



94-09-09: Statement of IPAS, Mr. Forrest C. Greenslade

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

International Conference on Population and Development Cairo Egypt

September 8 1994

Remarks by Forrest C. Greenslade, PhD, President, IPAS to the Plenary
Session of Delegates to the ICPD

Madame Secretary General, Delegates, Friends:

In recognition of the many significant issues that are being
debated by the delegates to this International Conference on Population
and Development -- issues that will shape the future of our world -- I
wish to focus your attention on a public health problem of the utmost
importance: the tragedy of unsafe abortion. And in a moment I will
propose a solution for your consideration.

Speaking as a reproductive health professional, I must emphasize
to you that unsafe abortion is a reality in much of the world today.
Without access to appropriate family planning services, millions of

women every year resort to untrained persons who perform abortions under insanitary conditions. The complications of such unsafe abortion include: sepsis, hemorrhage, uterine perforation, pelvic infection and infertility.

The consequences of unsafe abortion are the deaths of up to 150,000 women each year and the disabling of hundreds of thousands more women. 99% of these women live in the developing world. The problem of unsafe abortion is central to the health status of women and their families in every country of the world. Addressing women's reproductive health needs forthrightly is a critical element in achieving an appropriate balance in the population - environment - sustainable development equation.

The deaths and illnesses caused by unsafe abortion are preventable. We must -- and we can -- take steps to prevent this tragedy and reduce its consequences. The international community must not fail women by ignoring the reality of unsafe abortion.

To this end a Consortium of international reproductive health organizations has proposed and is executing programs around a new concept: Post- Abortion Care.

Post-Abortion Care is comprised of three elements:

Emergency medical treatment for the complications
of abortion;

Post-abortion family planning counseling and services to

reduce the likelihood of another unwanted pregnancy;
Links to other reproductive health services so that women
can receive the care they need to live healthier lives.

Programs in post-abortion care are being introduced in national health systems in many parts of the world but more needs to be done. Every country should take positive steps to ensure that women receive prompt treatment for medical complications and then are guaranteed access to family planning and other reproductive health counseling and services.

As delegates to the ICPD, you have an opportunity to create a legacy that will be remembered for decades to come. I urge you to adopt the ICPD Programme of Action, including Chapter 8, Paragraph 25, calling for ready access to quality health-care services that provide for the management of complications and sequelae of unsafe abortion. And recognizing that post-abortion counseling, education and family planning services should be offered promptly so as to prevent repeat abortions.

During the ten days of your deliberations, approximately 4,000 women will die from unsafe abortion and many more will suffer. I call on you to demonstrate the leadership necessary to end this needless death and disability experienced by women throughout the world.

Pledge yourselves today to create a global action plan that makes safe, high-quality post-abortion care a reality.

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>