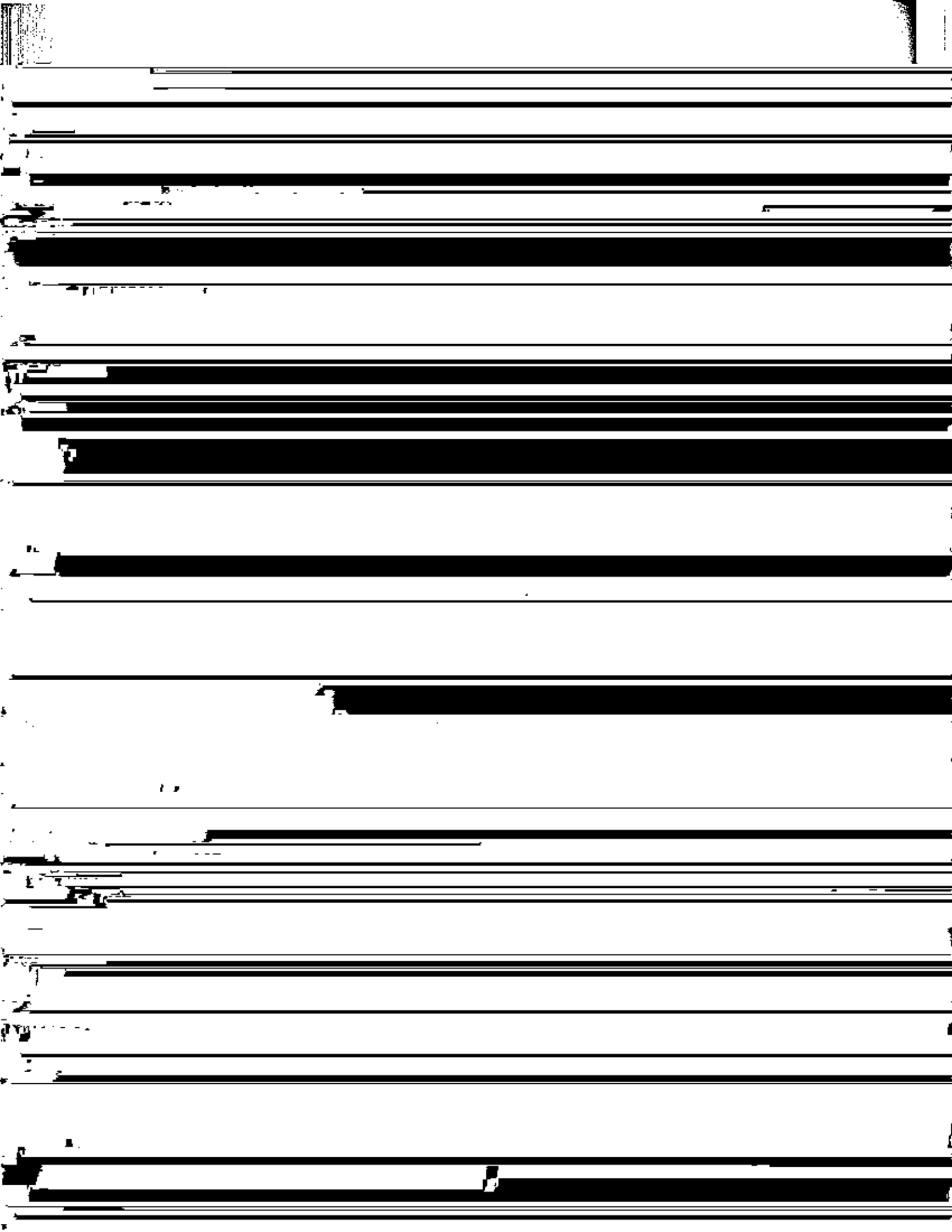


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Chapter II

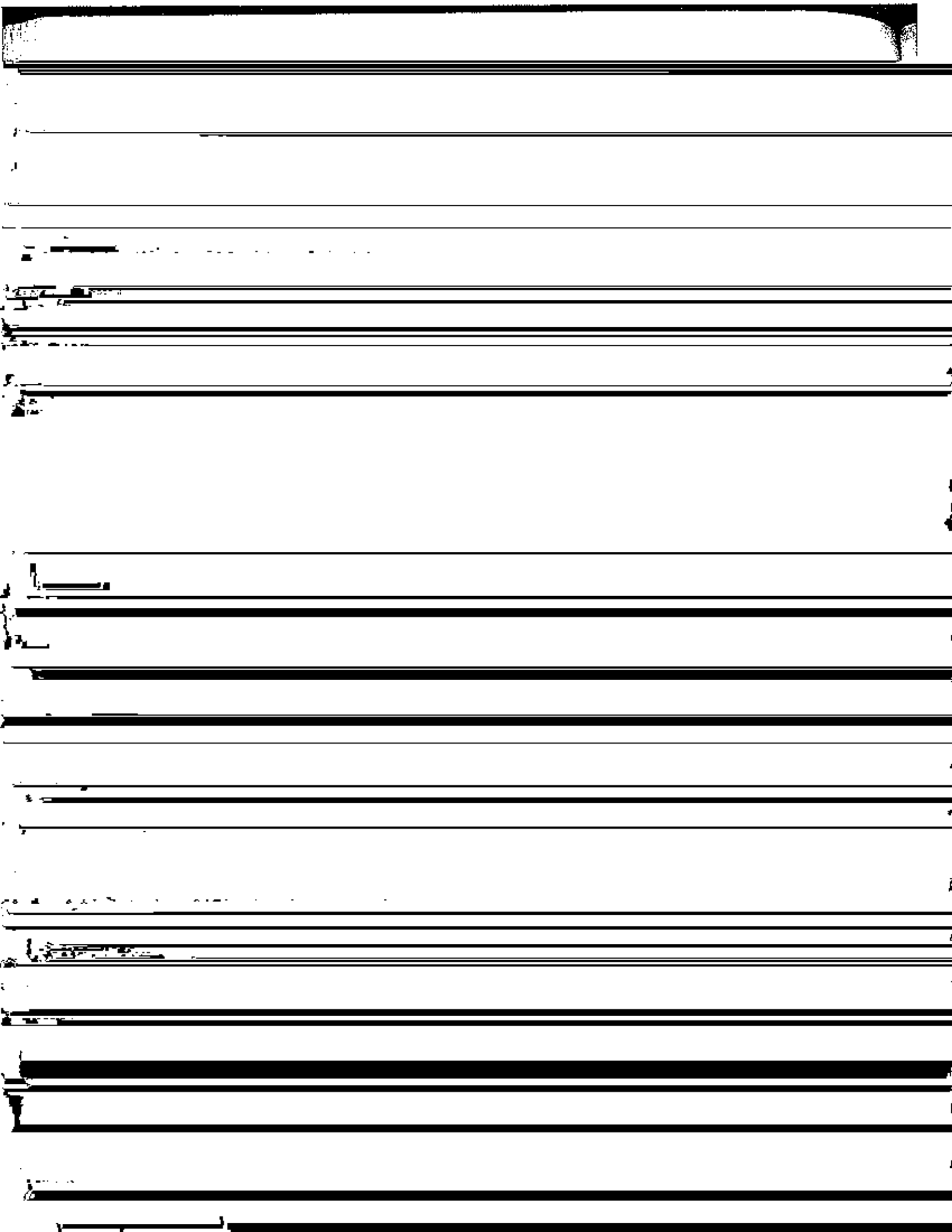
ORIGINS OF THE CONFERENCE

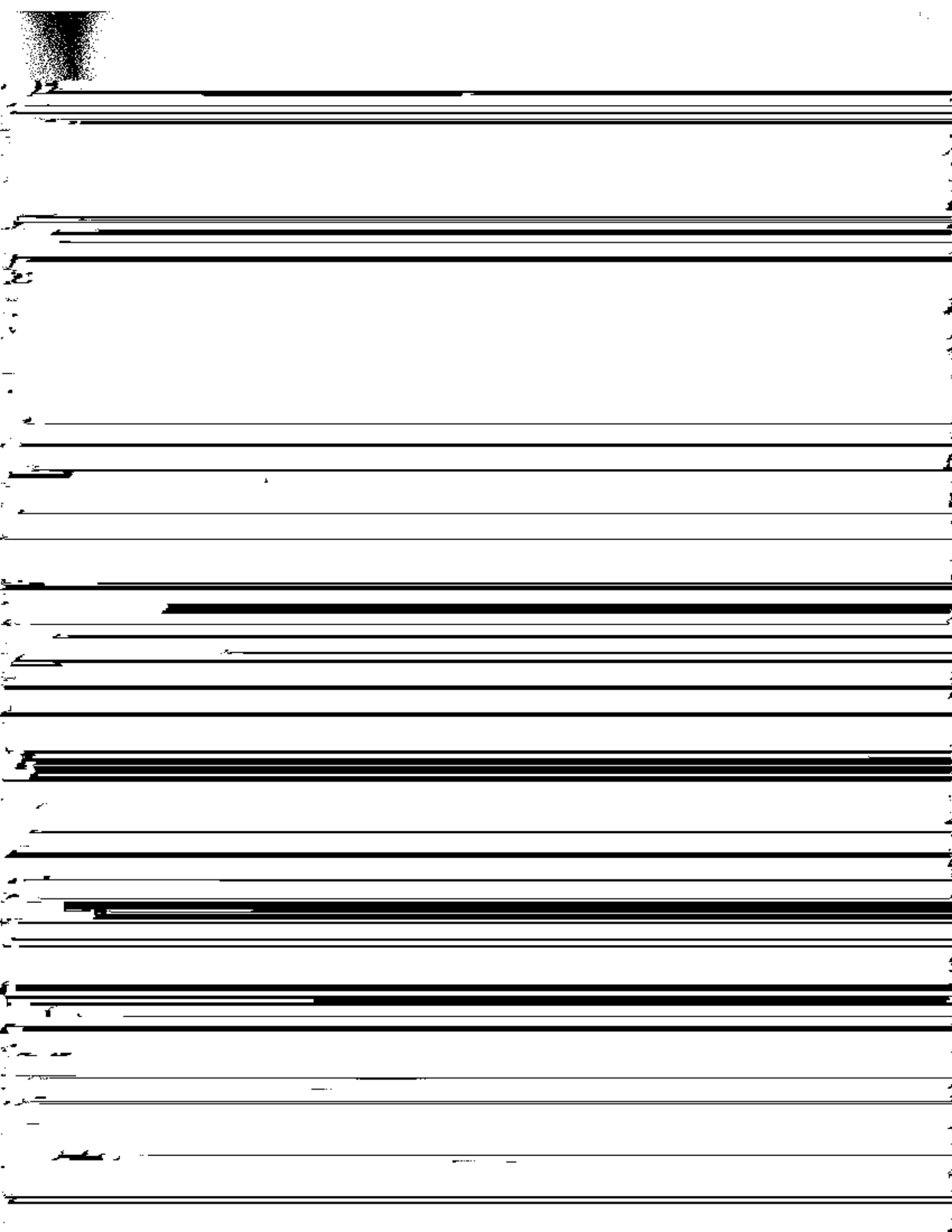


On 12 February 1979, the Secretary-General appointed Mrs. Lucille Maïr (Jamaica) as Secretary-General of the Conference. She took up her functions officially on 1 April 1979.

The Preparatory Committee of the Conference had held its first session in Vienna from 19 to 30 June 1978. 6/ It held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 27 August to 8 September 1979. 7/ At its first session the Committee elected as its Presiding Officer Mrs. Lena Gueye (Senegal), who was succeeded at the second session by Mrs. Maimouna Kane (Senegal).

At its thirty-fourth regular session the General Assembly took action concerning a number of questions related to the Conference. By resolution 34/162





Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
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Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland

25. The following national liberation movements were represented by observers:
African National Congress (South Africa), Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

26. Members of the secretariat of the following United Nations offices were present

[REDACTED]

World Health Organization

World Bank

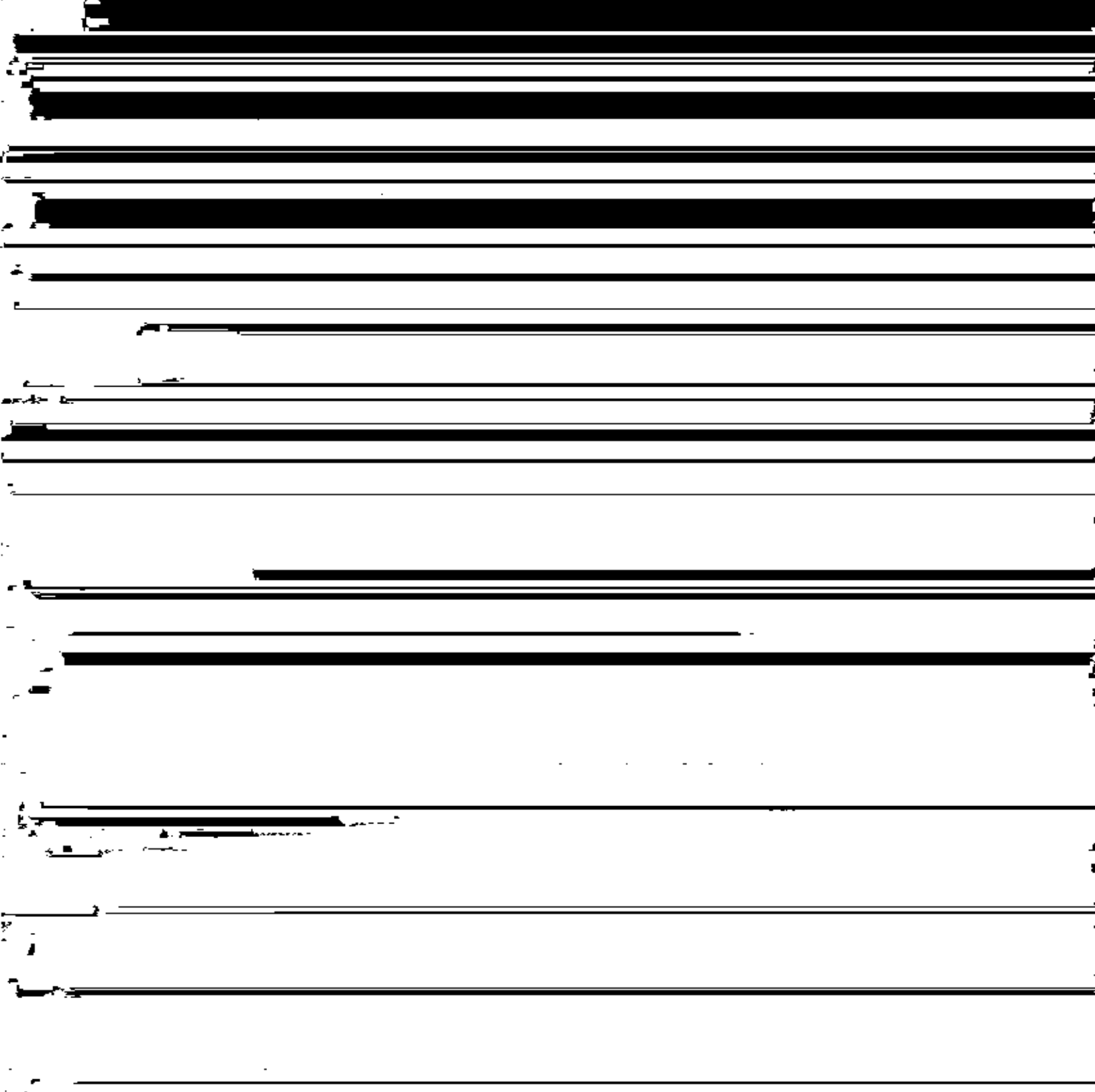
30. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Caribbean Community Secretariat

Commonwealth Secretariat

servers

national machineries. At the same time, it was to be recognized that gaps occurred between laws and social practice and that these needed to be prevented through sustained social action, resources and political will. In many respects, women still suffered discrimination in employment and education. In developing countries, they were especially vulnerable to chronic poor health and inadequate nutrition. These realities should encourage a redoubling of the admirable efforts made by women in many parts of the world to help each other and work for the progress of their societies. While acknowledging the support given to these efforts by many governments, it was to be made an appeal for increased contributions to the Voluntary Fund



were dealing with human individuals, each woman or man a separate personality with hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, each one unique. She hoped that the Conference would provide a fresh and strong impetus towards a progressive realization of the objectives of the Decade.

lity is that President [redacted] would make no effort in seeking consensus on

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(b) Special measures for assistance to Palestinian women inside and

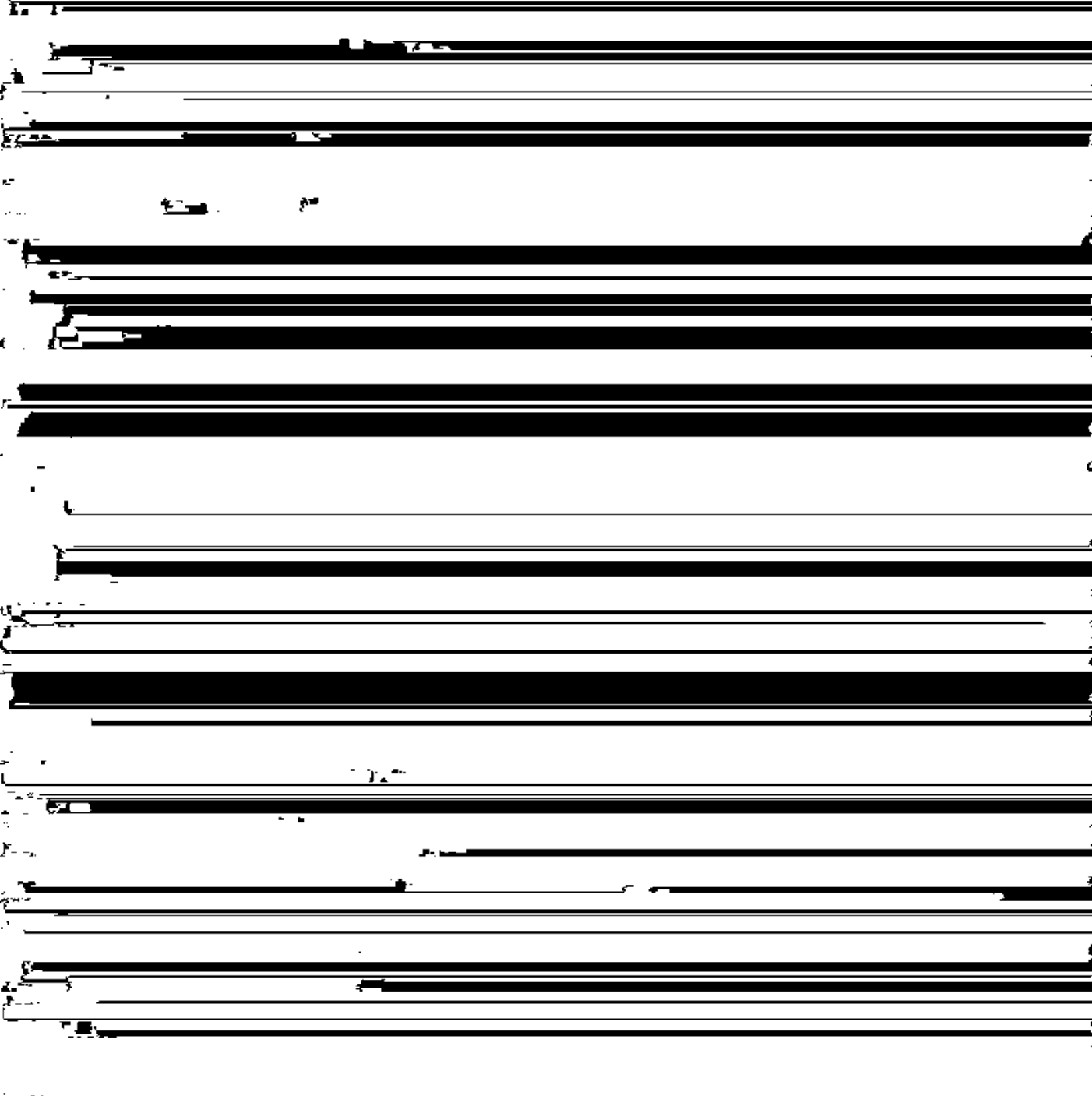
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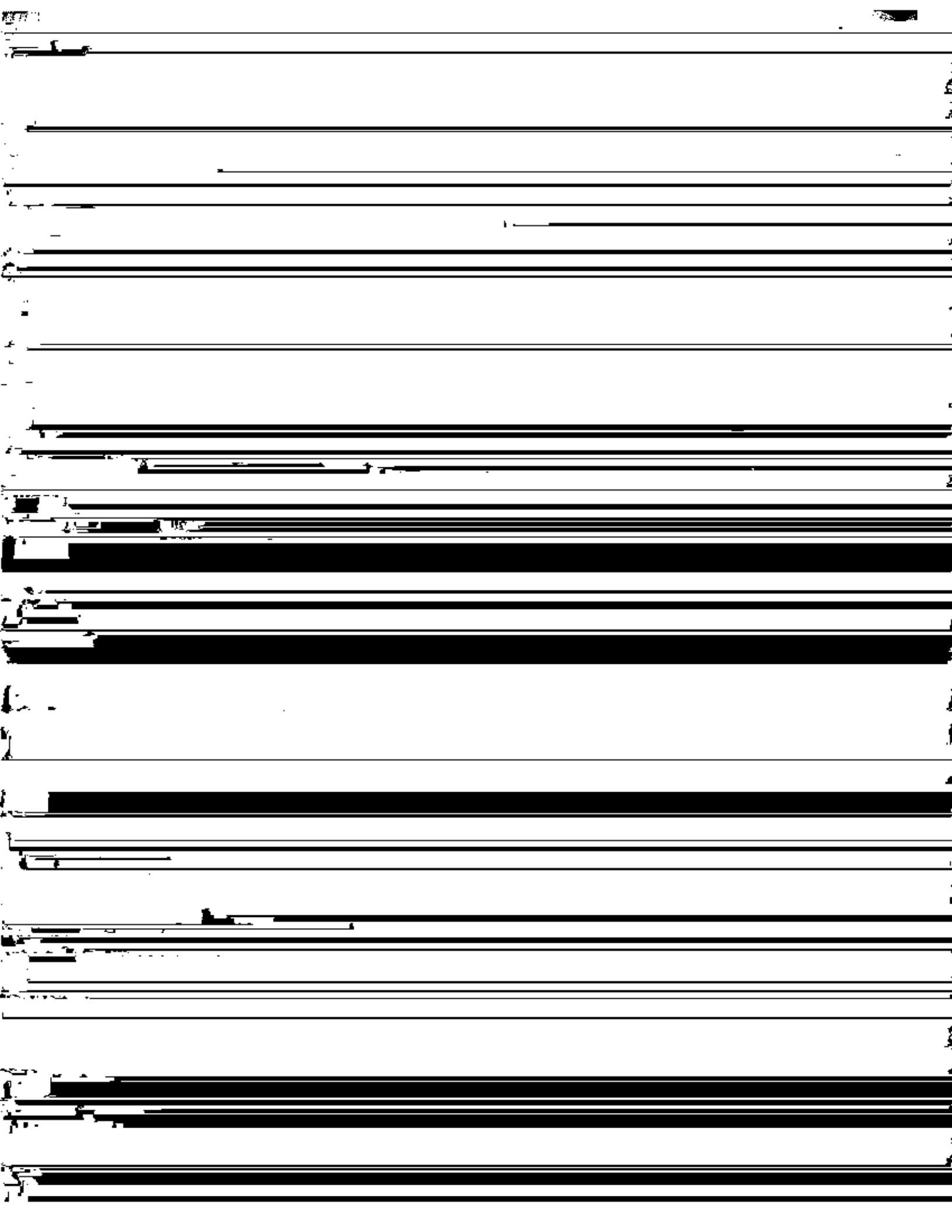
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Chapter IV

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

a. the general debate, which took place in the course of 18 plenary meetings.





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The object of the draft Programme of Action before the Conference (CONF.94/22 and Corr.1) was to suggest priorities for the rest of the Decade. The thrust was twofold; first, toward integrated planning at all levels and in all sectors, with the provision of necessary resources, and second, toward establishing adequate institutional arrangements both to implement plans and programmes and to monitor their implementation. The draft Programme of Action further sought to increase the participation of women at all levels and in varied ways, and was intended to be complementary to the efforts of Governments in



"refeminine" matters but constituted an active factor in the achievement of economic and social progress. As a contribution to the attainment of women's equality, many delegations urged that action should be taken to eradicate hunger, disease, unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance and backwardness in countries where these evils still existed.

77. Many delegations referred to the function of the State as the ultimate

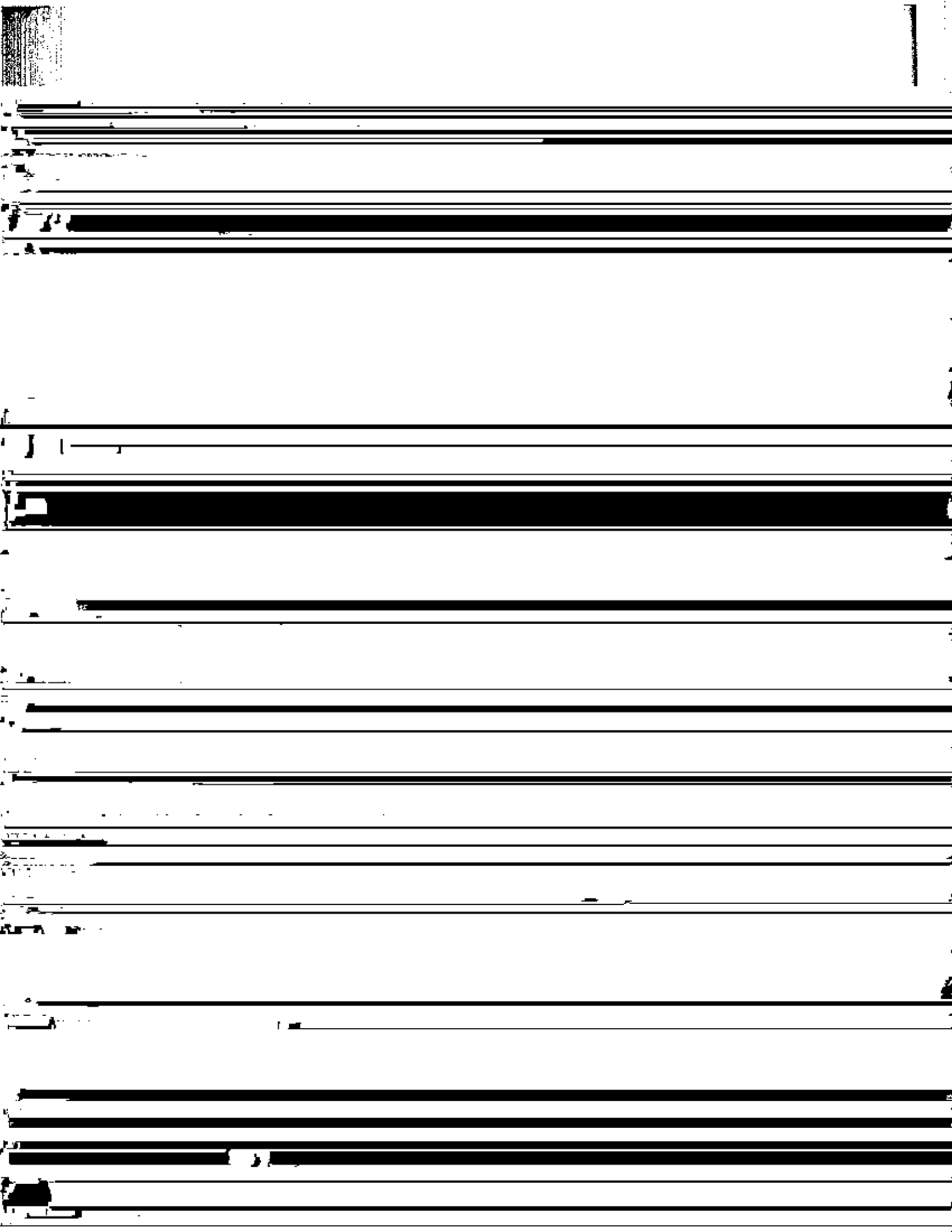
83. Many delegations said that, for the purpose of integrating women into the development process in their countries, it would be necessary to break down attitudinal barriers inherent in the national culture through public enlightenment programmes, including specific programmes for women. In most cases these

Peace

special legislative and other measures ensured the employment of all persons, including women; as a result, a very high percentage of women of working age...

nutrition and feeding programmes had been implemented, malnutrition had decreased. Many delegations urged that family planning programmes be included in health education. One speaker stated that family planning was part of her country's family welfare policy.

Many delegations, referring to priority areas for action, stated that improvements in water supply and sanitation facilities would benefit the rural population and contribute to better health for women in developing countries.



at the local and national level, gave particulars of the legislation concerning the

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

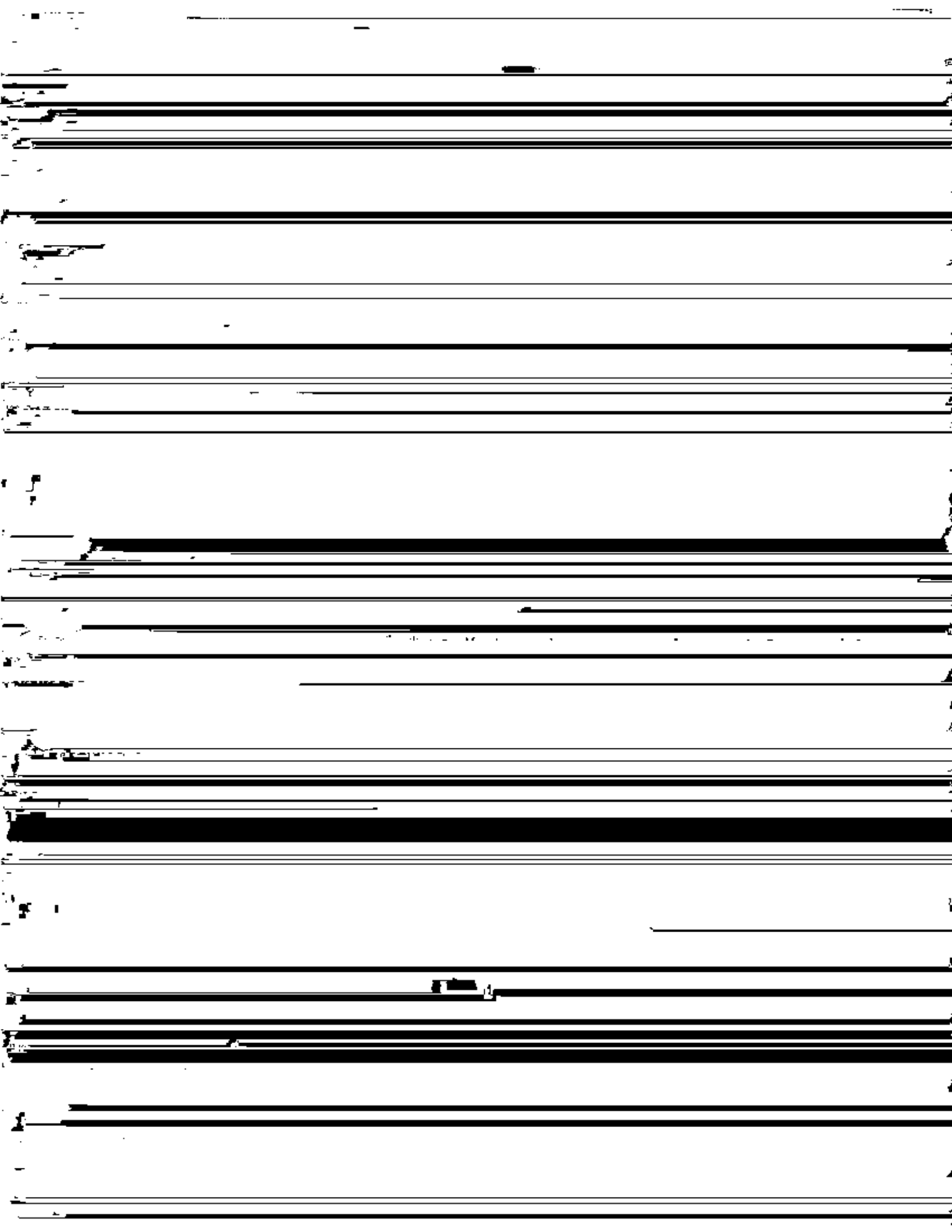
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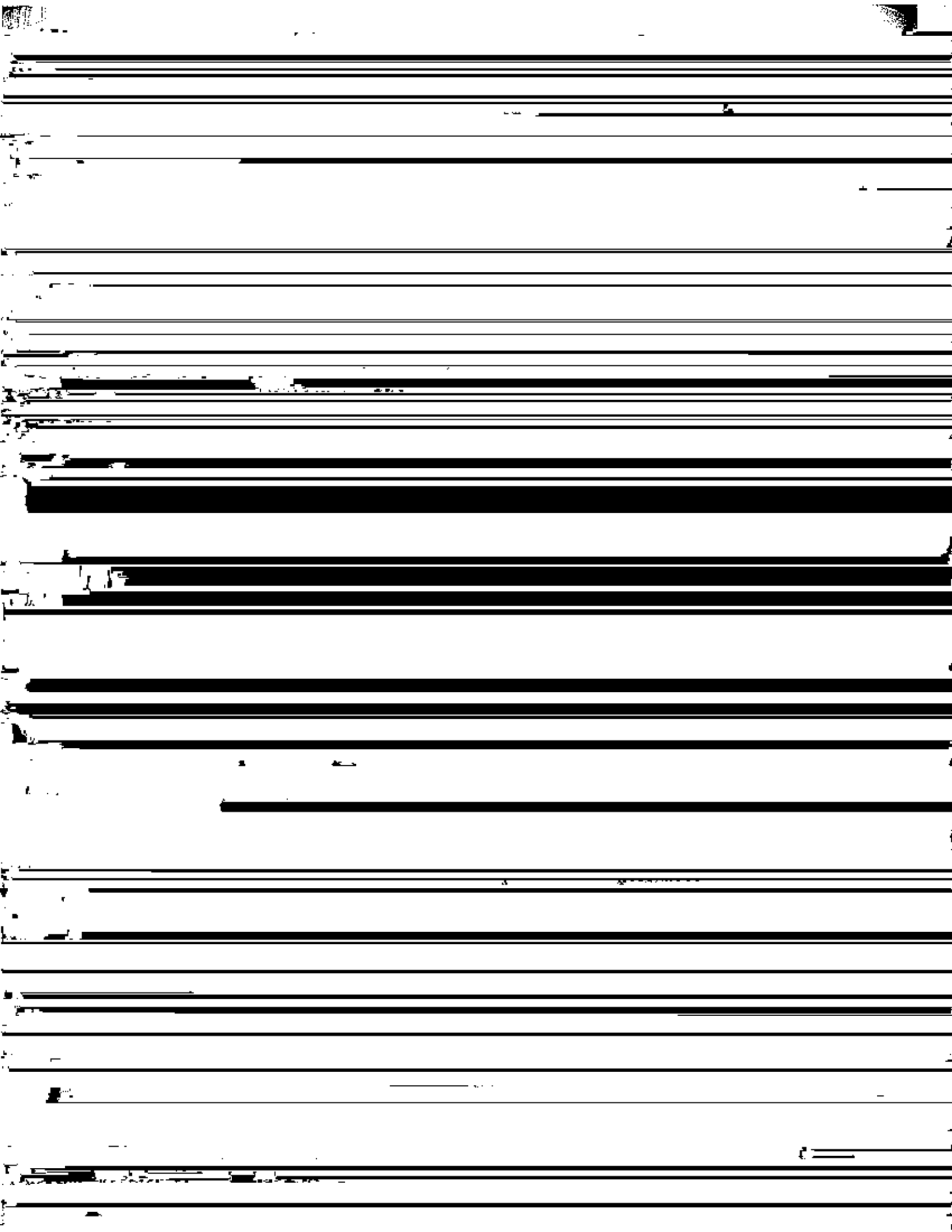
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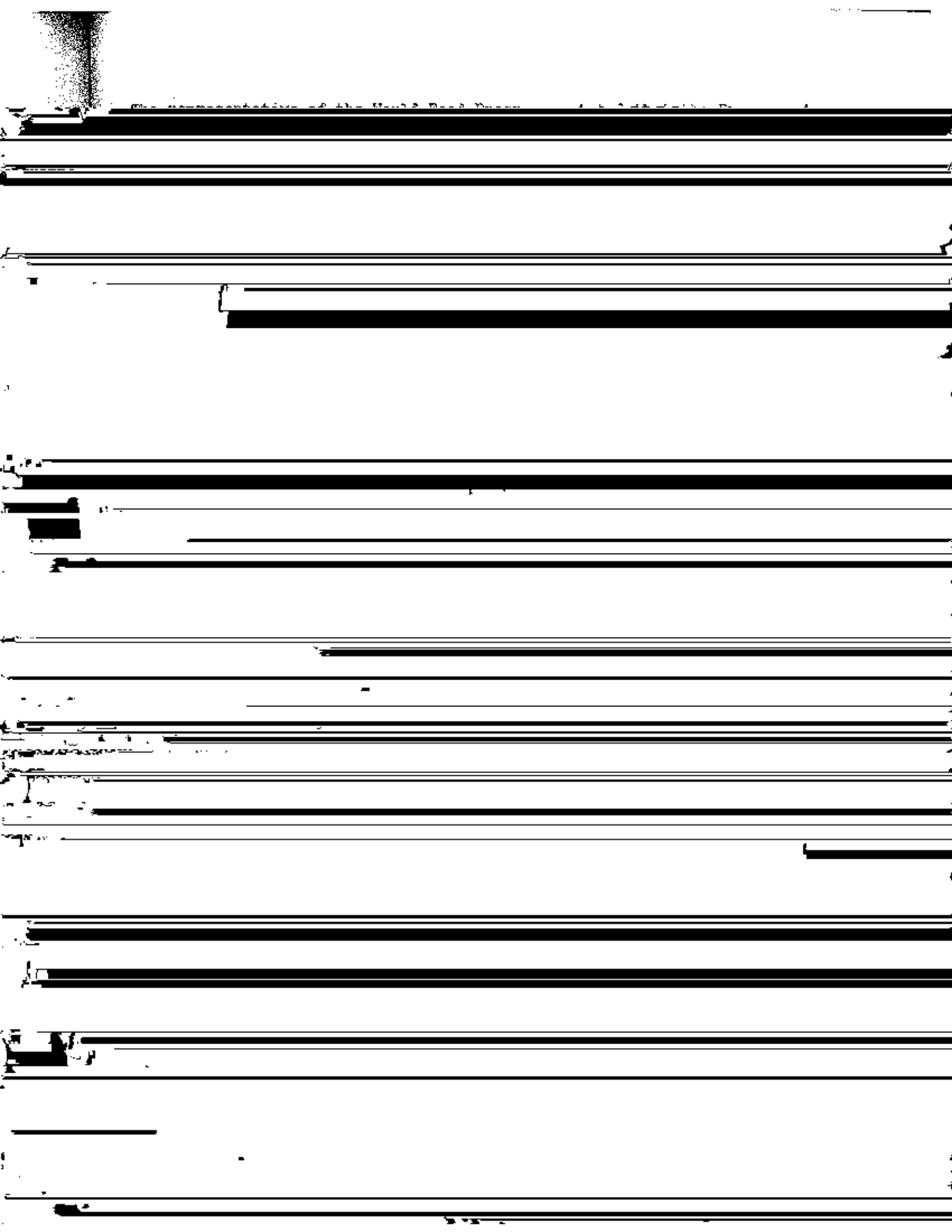




continue to provide a focal point within the United Nations Secretariat for implementing activities relating to women and development, particularly the Programme for the second half of the Decade. It was the intention of the Secretary-General to ensure that all departments and units of the United Nations, in particular the Centre, should rethink, reorient and strengthen these long-term programmes and strategies in order to reflect the requirements of the Conference. To carry out its functions more effectively it was envisaged that a small liaison unit should be extracted from the Centre to United Nations Headquarters.

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established by the member Governments. While many of the activities of the regional commissions were regional in character, they were also of international character.



142. The Director-General of UNESCO, referring to the historical and cultural context of the relationship between men and women, said that men - even those advocating the equality of the sexes - tended to see an intrinsic difference between the aptitudes and capacities of women and those of men. For that matter, even many women had become so accustomed to the place assigned to them in what was still largely a man's world that they were apprehensive of any radical change. Accordingly, he considered that a profound transformation of received ideas would alone be capable of opening up the possibility for humanity to attain the ideals

145. The representative of UNIDO stated that the activities of her organization had an indirect but important influence on employment, health and education. She