developed and improved in consultation with women: accessible and clean water; efficient fuel supply and adequate sanitation facilities;

(e) Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centered, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, and responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide the opportunity for all women to breastfeed during the first four months (post-partum). Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being and pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness,

(f) Programmes to support and strengthen equal employment opportunities and equitable remuneration for women in the formal and informal sectors with adequate economic, political and social support systems and services, including child care, particularly day-care facilities and parental leave, and equal access to credit, land and other natural resources;

(g) Programmes to establish rural banking systems with a view to facilitating and increasing rural women's access to credit as well as agricultural inputs and implements;

(h) Programmes to develop consumer awareness and the active participation of women, emphasizing their crucial role in achieving changes necessary to reduce or eliminate unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, [particularly in industrialized countries] (USA) in order to encourage investment in environmentally sound productive activities and induce environmentally and socially friendly industrial development;

(i) Programmes to eliminate persistent negative images, stereotypes, attitudes and prejudices against women through changes in socialization patterns, the media, advertising, and formal and non-formal education;

(j) Measures to review progress made in these areas and prepare a review and appraisal report which includes recommendations to be submitted to the 1995 world conference on women.

9. Governments are urged to ratify all relevant conventions pertaining to women if they have not already done so. Those that have ratified conventions should enforce and establish legal, constitutional and administrative procedures to transform agreed rights into domestic legislation and adopt measures to implement them in order to strengthen women's legal capacity for full and equal participation in issues and decisions on sustainable development.

10. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should review and suggest amendments to it by the year 2000, with a view to strengthening its elements related to environment and development giving special attention to the issue of access and entitlements to natural resources, technology, creative banking facilities and low-cost housing, and the control of pollution and toxicity in the home and workplace. States Parties should also clarify the extent of the Convention's scope with respect to the issues of environment and development and request the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to develop guidelines regarding the nature of reporting such issues, required under particular articles of the Convention.

Areas requiring urgent action

11. Countries should take urgent measures to avert the ongoing rapid environmental and economic degradation in developing countries that generally affects the lives of women and children in rural areas suffering drought, desertification and deforestation, [wars,] (USA) natural disasters, toxic waste and the aftermath of the use of unsuitable agro-chemical products.

12. In order to reach these goals, women should be fully involved in decision-making and in the implementation of sustainable development activities.

(a) Research, data collection and information dissemination

13. Countries should develop gender-sensitive data bases, information systems and participatory action-oriented research and policy analyses with the collaboration of academic institutions and local women researchers on the following;

(a) Women's knowledge and experience of the management and conservation of natural resources for incorporation in the data bases and information systems for sustainable development;

(b) The impact of structural adjustment programmes on women. In research done on structural adjustment programmes, special attention should be given to the differential impact on women especially in terms of cut-backs in social services, education and health and in the removal of subsidies on food and fuel;

(c) The impact on women of environmental degradation, particularly drought, desertification, toxic chemicals and [war] (USA);

(d) Analysis of the structural linkages between gender relations, environment and development;

(e) The integration of the value of unpaid work, including work that is currently designated "domestic", in resource accounting mechanisms in order to better represent the true value of women's contribution to the economy, using revised guidelines for the United Nations System of National Accounts, to be issued in 1993;

(f) Measures to develop and include environmental, social and gender impact analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of programmes and policies;

(g) Programmes to create rural and urban training, research and resource centres in developing and developed countries that will serve to disseminate environmentally sound technologies to women.

(b) International and regional cooperation and coordination

14. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should review the adequacy of all United Nations institutions, including those with a special focus on the role of women in meeting development and environment objectives, and make recommendations for strengthening their capacities. Institutions which require special attention in this area include the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the women's programmes of regional commissions. The review should consider how the environment and development programmes of each United Nations organization could be strengthened to implement Agenda 21 and how to incorporate the role of women in programmes and decisions related to sustainable development.

15. Each United Nations organization should review the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and, where appropriate, adopt programmes to increase that number, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/17 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

16. UNIFEM should establish regular consultations with donors in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with a view to promoting operational programmes and projects on sustainable development that will strengthen the participation of women, especially low-income women, in sustainable development and in decision-making.

UNDP should establish a women's focal point on development and environment in each of its resident representative offices, to provide information and promote exchange of experience and information in these fields. United Nations organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations involved in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the implementation of Agenda 21 should ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated into all the policies, programmes and activities.

Means of implementation

17. [Finance and cost evaluation]. Studies suggest that the actual budgeting process in some countries results in underfunding of activities related to the participation of women in sustainable development. The following action would be necessary:

(a) At the national and international levels, financial policies and programme budgets of Governments, international organizations and aid agencies should be re-oriented and executed to ensure adequate funding for greater gender equity on an annual basis during the period 1993-2000;

(b) There will be a need for allocation of adequate funds by each country to conduct national reviews and prepare reports for the 1995 world conference on women. An average cost of \$30,000 is estimated at the national level;

(c) Establishing gender-sensitive national data bases and information and research activities would require \$250,000 a year for two years on the average for each country, and \$10,000 a year thereafter as expenditure for maintenance;

(d) Funding for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) could be increased by about \$10 million to give it enhanced capacity to manage technical cooperation activities. As part of an overall increase in funding for projects targeting issues related to women in sustainable development a strengthened UNIFEM would be able to manage projects in excess of \$100 million annually by the year 2000.

18. The Secretary-General's review and production of a report will require additional staffing in the United Nations system for a period of at least two years at a cost not to exceed \$2 million.]

NOTE: Brackets [] surround language not agreed to by a government or group of governments.

How Healthy Is Your Community?



Is your community healthy?

To find out, write for copies of WEDO's 'Community Report Card,' which can help you to grade your town or region—you don't have to be an expert—on four different subjects:

- the natural environment
- the political systems
- social priorities
- human development.

The report card is tool to help you organize and get information so that you can evaluate the actual environmental health and social justice status of your community.

It is based on work by Dr. Rosalie Bertell, President of the International Institute for Public Health, Toronto, and a member of WEDO's International Policy Action Committee. She has observed that "the primary concern of men in our society is the economy.... They have defined their role in the world as taking care of money and the economy, leaving to women...air, land, food, water, babies, homes and everything else." The report cards seek to address this larger and untouched domain of concern.

As in the classroom, each subject is graded using a scale from A, the system is healthy, to F, the system is not working. A unique feature is that there is no standard set of information used to grade each subject. There is a set of suggested criteria upon which to base the grade, but it is up to the individual community to select the bases for their grades. While some indicators may be of near-universal concern, such as air quality or access to safe water, a community may face other threats to varying degrees, such as:

- the presence of toxic waste dumps
- industrial pollutants
- the wide use of dangerous pesticides and fertilizers.

Once completed, the Community Report Card can be used to lobby for change locally, regionally and at the state, national and international levels.

The Women's Environment & Development Organization is asking for a copy of each completed report card to present at a conference on the results of women's evaluations of their communities. This will help WEDO in its continuing efforts to ensure that women's concerns are a vital component of any policy decisions on environment and sustainable development, at all levels.

For two Community Report Cards (it can easily be copied) and a 'how-to' guide, send a US\$5 check or money order to:

WEDO, 845 Third Avenue, 15th floor, New York, NY 10022. ■

GETTING OUR FAIR SHARE

Where's the money coming from, where's it going, and how can women get their fair share of environment and development funds? The subject drew a large audience to the UNICEF auditorium March 10 for a WEDO symposium during Earth Summit preparations in New York.

Moderated by Rosina Wiltshire of DAWN in Barbados, the panel discussion included Michael Gucovsky of the UN Development Programme, Beti Astolfi of the UN Development Fund for Women, Vandana Shiva of India and Malaysian Martin Khor of the Third World Network. All argued on the need for directing more financial support to women. Ms. Shiva, founder of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy and a member of WEDO's steering committee, commented:

"Every year sees a flow of about \$300 billion from the South to the North in terms of interest payments, aid repayments and losses from declining terms of trade. Against this figure, we understand that all that the OECD is gearing up to offer the South is a mere \$2 billion under the Earth Summit Agenda." The OECD is the 24 major industrial nations' Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

TOWARD A HEALTHY PLANET

from the Preamble of Women's Action Agenda 21

People everywhere are frightened by mounting evidence of the deterioration of Earth's lifegiving systems. Human beings are part of the web of life, not above its laws. We have a special responsibility to respect all of the Earth community, including our air, water, soil and natural resources, our fauna and flora, and the atmosphere that shelters us.

...We are deeply troubled by the increasing quality of life disparities between inhabitants of industrialized nations and those in so-called developing nations and by the growing numbers of poor within the rich countries. In all instances, women, children, minorities, and indigenous people are the chief victims.

We are outraged by the inequities among children the world over, with millions denied food, shelter, health care, education and opportunities for a full and productive life. We condemn the racism and disrespect of diversity on which this inequity feeds.

We equate lack of political and individual will among world leaders with a lack of basic morality and spiritual values and an absence of responsibility towards future generations.

...We believe that a healthy and sustainable environment is contingent upon world peace, respect for human rights, participatory democracy, the self-determination of peoples, respect for indigenous people and their lands, cultures and traditions, and the protection of all species.

We believe that basic human rights include access to clean air and water, food, shelter, health, education, personal liberty and freedom of information....

The Women's Tent in Rio will be a replica of the multinational scene at the World Women's Congress in Miami.

WEDO is funding women to come to Rio from Argentina, Brazil, Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Barbados, Costa Rica, Mexico, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Russia, Peru, Sudan, the Pacific, the Middle East and other regions.

WOMEN IN—AND ON—FILM

Film and video are a powerful way of getting the message of women, environment and development told. But because there are so few high-quality films that tell this story well, the search for the documentaries listed below took an entire year. All award-winners, they were showcased at our World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet in Miami. It is our hope that more videos and films will be made that focus on the women who are making a difference in their communities, North and South. Their stories need to be told, seen and heard.

LOVE, WOMEN AND FLOWERS by Marta Rodriguez and Jorge Silva, 56" [minutes], Spanish (English subtitles)

Cut flowers are Colombia's third largest export industry. Hothouse carnations from the fertile plain of Bogotá are flown all over the world to adorn buttonholes and grace wedding bouquets. But, to produce the perfect blooms required, the flowers are dosed with lethal combinations of pesticides and fungicides. The 40,000 women who labor in the giant greenhouses suffer from a horrifying list of occupational illnesses: leukemia, epilepsy, miscarriages, dermatitis, asthma and bronchitis. If they complain, they risk losing their jobs. "Flowers are very beautiful," says one worker in the film, "but ... behind every flower there is a death."

1/2" VHS video \$295, rental \$100. Women Make Movies, 225 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012; telephone (212) 925-0606. Discounts are available for small, non-profit special interest groups.

THE GLOBAL ASSEMBLY LINE by Lorraine Gray, with Anne Bohlen and Maria Patricia Fernandez Kelly, 58", English

A rare look at the people behind the global assembly line, from Tennessee to Mexico's northern border and from California's Silicon Valley to the Philippines. A vivid portrayal of the lives of working women and men in the "free trade zones" of developing countries, as U.S. industries close their factories to search the globe for lower-wage workforces.

16 mm \$850, rental \$100; VHS video \$750, rental \$100; shipping \$12; non-profit discount 15%. New Day Films, 121 West 27th Street, Suite 902, New York, NY 10001; telephone (212) 645-8210.

THE MONEY LENDERS by Robert Richter, 90", English
World Women's Congress witness Leonor Briones, leader of the Freedom from Debt Coalition in the Philippines, shows how repaying massive and misguided IMF and World Bank "development" loans has jeopardized the future of her people and their economy. The film also investigates how the foreign debt has affected people in Bolivia, Ghana, Brazil (the biggest debtor in the developing world) and Thailand, and then takes these criticisms to IMF and World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

VHS video \$285, price to NGOs \$89.95; rental \$75, Richter Productions, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036; (212) 947-1395; fax (212) 643-1208.

HELL TO PAY by Alexandra Anderson and Anne Cottringer, 52", Spanish (English subtitles)

A moving and politically sophisticated analysis of the international debt situation through the eyes of the women of Bolivia, the poorest country in Latin America. Because of government austerity programs, adopted to satisfy the International Monetary Fund, 30% of the nation's public schools have been closed. Teachers, textile workers and out-of-work miners' wives speak vividly and with great comprehension of the causes of the debt crisis, making tangible the common interest of women, North and South, in the face of a global economy, which extracts a greater price than they can pay.

1/2" VHS video \$295, rental \$75. Women Make Movies, 225 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012; telephone (212) 925-0606. Discounts are available for small, non-profit special interest groups.

SHARED GROUND by Ameer Evans and Carol Saft, 19", English
With several other members of the Shinnecock tribe, Mabel Cuffee runs a low-tech oyster hatchery to rejuvenate the tribe's traditional business in Shinnecock Bay, now a polluted and over-exploited inlet adjoining South Hampton, one of New York's wealthiest resorts. The video contrasts her work in the hatchery with historic stills and archival footage. The film's pacing and use of narration strive to convey a Native American sense of the land, which the Shinnecock have inhabited for centuries.

1/2" video \$125, 3/4" video \$150, rental \$40. Mudfog Films, P.O. Box 699, East Moriches, NY 11940, (516) 878-4154, or (212) 879-0188. Discounts available for small, non-profit special interest groups.

WITH THESE HANDS by Chris Sheppard and Claude Sauvageot, 33", English and French (with subtitles)

Three women—from Burkina Faso, Kenya and Zimbabwe—tell of struggling to feed their families. Their stories give a human context to the continuing story of African famine. We see how the efforts of women, who grow 75% of Africa's food, are frustrated by the men in their villages as well as by outside business interests. It ends on a note of hope, showing how they are beginning to challenge traditional male authority.

16 mm film \$525, video \$295, rental \$55. Filmmakers Library, 124 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA; (212) 808-4940. Discounts are available for small, non-profit special interest groups.

THE PRICE OF CHANGE by Elizabeth Fernea and Marilyn Gaunt, 26", Arabic (English subtitles)

For 60 years Egyptian women have gradually been entering the workforce. Work outside the home, once considered shameful, has become a necessity. This film examines the consequences of work for five women—a village leader involved with family planning, a doctor, a Member of Parliament, a social worker and a factory worker.

16 mm \$470, video \$260, rental \$55. First Run/Icarus, 153 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10014; (212) 727-1711; fax (212) 989-7649.

BLACK TRIANGLE by Central Television, 52", German with English subtitles.

An environmental disaster as horrifying as Chernobyl has surfaced in the "black triangle" of eastern Europe, where Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany meet. It is Europe's most polluted region, with its greatest concentration of uranium and open coal mines. As smoke from power stations defoliates local forests, the toll on human health also is becoming visible. One in 10 children is born with a birth defect while frequent smog alerts keep children indoors for days. With the relaxation of government controls, miners and local residents can express opposition to these dangerous practices for the first time. But there are no easy solutions to meeting energy needs while safeguarding the environment.

video \$445, rental \$75. Filmmakers Library, 124 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016; telephone (212) 808-4980. Discounts are available for small, non-profit special interest groups.

Women—Visible, Active, Outspoken—Making A Difference at the Earth Summit

continued from page 1

When planning for the Earth Summit began more than two years ago, women were scarcely visible in leadership and their concerns barely mentioned. All that has changed. A global campaign initiated by the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) and its 55-member International Policy Action Committee (IPAC) has put women up front in the worldwide debate on how to reverse environmental degradation and overcome poverty.

From its first IPAC meeting in October 1990 to its successful World Women's Congress for a Health Planet in Miami last November 1991, attended by 1,500 women from 83 countries, to its leadership role at the four UNCED PrepCom meetings, WEDO has energized and expanded women's networks and participation, recruited thousands of women to the movement, and raised the consciousness of policy-makers in the process.

UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong named WEDO Co-Chair Bella Abzug as a special adviser on women's issues and recruited women to his secretariat staff, including an outstanding women's advocate, Filomena Steady, who organized the important 'Women and Children First' symposium in Geneva, Switzerland, last July, co-sponsored by UNCED, UNICEF and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

The International Facilitating Committee of NGOs, initially almost all male, was transformed into a gender-balanced group. A Global Assembly of Women, convened by the UN Environment Program (UNEP), held just prior to the Miami Congress, threw a well-deserved spotlight on environmental 'success stories' of women in all regions of the world. With the assistance of Bella Abzug and WEDO, a Brazilian women's coalition was organized and is co-sponsoring the Women's Tent at Global Forum '92.

The Women's Action Agenda 21 adopted at Miami—a highly praised blueprint for incorporating women's concerns into the Earth Summit action agenda—has been circulated worldwide (in English, Spanish, French and other languages), sent to the heads and UN ambassadors of every UN member state, to

parliamentarians, environment and development groups, women's organizations and the media.

As a result of literally round-the-clock efforts by the Women's Caucus at PrepCom IV [see story, p. ?], the draft Rio Declaration on Environment and Development includes a statement on the necessity of full participation by women as one of 27 principles to govern the economic and ecological behavior of nations. Numerous key recommendations of the Women's Action Agenda were approved in UNCED's proposed 900-page action plan, Agenda 21, including a major section on women in 'Strengthening the role of major groups' [see insert for full text].

Women can be proud of the impressive gains they have made in the UNCED process. But the Rio Earth Summit, which commences with a number of major issues still unresolved,

still to be made on such controversial issues as financing Agenda 21 activities, the transfer of technology, new Institutional arrangement and forestry.

At PrepCom IV, the U.S. was insistent on eliminating from Agenda 21 all references to war, militarism and the nuclear arms race—the foremost polluters of earth and its atmosphere. Still in grave doubt are the sources of funding needed to implement Agenda 21, estimated at US\$125 billion a year from 1993 to 2000. WEDO calculates that about half this amount would be needed to support the Women's Action Agenda proposals. (WEDO proposed a 50% cut in military expenditures to free up funds for constructive purposes.)

Women attending the Rio events will be lobbying to retain and strengthen UNCED commitments to gender balance in international institutions and increased funding by governments, international organizations and aid agencies for women's programs. In particular, the Women's Action Agenda called on donor nations to increase contributions to UNIFEM to \$150 million annually by the year 2000. It is the only multilateral fund established specifically to increase the flow of development resources to women in poor countries.

Just as the 1975-85 International Decade of Women and the UN Forward-Looking Strategies for Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly, gave a tremendous boost to international, national and community networks, the Earth Summit provides impetus for a newly invigorated, more effective and far-reaching women's movement focused around the vision contained in the Women's Action Agenda pledge:

We come together to pledge our commitment to the empowerment of women, the central and powerful force in the search for equity between and among the peoples of the Earth and for a balance between them and the life-support systems that sustain us all.

We pledge to undertake our Action Agenda 21 on behalf of ourselves, our families and future generations. We appeal to all women and men to join in this call for profound and immediate transformation in human values and activities. ■



Bella Abzug listens to Petra Kelly, a founder of Germany's Green Party and a member of WEDO's International Policy Action Committee.

will in many ways be a familiar yet alienating setting for women. Only a handful of governments are led by women. Despite WEDO's call for gender balance, official delegations will most likely be led by and dominated by men. At PrepCom IV, only about 10% of official delegates were women, which is more than usual. Many were in advisory roles.

While the Earth Summit is expected to reach some significant agreements, the outcome will most likely be marked by political compromises, evasions, vagueness of language and commitments in the context of the fierce North/South conflict over 'sustainable' development, overconsumption, allocation of resources and sovereignty. Final decisions are



Senator Al Gore, D-Tenn., an environmental leader in the U.S. Congress, addresses the International Women's Day Rally for a Just and Healthy Planet.

Thousands Rally for International Women's Day in New York

The International Women's Day Rally for a Just and Healthy Planet, March 8th at Columbus Circle in New York, drew more than 2,500 city-dwellers and international activists, in town preparing for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) this June in Brazil.

An extraordinary array of talent and commitment appeared on the open-air stage. Maurice Strong, UNCED Secretary-General, lauded WEDO for its successful integration of women's concerns into Earth Summit documents. Senator Al Gore of Tennessee, Rep. Maxine Waters of California and Mrs. Matilda Cuomo of New York urged President Bush to take a leadership role at the Earth Summit. Other speakers included Faye Wattleton of Planned Parenthood, Dr. Jean Sindab of the National Council of Churches of Christ, Helen Bobbish Atkinson of the Cree Nation, Magda Renner of Brazil, Petra Kelly of Germany and Jeremy Rifkin of the Greenhouse Action Coalition. The entertainment world was represented by actress-producer Lee Grant and performers Leslie Gore, Natalie Merchant of 10,000 Maniacs, Roz Winter, Earth Emerge & See and Women of the Calabash, among others. And mem-

bers of WEDO's International Policy Action Committee (IPAC) from Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Germany, India, Nigeria, Norway and the U.S. not only appeared on stage but also worked the crowd, handing out thousands of postcards for mailing to protest human rights abuses against eco-activists.

WEDO organized the star-studded event at IPAC's behest, and the rally in New York was mirrored by others around the world. Nearly 100 organizations co-sponsored the U.S. rally, from The Alliance for Child Survival, Amanaka's Amazon Network, Asian Americans for Equality and the Association of Iowa Human Rights Agencies to the Upper Manhattan Task Force on AIDS, U.S. Citizens Network for UNCED, Women Make Movies, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the YWCAs of Brooklyn and the U.S.A.

A British consumer activist crossing Central Park *en route* to Columbus Circle said she heard a familiar voice wafting through the trees. All around her people looked skyward: "Isn't that Bella Abzug?" they asked. "It was surreal," the British visitor said, but helpful since Bella—even while invisible—showed her the way. ■

WEDO Acts to Save Eco-Activists Threatened by Their Governments

From the *New Scientist* (U.K.),
14 March 1992:

"...as delegates entered the final round of talks in New York before the [Earth] Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June, Bella Abzug, director of the Women's Environment and Development Organisation, denounced the governments of India, Kenya and Malaysia for human rights violations against environmentalists....

"Abzug attacked Kenya for last week's beating of Wangari Maathai, the founder of Kenya's Green Belt Movement and head of a newly formed opposition party which plans to contest the country's first free elections for 25 years. Maathai and three other women were taken to hospital after police broke up their hunger strike in support of political prisoners.

"Abzug took India to task for arresting 40 members of the Chipko (tree-huggers) group who were on a hunger strike in protest against the building of the Tehri Dam in Uttar Pradesh. The dam will flood valleys in the Himalayas and displace tens of thousands of peasants. The Chipkos also say the dam is dangerous because it lies on an earthquake fault.

"Malaysia came in for criticism for the arrest of Andy Mutang, a member of the Sarawak Indigenous People's Alliance, which works with tribal people who want to stop logging of the rainforest."

Ms. Abzug addressed the delegates on behalf of the Women's Caucus, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Women's Tribune Centre and other women's groups.

To protest the eco-activists' plight, WEDO printed and passed out thousands of postcards at the International Women's Day Rally March 8 in New York to be mailed to government leaders in Kenya, India and Malaysia.

WEDO and Wangari

It was the second time in one year that Prof. Maathai, a member of WEDO's International Policy Action Committee, was hospitalized after officially sanctioned police brutality. In January, when more than 100 policemen swarmed her home and arrested her, WEDO



Wanjira Maathai speaks on behalf of her mother, imprisoned green activist Wangari Maathai, a member of the WEDO Steering Committee, at the March 8th International Women's Day Rally in New York.

spearheaded a whirlwind international fax, phone and mail campaign that helped free the Kenyan crusader.

Wangari's daughter, Wanjira, a student in the U.S., spoke movingly at the Women's Day Rally of her mother's cause and courage. She assured the thousands of well-wishers gathered in New York's Columbus Circle that her mother, just home from the hospital—she had been tear-gassed and clubbed unconscious—was feeling much better and had pledged to continue her fight.

Two months later, Prof. Maathai was back in action. She was scheduled to speak May 27th at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York (co-sponsored by WEDO, the Society for International Development, The Other Economic Summit and UNIFEM) and at the Parliamentary Earth Summit and Women's Tent in Brazil. ■

Individually we can all
make a difference
wherever we are.
Collectively we initiate
a revolution.
Nothing should stop us.
Nothing will stop me.

Wangari Maathai
at the
World Women's Congress
for a Healthy Planet
November 8-12, 1991