



94-09-08: Statement of Cook Islands, H.E. Mr. Tiki Matapo

ISO: COK

The electronic preparation of this document has been done by the
Population Information Network(POPIN) of the United Nations Population
Division in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme

AS WRITTEN

COOK ISLANDS DELEGATION STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED TO

THE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)

HELD IN CARO, EGYPT, 5-13 SEPTEMBER 1994

BY THE LEADER OF DELEGATION, HON TIKI MATAPO

1. Kia Orana - Mr President
2. I am privileged and honoured to lead the Cook Islands delegation to this International Conference on Population and Development.
3. My Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Henry, the Government and the

people of the Cook Islands give greetings to all nations participating in this conference and extend their best wishes to the deliberations and policies that this conference will adopt for the future of the people of the world.

4. The Cook Islands and its Government has been very active in the area of population and sustainable development and has assured the needs of the indigenous people of the country at both national and international concepts and perceptions.

5. Even before the matter became a global concern, the small islands in the Pacific, in particular the Cook Islands, has the following to encounter within its sustainable development programmes.
people - environment - land - water - clean fresh air (uncontaminated) .

6. These fundamentals are issues which the people are committed to entertain in the wake of their abilities, resources, distributions and disposals

7. Added to, the cultural values, a characteristic which is unique in the Pacific Islands, maintains a high profile in the every day life of the people.

8. Mr President,
The Pacific Island Nations and its people enjoy the blue ocean for their livelihood.

9. Through collective efforts, it is the utmost role of the Pacific Island Nations to protect this rich and vibrant environment for all to benefit from developed, developing and least developed countries within

the great ocean of the Pacific.

10. Land is a commodity which is dear to the hearts of every islander. Land is a fragile commodity and abuse of it will without doubt have some adverse impact on the people. Further, Mr President, limited land and resources is important and must be taken into account in future development.

11. Partnership with neighbouring countries is a concept that requires specific attention and proper enticement.

12. My country Mr President recognise the major role Regional and International Cooperation undertook in the past. The magnitude of external assistance has enhanced economic and social development. The island nation countries, in particular small island countries, have narrow base resources - thus, the provision of appropriate technologies and other specialised assistance will continue to enhance our partners in development relationship.

13. Most Pacific Island Nations encounter youth population. The Cook Islands Government has in this regard embarked upon catering to the needs of the young people in the last decade or so and will continue to do so to retain its value in the community.

14. Already Mr President, my country has moved towards encouraging the Non Government Organisations (NGO) to take on board what may be the population needs. This is a challenging issue hence my delegation has two members representing the NGOs to this Conference.

15. Women in Development - It has been recognised that women is a driving force of any sizable population. Strategies and plans are in

place to assist women in regards to the role that they are contributing to the well being of the people at the household and national levels. Already a Task Force has been established to examine and put into perspective the needs and directions women can enhance. In this respect, preparation is well underway for the Beijing Meeting in China next year.

16. Mr President, Rural/Urban migration is a factor that small island nations cannot ignore. Rigid development is now in place to assist in curtailing this scenario by encouraging rural development In the area of marine resources, in particular Black Pearl Industry in the Outer Islands.

17. Although overseas migration might appear to be a threat to Human Resource Development it has however contributed to investment by way of remittances, employment, specialised training and capital values. The Cook Islands will continue to make pledge to other recipient countries to consider this issue in its action plan.

18. Good family living cannot be denied neither can it be ignored or set aside because of resource limitations. In this regard the Cook Islands Government is committed to ensure that the resources in support of this concept is readily available and distributed equally amongst the community. The Cook Islands is committed in this direction Mr President.

19. An improved health status for all individual in the Cook Islands is a priority policy and the Cook Islands Government will continue its commitment in ensuring that the resources for support of that concept is readily available. Furthermore it is a policy that every

individual have access to health care services.

20. Government recognise the important role NGOs contributes towards the sustainability of extended health services and it therefore supports this important contributions through the provision of appropriate public/community health programmes.

21. The Cook Islands Government emphasizes the importance of family planning education, availability of farmily planning methods and facilities where family planning services can be provided. The Cook Islands do not believe that abortion is a mechanism for family size and or Population control.

22. The Plan of Action which this conference will endorse has already been actioned, in part, in my country. Rest assured, Mr President, that inspite of limited resources, the Cook Islands Government will take on board the directions and the Plan of Actions. The success of this Plan of Action will to some extent rely on the International Partnership.

23. My Prime Minister has been actively involved in ensuring that the preparatory work towards the Global Plan of Action reflects the situation of the Pacific Islands including the Cook Islands. What would be echoed here, you have my assurance, Mr President, that it will be included in the Cook Islands Population and Sustainable Development Plan.

24. To conclude Mr President, I extend gratitude to the ICPD secretariat in particular Dr Nafis Sadik and her organisation for steering us to this global Conference on Population and Development and to the Government of the Republic of Egypt for

exposing those of us who have never been to this historical country
let alone this region, the experiences that can only enhance our
understanding of the situation in this part of the globe.

KIA ORANA

For further information, please contact: popin@undp.org
POPIN Gopher site: <gopher://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin>
POPIN WWW site: <http://www.undp.org/popin>