



94-09-07: Statement of Italy, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guidi

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AS WRITTEN

ADDRESS BY MINISTER ANTONIO GUIDI, HEAD OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION
CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 7, 1994

MR. CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THE HONOUR I WAS
GIVEN TO OPEN TODAY'S SESSION OF' WORK,

I TAKE THE FLOOR WITH DEEP EMOTION, BUT ALSO WITH THE COURAGE OF
THE IDEAS OF THE COUNTRY I REPRESENT.

IT IS NOT ONLY BY CHANCE THAT THIS EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANT
ASSEMBLY, WHERE A WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES AND IDEAS ARE BEING,
ADDRESSED, IS TAKING PLACE HERE IN EGYPT . WHICH IS AN OLD BUT STILL SO
LIVELY COUNTRY . HERE, PRECISELY HERE, WE ARE CALLED TO ASK OURSELVES
NOT' ONLY ABOUT FUTURE BUT ALSO ABOUT PRESENT. BECAUSE, DISTINGUISHED

DELEGATES, TO PLAN FOR A BETTER FUTURE WE NEED TO COMMIT OURSELVES NOW TO PROVIDE ANSWERS - STARTING RIGHT AWAY - AIMED TO REDUCE THE SUFFERING OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES, SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND ABOVE ALL WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM OUR SOCIETY A LONG TIME AGO BUT REGRETTABLY IS STILL WITH US: WAR. PEACE WE WERE ALL WISHING FOR IS NOT HERE YET.

WE ARE FACING TOO MANY CONFLICTS, BOTH OLD AND NEW RANGING FROM THE ONES WITHIN A FAMILY TO THOSE THAT MOVE ONE COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER OR ONE COUNTRY AGAINST ITSELF. PEACE - PEACE - PEACE. THIS IS OUR DREAM WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR. LET US GIVE STRONGER SUPPORT TO THOSE PEOPLE FIGHTING TO FULFILL THIS DREAM.

EVEN SCIENCE HAS NOT ALWAYS LED TOWARDS A POSITIVE EVOLUTION FOR HUMAN DESTINY.

WHY DID NOT SCIENCE GIVE US THE ANSWERS WE EXPECTING? WHY IS IT SO OFTEN JEOPARDIZING OUR CIVILIZATION? SCIENCE WHICH GAVE US VACCINES IS NOW EXPOSING US TO THE THREAT OF GENETIC MANIPULATION, FURTHERMORE WE FACE THE APPEARANCE OF NEW DISEASES AND WELL AS THE REAPPEARANCE OF OLD ONES. EVEN TECHNOLOGY, THE OFFSPRING OF SCIENCE, MAKES US EXPERIENCE AN ENDURING CONTRADICTION: THE AVAILABILITY OF INSTRUMENTS FOR GLOBAL COMMUNICATION COINCIDES WITH A TIME WHEN PEOPLE FAILS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. HERE, ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE ENGAGED WITH A DIALOGUE WITHOUT BARRIERS, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CHALLENGE OF GREAT HUMAN, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELEVANCE. HERE IN CAIRO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS FACING THIS CHALLENGE NOT ONLY AS SOVEREIGN STATE BUT ALSO AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS ALREADY TAKEN A COMMON AND CONSISTENT

POSITION WHICH HAS JUST BEEN EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT KANTHER. ITALY HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE FORMULATION OF THIS POSITION AND ENDORSES IT FULLY.

THE PRESENT DEBATE HAS GIVEN ME HOPE; THE BALANCE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND POPULATION IS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE BUT YET NECESSARY. THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF EDUCATION, ECOLOGY, PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES, FAMILY SUPPORT POLICIES, HEALTH INFORMATION, SEXUAL AND CONTRACEPTIVE EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FULL RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

EQUALITIES BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN ARE A BASIC REFERENCE POINT. AS HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MUBARAK OF EGYPT HAS ALREADY SAID "WOMEN ARE THE KEYSTONE OF OUR SOCIETY".

THEREFORE. THE CHALLENGE FOR ACHIEVING A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ACCEPTABLE LIFE CONDITIONS FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IS THE SAME FOR SOCIETY WITH DECREASING STABLE OR GROWING POPULATIONS.

THE MEASURES FOR A DEMOGRAPHIC BALANCE MUST ALWAYS BE ENCLOSED IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF "POPULATION POLICIES". THIS AWARENESS IS PART OF THE ITALIAN TRADITION CONCERNING POPULATION ISSUES.

ANYWAY ONE THING MUST BE CLEAR: OUR MAIN STARTING POINT CANNOT BE ONLY A MERE QUESTION OF NUMBERS BUT QUALITY OF LIFE AND RESPECT FOR LIFE IN ALL ITS FACETS.

THAT IS WHY, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, ITALY WELCOMES THE REAFFIRMATION OF A CONCEPT ON WHICH AN OVERALL AGREEMENT AND A WIDE CONSENSUS HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED ALSO IN THIS FORUM: ABORTION CANNOT BE PROMOTED AS A METHOD OF FAMILY PLANNING,

WE RELIEVE THAT DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION POLICIES SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CULTURAL , ETHICAL, RELIGIOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFIC CHARACTERIZATIONS. WE REJECT ANY HYPOTHESIS WHICH MAY LEAD TO UNIFORMITY OF PATTERNS AND LIFESTYLES. ON THE BASE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES, THE ITALIAN COOPERATION CONSISTENTLY WORKS ON THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH WHOSE. MAIN COMPONENTS AS EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, BASIC HEALTH CARE, OPERATE WITH THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,

THE ISSUE OF POPULATION DOES NOT ONLY CONCERN POORER AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE? ITALY IS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHERE IN 1994 PEOPLE OLDER THAN 65 YEARS OUTNUMBERED THOSE UNDER 15. THIS DATA WITNESSES A DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE CAUSED BY A VERY LOW FERTILITY LEVEL AND A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN LIFE EXPECTANCY.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEM DIVERSILY AFFECTS OUR COUNTRIES, BOTH THE MORE INDUSTRIALIZED AND THE- DEVELOPING ONES. I MEAN ALL COUNTRIES.

IN THIS FIELD THERE IS NO VANGUARD AND NO REARGUARD, SOMEONE WHO CAN TEACH AND' SOMEONE WHO MUST LEARN.

THEREFORE I RAISE ANOTHER ISSUE. WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE OLD. AGED PEOPLE? IN MY OPINION THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN NEGLECTED. INSTEAD IMPORTANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS ISSUE NO LESS THAN TO OTHERS.

AS MINISTER OF THE FAMILY I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERLINE THE RELEVANCE OF THE FAMILY, THE BEST PLACE TO WELCOME EVERY INDIVIDUAL.

I SHALL LEAVE OUT OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ALLOW ME TO

CONCLUDE WITH TWO ISSUES WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY DEAR TO ME; ENVIRONMENT AND MIGRATION. WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT PEOPLE WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT THE ENVIRONMENT AS PLACE ON EARTH, THE ENVIRONMENT AS ECOSYSTEM, THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH BELONGS TO MAN

A SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MUST NOT LEAVE OUT OF CONSIDERATION THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS LIKE URBANIZATION AND PEOPLE IRRESPECTIVE USE OF LAND BOTH IN DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. THESE ISSUES ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO POPULATION UNBALANCES.

TENS OF MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRIES OWING TO POVERTY , WAR, VIOLENCE OF EVERY KIND IN ORDER TO LOOK FOR A JOB, BETTER LIFE CONDITIONS AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS ABROAD. THIS IS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON AND CANNOT BE LEFT TO THE SPONTANEOUS MARKET REACTION OR TO THE NATIONAL CONVENIENCE. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FIND OUT FORMS AND INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN ORDER TO ENSURE A CONCERTED COOPERATION, THE DEFINITION OF SHARED RULES AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF VOLUNTARISM, ON THE ISSUES OF VOLUNTARISM AND MIGRATION I PROPOSE A WORLD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ITALY FOR THE FOREVER AND THE INSERTION OF THE LATTER IN THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT G 7 CONFERENCE.

THANKS TO WOMEN THE WORLD IS CHANGING: WOMEN CARRY LIFE AND VALUES NOT ONLY INSIDE THE FAMILY BUT ALSO INSIDE THE ENTIRE SOCIAL CONTEXT. THE PATH TO HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE CANNOT BUT GO THROUGH WOMEN AND THROUGH THEIR FUNDAMENTAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH IS FIRST OF ALL DIRECTED TO CHANGE. THE OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE IS THAT THE FUTURE RESTS UPON WOMEN I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT A WOMAN WHO IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ME: DILETTA, MY SEVEN YEARS OLD DAUGHTER, WHO IS NOW LISTENING TO ME. SHE ASKED ME TO BRING HER SAND FROM THE PYRAMIDS. THIS SAND MAY REPRESENT THE PRESENT CHALLENGE, THE PAST AND ITS

CIVILIZATIONS, DESERTIFICATION BUT ALSO THE WISH FOR GREEN NEW LANDS.
THESE INNUMEROUS GRAINS OF SAND MAY BE TAKEN AS A SYMBOL OF THE
POPULATION ON EARTH. WE DREAM OF A FUTURE WHERE POPULATION SHALL NO
LONGER BE CONSIDERED A BURDEN BUT A RESOURCE. THE GRAINS OF SANDS I AM
HOLDING IN MY HANDS ARE LIKE THE INHABITANTS OF THIS EARTH IN OUR HANDS:
A COMBINATION BETWEEN BRAINS AND HEART IS OUR FUTURE.

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