

New Books on WOMEN AND THE UN

One of the positive outcomes from recent world conferences organized by the UN is the wealth of information presented in such gatherings. Often conscientiously organized in the form of books, conference proceedings serve as valuable tools for analysis and action. Examples of such are two current publications.

The first one is the book *Women and the United Nations: Reflections and New Horizons*. Edited by Filomena C. Steady and Remie Toure, this book addresses timely questions such as: How beneficial have UN programs been for women in the developing world? How must the UN change to make future programs more effective? What do the experiences of women working within the UN system tell us about the UN's commitment to gender equity? Compiled in this book are the papers and statements presented at the Forum of Women Professionals organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna in May 1995. The seminar was one of the activities that marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the UN and also served as a preparatory activity for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

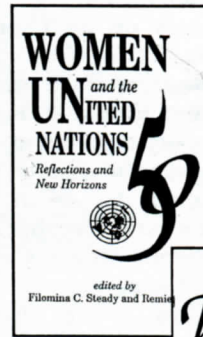
The second book, also edited by Filomena C. Steady, *Women and Children First: Environment, Poverty and Sustainable Development* is an anthology of papers presented at the symposium "Women and Children First: The Impact of Poverty and Environmental Degradation

on Women and Children" held in Geneva in May 1991. These essays were among the earliest substantive inputs into the policy considerations of governments in preparation for the Earth Summit. They also served as lobbying tools for the incorporation of the needs, concerns and aspirations of women and children in Agenda 21, the programme of action that came out of the Earth Summit.

The book hopes to be able to enrich the discourse on the role of gender and age in the distribution, management and protection of natural resources. Moreover, it aims to highlight the importance of ensuring a central role for women and children in policies and programs designed to promote sustainable development.

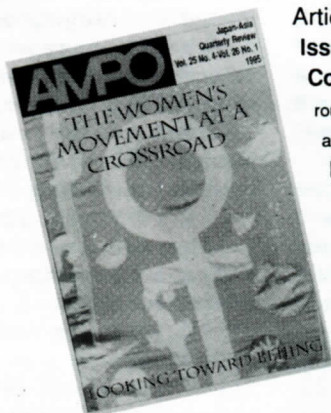
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