

Office of the President


June 9, 1989

Mrs. Charlotte Conable

Mrs. Conable:

I thought you might be interested  
in some initiatives on women.

Marianne Haug



THE WORLD BANK  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.

B. CONABLE

April 12, 1989

Mr. Moeen A. Qureshi

Re: Women in Development

Moeen:

As I mentioned to you last week, I have been concerned for some time about the depth and strength of our commitment to the Women in Development initiative. Women account for 50% of the world's productive human potential. No country can afford to neglect such a high share of its human resources.

My review of major economic reports and country strategy papers leads me to the conclusion that the role of women in the development process has rarely been integrated into the strategic thinking underlying country assistance programs. There are, of course, exceptions to this pattern. But we must raise our sights and work on a broader front in order to be effective -- and we must act soon.

As you know, we have undertaken to report on WID to the Board by the Fall. The report will be put together by PPR, based on the activities of PPR and on the work programs in place in Operations. The Development Committee has also asked for a special report on Women in Development for the Spring meeting in 1990. Finally, the World Development Report for 1990 will deal with poverty and it will reflect the fact that many more women than men live in poverty.

In this context, a more systematic approach is needed. As a first step, each Country Department should prepare, for one or several of its client countries, an assessment of women's potential role in development, the policy framework affecting their welfare and productivity, the institutional bottlenecks standing in the way of progress, the action programs which should be put in place, as well as the future involvement of the Bank. An outline of the type of documentation I have in mind is attached.

I decided to allocate to the specific effort US\$35,000 per Country Department, i.e. US\$700,000 out of the FY89 Presidential contingency. PBD advised me that Operations may not be able to use more than \$350,000 on this work during FY89. Accordingly, I have allocated \$50,000 for the WID activities described in this memorandum and \$350,000 for other FY89 operational purposes. I will request that you earmark another \$350,000 out of the base allocation I will be making to Operations in FY90 in order to complete the task.

