



## **94-09-08: Statement of IUSSP, Mr. John C. Caldwell**

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AS WRITTEN

STATEMENT MADE ON BEHALF OF THE

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POPULATION

BY ITS PRESIDENT, JOHN C. CALDWELL,

TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Cairo, 8 September 1994.

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) is the global organization of population scientists and demographers. It is a non-political organization which aims at augmenting the body of knowledge about population phenomena and their interrelation with economic development and social change as well as improving teaching programs in the population area. It does this through conferences and publications. Its major impact in increasing research knowledge is achieved through its scientific committees which spear-head much of the research in the field.

A very high proportion of the population knowledge which underlies the ICPD Programme of Action has been the product of research by members of the IUSSP, much of it stimulated by the IUSSP's scientific committees. Demographic research has measured and explained global population growth and suggested the major approaches for its containment. Demographic teaching has provided the world with a core of experts who have done much to stimulate thinking about population questions. Many national advisors on population policies and staff population programs are products of these centers. Our ability to cope with world population growth has been greatly increased by the expansion of demographic research and by the development of university-based demographic teaching programmes.

The IUSSP's view is that investment in demographic research and teaching is one of the most cost-effective approaches to population problems. It points to where interventions in both the health and fertility field are most likely to succeed and measures the degree of success.

Investment in demographic research and teaching has levelled off and may be beginning to fall as governments come to believe that the major interventions in the population field have been identified. This is a wrong conclusion. Fertility declines are now occurring in substantial parts of the world. But, where this is not happening or where declines are slow, future advances in containing excessive population growth will almost certainly be more difficult and need more research guidance. This is also true in the field of health, where social change is nested as much as the provision of medical services to lower infant, child and adult mortality.

The IUSSP itself suffers from underfunding. It is different from most learned associations in that it reaches beyond the universities and research institutes of the richer world. It deliberately makes its major thrust in the developing world and includes researchers, teachers and government representatives from developing countries in all its conferences, scientific committees and research groups.

A very high proportion of the governmental population program heads and advisors in high-fertility countries are IUSSP members, have been trained by IUSSP members or have been participants in IUSSP programs, The IUSSP plays a central role worldwide that no other organization can play. It advised on the establishment of the United Nations Population Division and remains the official advisor to that body. It organized the first World Population Conference in Rome in 1953 and was co-organizer with the United Nations of the Second World Population Conference in Belgrade in 1965. It made a major input through its Distinguished Lecture Series to bringing the 1974 Bucharest World Conference abreast with the latest knowledge from population research. It is doing the same in the present Cairo Conference with a series of seven lectures and monographs presented and written by leading researchers on fertility, health and population growth and on their interrelations with development and changes in women's status and the environment, as well as the issue of world population growth and threats to peace.

The IUSSP remains an association of independent population scientists. It has no core funds and relies on the assistance of governments, foundations and international bodies to support its work. If better funded, it could do more. And such extra work is greatly needed if urgent demographic change is to be achieved quickly and in a fashion meeting people's needs and wants and in keeping with civil rights. The IUSSP's role, and its potential future role, should not be

underestimated. Its research showed the demand for fertility control and how it might be met. Its research showed the role played by greater female autonomy in hastening demographic change, and its research demonstrated the interrelations between population growth, economic development and environmental change.

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