



## **94-09-08: Statement of Int.Fed. of Settlements & Neighborhood..**

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AS WRITTEN

SUBMISSION BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
 SETTLEMENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

to

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

CAIRO, EGYPT September 5 - 13, 1994

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Bureau, I thank you for giving me  
 this opportunity to present to this Conference some comments concerning  
 the excellent. document that is serving as the basis for your  
 discussion. My statement calls attention to a small number of omissions  
 which we believe should be included in the texts that you are  
 formulating. We believe that you will find our suggestions basically

non-controversial and therefore hopefully adoptable.

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers (IFS) which is an association of national, regional and local nonprofit social service organizations. It is accredited to the Economic and Social Council ( a Category II NGO). IFS membership consists of over 4500 multipurpose community based organizations in 24 countries. The range of IFS activities include community development projects; networking and partnerships; providing, monitoring and evaluating service programs dealing with children, youth, the aging, women, the disabled, migrants and other disadvantaged persons in such fields as health, special education and training, housing and related social services. Many of IFS member settlements were originally established to assist refugees and migrants, and IFS continues to emphasize its concerns and make available its experience in this field.

IFS has participated in the various Preparatory Committees for the ICPD, in some of the regional and technical meetings as well as in the caucuses and fora organized by NGOs. It wishes to congratulate both the Secretariat and the Chairmen of the Preparatory Committees for the preparation of the documentation submitted to the ICPD as the basis for final action. The following comments address those aspects of the documents which, on the basis of our practical experience, we believe could still be strengthened or modified so as to ensure effective implementation.

We have no comments with respect to the preamble which we find very satisfactory. We do however find one serious omission in Principle 12 which deals with migration. The Principle calls for migrants and refugees to have access to social services but it fails to specify what

services are covered. In some countries this would probably include appropriate shelter and housing but in many countries we know that little or very inadequate shelter is provided, especially for migrants' families. This need has been recognized in the international standards set forth both in UN and ILO agreements. Therefore we urge including in Principle 12 specific reference to the need for provision of suitable housing for migrants and refugees and their families.

A similar requirement for the provision of adequate or suitable housing, should be added to para 3.13 of Chapter III. as one of the factors accompanying poverty. In para 3.19 both housing and social services should be given "high priority". They are not included in the paragraph.

Another omission which in our view needs some correction appears in para 3.32 dealing with the role of non- governmental organization in promoting implementation . The paragraph concentrates on the promotion of awareness and understanding but neglects to mention the frequent positive role taken by service organizations in direct implementation of policies as partners to governments. This activity should be stated positively as an action to be taken.

We have no suggestions regarding Chapter IV and V. With respect to Chapter VI we hope it will be possible to retain the name "Indigenous Peoples" in view of the strong positions taken by the indigenous peoples who are members of our organization.

We regret the absence of any reference to the role of non- governmental organizations with respect to the implementation of the provisions concerning persons with disabilities. Many of the programs operated by our members have been specially designed to meet the needs

of the disabled, and such programs are frequently carried out on the basis of contracts with government. Therefore we would like to see paragraph 6.33 be amended to read: "Governments at all levels, in partnership as appropriate with non-governmental organizations should implement and promote a system of follow-up of social and economic integration of persons with disabilities.

We obviously urge retention of the provisions within brackets appearing in Chapter VII. We would also like to have inserted in paragraph 7.7, in the sentence beginning "All types of non-governmental organizations", a reference to service agencies which provide direct health services to their members. Many of our constituent agencies operate clinics and provide training in this area

In paragraph 8.11 of Chapter VIII we suggest adding to the sentence beginning "All governments" -the words "in cooperation with non-governmental organizations."

We greatly prefer the first version of paragraph 8.25, assuming removal of the brackets.

We would like to see some reorientation of Chapter [IX to give greater emphasis to the human needs of the various types of displaced individuals who are treated in the chapter more as victims of the economy than as participants. The emphasis on finding the causes of displacement results in downplaying the measures needed to make the movements of peoples economically productive and responsive to human needs. A small example of this larger problem is the absence in paragraph 9.15 of the need to provide suitable housing or to enable the migrants to define their own needs and to participate in solving their

problems.

The same issue arises on a larger scale in paragraphs 9.19 and 9.20. A sentence might be added at the end of 9.19 providing for inclusion of representatives of migrants and/or refugees in machinery developed to analyze both the causes of displacement and possible amelioration of the conditions involved.

In paragraph 9.22, we should like to see the word "housing" added to the list of measures to be provided for internally displaced persons. As we indicated earlier, the lack of suitable housing is frequently one of the greatest hardships suffered by migrants and their families - in each of the categories under consideration. Moreover it is a measure called for in the various existing intentional agreements and treaties negotiated by UN Conferences and the UN Assembly, by the UNHCR, by the ILO, and by Habitat. We urge the retention of the bracketed words "nationally and internationally" in para.925.

We welcome the statement in paragraph 10.1 of Chapter X (Basis for action) which reflects the orientation which we felt lacking in the previous chapter. However we would like to see an additional paragraph added to the objectives which would call attention to the human side of migration and indicate that one objective is " (d) to enable migrants to participate directly in the determination as to whether they remain in the country of initial destination or move to another country, or return to their country of origin." An example of the way in which this objective could be achieved can be found in the model agreements attached to the ILO's 1949 recommendation on migration.

Our only comment with respect to the section dealing with documented migrants, which we strongly support, is the hope that the

brackets will be removed. We do not understand the objections to either one.

With respect to undocumented migrants, we suggest that the bracketed words in paragraph 10.20 "in accordance with international law" be replaced by the words "in accordance with international conventions, agreements and treaties." The basis of the objection to the words "international law" was that those governments which have not ratified many of the relevant agreements do not wish them to have the status of international law - but they can hardly object to the standards contained in the various agreements.

While we support the proposals dealing with refugees, we urge that they be strengthened by the addition of some more specific measures calling for implementation within specific time limits, and developed in cooperation with non-governmental agencies which could be delegated to carry out and or supervise their implementation, There is insufficient recognition of the role of organizations such as the American Joint Distribution Committee, or the Unitarian Universalist Relief Service in implementing these policies at the local level. It is non-governmental organizations of this type that can give reality to the general principles outlined in the text.

We have no comments to make with respect to Chapters XI, XII, and XIII except to hope that the restrictive brackets will be removed.

In paragraph 14.9, of Chapter XIV. there should be a reference to the successful practices of NGOs in this area.

Chapter XV provides one of the best descriptions of the role of

NGOs that has appeared in any UN document. We have three tentative suggestions. In para 15/9, we would like to see decision-making added between the words "development" and "programmes." In paragraph IS/18, the first sentence does not seem to work grammatically. In para 15/20 we would like to see some specific reference to the role of trade unions in dealing with the private sector.

In conclusion, dealing with Chapter XVI, we strongly support bracketed alternative 2. of paragraph 16.13 and we suggest adding the word "system" between United Nations and Conferences, to include Conferences held by ILO, FAO etc. This is made clear under "Objectives". Finally, In para 16.25, there should be an additional subparagraph defining the responsibilities of NGOs. As this is the area where we hope to continue to work with the UN, we would like to have the possibility specifically recognized. Thank you.

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