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ICPD NEWS

ICPD News, a quarterly newsletter of the UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation, is designed to keep the international community, government representatives, donors, non-governmental organizations and others informed about follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994.

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Message From Dr. Sadik: Moving Cairo Forward

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

MESSAGE FROM DR. SADIK: MOVING CAIRO FORWARD

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September 1994, has been hailed by many as a 'success' and a blueprint for future international conferences. Its true success, however, will be measured by the effective implementation of its Programme of Action. This 20-year action plan underscores the crucial importance of gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women as important ends in themselves and as essential elements in achieving sustainable development. At Cairo, the international community committed itself to efforts to improve the quality of life for all members of the human family by reaching consensus on goals related to the reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality, with special emphasis on the mortality of the girl child; the provision of universal access to education, particularly with regard to expanded access for girls; and the provision of universal access to a whole range of reproductive health care and family planning services. We have come to realize that meeting the needs of individuals and improving the quality of their lives are the surest ways of achieving the objectives of macro development policies.

Since Cairo, much has been done to translate the goals of ICPD

into reality. This first issue of ICPD NEWS gives an overview of the many initiatives under way. The newsletter is being published quarterly by the UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation, which I established early this year to ensure the Fund's full commitment to, and participation in, the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Implementing the Programme of Action is everybody's job: Governments, parliamentarians, United Nations agencies and organizations, the private sector, and international, national and local NGOs, among others. For all of us who had the opportunity to participate in the Cairo process, it is our duty to make sure that the recommendations of the Programme of Action are carried out. I hope that this newsletter will keep you informed of and contribute to the continuation of the dynamic process which produced the agreements reached during ICPD. The international community's vision of the way to address population and development issues in the future offers us a unique opportunity and tremendous challenge. It is now up to each of us to make it come true -- to transform the words of Cairo into a reality for individual women and men.

Nafis Sadik

Executive Director

United Nations Population Fund

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Commission on Population and Development

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT,

meeting at its 28th session from 21 February to 2 March 1995,
proposed to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) the following
multi-year, topic-oriented work programme as a follow-up to the
ICPD Programme of Action:

For 1996 -- Reproductive rights and reproductive health,
including population information, education and communication;

For 1997 -- International migration, with special emphasis on
the linkages between migration and development, and on gender
issues and the family;

For 1998 -- Health and mortality, with special emphasis on the
linkages between health and development, and on gender and
age; and

For 1999 -- Population growth, structure and distribution,
with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and
sustainable development, including education.

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Country Highlights

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The ultimate test of the impact of ICPD and its Programme of Action on the everyday lives of people depends on how its recommendations are carried out in individual countries. The following are highlights of some of the many activities under way in various countries to make ICPD a reality.

The Prime Minister of Albania, on 9 June 1995, opened the first national-level workshop on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The two-day meeting was attended by 350 people, including the Ministers of Health and Foreign Affairs, other government departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and United Nations organizations.

The Government of Bangladesh established a national committee for the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Headed by the Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, the committee includes representatives from ministries, the donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations, the media, academicians and NGOs. The Government will work closely with its newly established NGO advisory group in implementing the Programme of Action.

The Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic has incorporated key components of the ICPD Programme of Action into its recently adopted national policy on maternal and child health and birth-spacing.

In February, H. R. M. King Hassan II of Morocco established a Ministry of Population in the new government.

In the Philippines, the Department of Health is setting up a Task Force on Women's Reproductive Health to define and carry out programmes in reproductive health with respect to information, education and communication; training; logistics; and service delivery within the context of the Philippine Family Planning Programme.

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Highlights of Recommendations of the NGO Advisory Committee

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NGO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Among the recommendations of the NGO Advisory Committee are these proposals to UNFPA:

Work with Governments to help ensure the full involvement of NGOs in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ICPD Programme of Action at national levels [and at] the international level, work to ensure that NGOs have an appropriate role at the Commission on Population and Development.

Intensify efforts to disseminate and advocate for the Programme of Action and to promote national dialogue on the directions of the Programme.

Promote the participation of the NGOs that were at Cairo as members of the official delegations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Make special efforts to identify partners who share the values and principles embodied in Chapter 2 of the Programme of Action,.... with emphasis on NGOs which draw their leadership from their constituents, e.g., youth groups, women's groups.

Strengthen the links between Governments and NGOs to facilitate positive interaction between them.

Encourage the participation of parliamentarians' organizations in national efforts to implement ICPD and encourage NGOs to network and advocate as a group.

Facilitate a national dialogue between the research community and grass-roots NGOs.

Support NGO networks with leadership capability and utilize such networks to assist in building the institutional capacity of local NGOs.

Encourage South-South collaboration in research and training. For the complete set of recommendations, see UNFPA, Meeting of the Non-Governmental Organization Advisory Committee at UNFPA, 12-13 April 1995 (New York, 1995).

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ICPD in Cyberspace

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ICPD IN CYBERSPACE

Three sources of ICPD information are available on the Internet: POPIN, TogetherNet and the Institute for Global Communications.

POPIN Gopher, an electronic information service provided free of charge, is the primary source of official documents of ICPD. Its global coordinating unit is located at the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (Population Division) of the United Nations in New York.

To access POPIN, use the Gopher command. At the Unix prompt (usually a "\$" or a "%"), type: `gopher gopher.undp.org`. Doing so will connect you with the main UNDP Gopher menu. Select "Other United Nations & Related Gopher". A second menu offers "United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN)". Once in the POPIN Gopher, retrieve information and documents by choosing "International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD)" in the main menu. Under this item, detailed information is available:

* Documentation for ICPD

- * Earth Negotiations Bulletin

- * ICPD Follow-up Documents and Activities

- * ICPD Information Kit

- * ICPD Newsletters

- * Legislation

- * Press Releases & Speeches

- * Recommendations

- * Women NGO Advocacy at the United Nations

Some Internet users with access to other host Gopher systems can also retrieve POPIN. These systems offer the sequence of menu choices: Select "Other Gopher Servers", then "International Organizations", then "United Nations", "United Nations Conferences" and, finally, "International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD)". The UNDP and POPIN Gophers can also be accessed by E-mail. To receive instructions on E-mail gopher searching, send an E-mail message to: gopher@undp.org. TogetherNet provides a variety of electronic services, such as E-mail, information sources and conference services, and is accessible to almost any computer with a modem or direct Internet access.

TogetherNet covers several United Nations conferences. Select the folder "Population" to retrieve ICPD information and documents.

The folder contains the following six items on ICPD:

- * ICPD Prepcoms

- * ICPD - Govt. Statements

- * ICPD - Agency Statements

- * ICPD - NGO Statements

- * ICPD - News Coverage; and

- * ICPD - UN Docs.

To access TogetherNet, contact: Together Foundation, 55 East 75th Street, New York NY 10021. Tel(212) 628-1939. E-Mail: martha.vargas @together.org. The fee is \$US 13 per month, with discounts for multiple subscribers. The Institute for Global Communications (IGC) provides computer networking tools for international communication and information exchange. The IGC networks - PeaceNet, EcoNet, ConflictNet and LaborNet - are in San Francisco. ICPD documents are available, as well as a variety of other information posted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the network. IGC is working on new projects designed to produce low-cost access, especially for non-industrialized and developing countries. IGC networks can be accessed by E-mail as well as by Internet. The monthly fee is \$US 12.50. Contact: Institute for Global Communications, 18 De Boom St., San Francisco CA 94107. E-Mail: igcoffice@igc.apc.org.

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Indonesia Hosts Interregional Meeting

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INDONESIA HOSTS INTERREGIONAL MEETING

The Government of Indonesia and UNFPA jointly organized in Jakarta the first "Interregional Meeting on Ways and Means to Implement the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action". During the four-day meeting, from 22 to 25 May 1995, experts from all regions of the world discussed strategies to achieve universal access to reproductive health care, including family planning and sexual health; to achieve gender equity and equality; and to meet the special needs of adolescents in developing countries. Participants also discussed the role of the family and explored ways to strengthen cooperation among developing countries themselves -- South-South cooperation -- in population and development, particularly in reproductive health.

Stressing the importance of the link between development and family planning and citing Indonesia's efforts to promote family planning as an integral part of the country's development strategy, Indonesian President H.E. Soeharto expressed the hope that all countries would take immediate steps to implement the results of ICPD.

The State Minister for Population and Chairman of the BKKBN (national family planning coordination board), H.E. Mr. Haryono

Suyono, updated participants on the status of the "Partners in Population and Development" programme. This South-South initiative of 10 developing countries, "Partners" will facilitate the exchange of information and expertise among developing countries in the field of population and development.

In addressing the meeting, Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) of UNFPA, observed that "ICPD marked the start of a new era in population and development. The true test of the impact of the ICPD and its recommendations lies in an increased national and international awareness of and concerted responses to the Programme of Action". He recounted the various activities that have been undertaken or that are being planned at different levels by United Nations agencies and organizations, Governments, parliamentarians and the non-governmental sector. The Government, after the ICPD,

The Government, after the ICPD, organized a series of meetings involving government ministries, national experts, regional planners, local experts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to align national population policies and programmes with the Programme of Action. Special attention was given to soliciting ideas about the design of a system of indicators for policy formulation and monitoring, especially concerning the empowerment of women.

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Information Card on Reproductive Health

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INFORMATION CARD ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank have issued a "briefing card" as part of the effort to amplify the message of the ICPD Programme of Action on reproductive health and reproductive rights. The double-sided laminated card highlights key aspects of the reproductive health commitments made in Cairo.

According to the three organizations, the pocket card was designed as a handy reference tool for all those involved in implementing the Programme of Action. The card is an example of various UN system-wide efforts to disseminate information promoting the ICPD follow-up.

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Inter-Agency Task Force Promotes UN System Collaboration

ICPD News, Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1995

INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE PROMOTES UN SYSTEM COLLABORATION

On 25 July 1995, the ICPD Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) met in New York to review progress on the follow-up to the Conference. This was the second meeting of the Task Force, which was established in response to paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 49/128, requesting United Nations agencies and organizations to bring their activities in line with the Programme of Action. Dr. Nafis Sadik was asked by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on behalf of the Secretary-General, to convene and chair the ICPD IATF, which met for the first time on 13 December 1994.

The Task Force's aim is to enhance inter-agency collaboration and coordination in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the country level, under the leadership of United Nations Resident Coordinators. It is also helping to develop a common framework for following up other United Nations conferences dealing with social issues.

To promote inter-agency cooperation, the Task Force set up five working groups, with a lead agency for each:

- * Working group on the development of a common data system at the national level in the field of health, notably in infant, child and maternal mortality - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- * Working group on basic education, with special attention to gender disparities - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- * Working group on women's empowerment - United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
- * Working group on reproductive health - World Health Organization (WHO); and
- * Working group on policy-related issues, including the drafting of a common advocacy statement on social issues - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

These working groups have met over the past months and the first four listed above have produced guidelines to improve country-level inter-agency cooperation in the respective areas. The working group on policy-related issues has drafted a "statement of commitment".

At its 25 July meeting, the ICPD IATF decided, inter alia, to establish a working group on international migration, which will explore inter-agency collaboration in this area. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has agreed to be the lead agency for this working group.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its first regular session in 1995, welcomed the convening, with UNFPA as the lead agency, of an inter-agency mechanism for policy development, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action by the United Nations system.

In its consideration of the ICPD item, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its substantive session of 1995, noted that "the Secretary-General has established an inter-agency task force, with the United Nations Population Fund as the lead agency, for the implementation of the Programme of Action, and welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to report through the Commission [on Population and Development] to the Council on the work of the task force, so as to ensure system-wide cooperation in the implementation of the Programme of Action" (E/1995/L.61, para.9).

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Mexico Creates New Directorate of Reproductive Health

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

MEXICO CREATES NEW DIRECTORATE OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Mexico has redesigned its health services to reflect the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action, creating a new General Directorate of Reproductive Health from the former Directorates of Maternal and Child Care and Family Planning. The new General Directorate of Reproductive Health includes a Department of Gender and Development to ensure that all activities reflect a gender perspective.

The National Development Plan for 1995-2000 similarly echoes ICPD themes. The national reproductive health concerns include family planning, safe motherhood, women's health, adolescent health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. The emphasis will be on, inter alia, the strengthening of women's roles, increasing male responsibility in reproduction and the prevention and management of infertility.

Chaired by Minister of Health Juan Ramón de la Fuente, a National Committee of Reproductive Health, which became operational in February 1995, is responsible for coordinating inter-institutional activities in reproductive health. The Committee is composed of

representatives of health institutions, the National Population Council and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs are playing an important role in collaborating with the Federal Government in implementing ICPD recommendations.

Among the strategies to maximize access and promote high-quality services, the Ministry of Health has issued new, comprehensive guide-lines for the provision of family planning services, drafted by health authorities, social scientists, representatives of NGOs and women's health advocacy organizations. To familiarize the public and health workers with the concept of reproductive health, Mexico's Plan of Action for Reproductive Health emphasizes the importance of education and communication through television, radio and the press.

-- From Rainer Rosenbaum UNFPA Country Director Mexico
City, Mexico

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News From NGOs

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

NEWS FROM NGOS

One key reason for the success of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was the unprecedented involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in shaping the final document. The Programme of Action calls for "new and effective partnerships" between Governments, international organizations and NGOs in the follow-up to ICPD. Below are some of the many examples of NGO initiatives post-Cairo.

In India, some of the NGOs that participated in ICPD have established an informal network. Their goal is to work with state and central governments to increase funds for education and health, to promote reproductive health services within primary health care and to identify alternative systems to assess programme performance.

"Vision 2000", a new policy strategy of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), reflects the principal recommendations of ICPD and will guide the work of many family planning associations.

Pakistan's NGO ICPD Committee organized a meeting, "Family Planning in Pakistan -- Post-Cairo Symposium", on 14 January 1995,

to develop a post-ICPD agenda for NGOs in Pakistan.

San Francisco, California, was the site of the fifth and last in a series of post-Cairo regional consultations and seminars organized by The Population Institute of Washington, D.C. The dates of this meeting -- 22-24 June 1995 -- coincided with a fiftieth anniversary celebration of the United Nations.

The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) established a women's task force to examine gender equity in their programmes and another task force to develop programmes for adolescents. In collaboration with UNFPA, FPASL will prepare a booklet on adolescent health needs.

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Parliamentarians Reiterate Cairo Themes

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

PARLIAMENTARIANS REITERATE CAIRO THEMES

In the follow-up to ICPD, parliamentarians and parliamentary groups have a crucial role to play. The Programme of Action calls on parliaments to enact legislation enabling Governments to implement the actions and recommendations of the Programme of Action. It also calls on parliaments to ensure the availability of the necessary financial resources. Over the past nine months, several parliamentary activities have been undertaken in the follow-up to the Cairo conference.

Belize was the site of a meeting of the Inter-American Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development on 27-28 January 1995. This meeting of parliamentarians from Caribbean countries, sponsored in collaboration with UNFPA, was attended by the UNFPA Country Director for the Caribbean, Mr. K.V. Moorthy, and the UNFPA International Programme Officer in Nicaragua, Mr. Diego Palacios.

A group of 50 members of parliaments from various regions met in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 4-5 March 1995, to discuss the main themes of the World Summit for Social Development -- poverty, unemployment and social integration -- and the link between those

themes and population issues. This gathering was a follow-up to the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, held in Cairo on 3-4 September 1994.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director (Policy) of UNFPA, stressed the key role parliamentarians play in linking population and social development. "Addressing population issues and social development through poverty alleviation, employment creation and promotion of social cohesion can only be achieved through an integrated approach to social policy formulation".

The International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development issued the Copenhagen Statement, which acknowledges, inter alia, the interaction of poverty and the status of women in the achievement of sustainable development.

The United Kingdom All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the European Parliament Working Group on Population and Development organized the European Parliamentary Forum for Action, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 26-27 May 1995. Some 90 parliamentarians from more than 20 European countries and 10 non-European countries attended. Participants adopted a Declaration which calls upon European parliamentarians and Governments to mobilize resources "to provide in all countries by the year 2015 universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family planning methods and related reproductive health services, including better management and prevention of unsafe abortion". It also urges them to ensure "that the international consensus agreed in

Cairo with regard to reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health be preserved and strengthened in the Fourth World Conference on Women Platform of Action".

More than 60 members of parliament, including several ministers, participated in the first Regional Conference of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 19 to 21 July 1995. In her opening address, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, reminded the participants that "on the eve of the Beijing Women's Conference, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that pertinent elements of the Cairo consensus are reaffirmed and integrated into the Beijing Platform of Action. In particular, there must be no retreat from the commitment to women's reproductive health and rights".

The participants adopted a regional action plan, entitled "From Cairo to Beijing and Beyond: Action Agenda of African Women in Ministerial and Parliamentary Capacities". The participants also endorsed a Declaration which, inter alia, reaffirms "the total commitment [of the participants] to the Cairo Programme of Action". This document reiterates the need "to set up an operational mechanism for action and follow-up at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for programmes of action and recommendations, emanating from international fora". During the Conference, participants decided to establish a network of African women ministers and parliamentarians to implement the action agenda.



Prime Minister Urges Pakistan to Curb Population Growth

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

PRIME MINISTER URGES PAKISTAN TO CURB POPULATION GROWTH

Speaking at the first National Convention of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, in Islamabad on 11 June 1995, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged all sectors in Pakistani society to focus on population trends and development objectives. She reminded the Convention that Pakistan was one of the first countries to adopt family planning as a part of its development policy.

The establishment of the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development in Pakistan, which sponsored the National Convention, was the result of the commitments made during the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Cairo in September 1994. At that time, all participating parliamentarians pledged through the Cairo Declaration "to translate our personal commitment into political action, as set forth in this Declaration, both in our national legislatures and elsewhere, as appropriate, and to encourage others to join us in meeting this urgent challenge".

In her address to the Convention, Prime Minister Bhutto cautioned that the mere setting up of the group, although welcome,

should not be considered an end in itself. It is a means, according to the Prime Minister, towards achieving the desired objective of creating awareness among parliamentarians of the linkages between population and development.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, in her message to the Convention called on the Pakistani parliamentarians "to translate Prime Minister Bhutto's declaration of political commitment into sustained political will and dynamic social action". She noted that "the success of the population programme will depend in large measure on you, elected representatives of the people, and on your understanding and appreciation of the role that population plays in every aspect of development efforts". -- From Nesim Tumkaya UNFPA Country Director Islamabad, Pakistan

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Recommended Reading

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

RECOMMENDED READING

Several recent publications of special relevance to the International Conference on Population and Development are now available.

Population and Development: Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994, Volume 1.

United Nations.

Copies: UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation, 220 East 42nd Street, 22nd Floor, New York NY 10017. FAX (212) 297-5250.

National Perspectives on Population and Development: Synthesis of 168 national reports prepared for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

Prepared by the Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), this report is based on the analysis of the national reports submitted for ICPD.

Copies: UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation, 220 East 42nd Street, 22nd Floor, New York NY 10017. FAX (212) 297-5250.

Summary of the Programme of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development (DPI/1618/POP).

United Nations Department of Public Information.

Copies: UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation, 220 East 42nd Street, 22nd Floor, New York NY 10017. FAX (212) 297-5250.

Action for the 21st Century: Reproductive Health and Rights for All.

Family Care International (FCI). Copies: Family Care International, 588 Broadway, Suite 503, New York NY 10012.

The Cairo Consensus: The Right Agenda for the Right Time.

Adrienne Germain and Rachel Kyte.

Copies: International Women's Health Coalition, 24 E. 21st Street, New York NY 10010.

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Secretary-General Addresses Global Meeting of UNFPA Staff

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SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSES GLOBAL MEETING OF UNFPA STAFF

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali spoke to UNFPA staff at the Fund's four-day Global Meeting in Rye, New York, 18-21 June 1995. The meeting was convened to focus on population and development programming in the post-Cairo environment. He congratulated the staff for their work in connection with the Cairo conference and underscored the importance of a coordinated follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and other recently held and upcoming United Nations conferences.

The Global Meeting followed the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board so that professional staff could take the Board's decisions into account in their discussions of the follow-up to ICPD. Over the four days, staff discussed the Fund's new programme focus in reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy. They also reviewed various policy and procedural issues as well as strategies for mobilizing financial resources.

Several distinguished guests addressed UNFPA staff. Mr. Nicolaas Biegman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations from the Netherlands, who played a major part before

and during the Cairo conference, emphasized the role that UNFPA can play in following through on the Programme of Action at the country level. Mr. Ahmad Kamal, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations from Pakistan and also President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), informed staff of ECOSOC's role in the follow-up to major United Nations conferences.

Mr. Rafeudin Ahmed, Associate Administrator of UNDP, on behalf of the Administrator, referred to the agreement between UNDP and UNFPA to designate the UNFPA Country Director as UNFPA Representative and emphasized the contribution of Resident Coordinators to following up United Nations conferences. Mr. Richard Jolly, Executive Director (Programmes) of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), underscored the necessity of inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the country level.

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UNFPA Pursues New Policy and Programme Directions

ICPD News, No. 1, July 1995

UNFPA PURSUES NEW POLICY AND PROGRAMME DIRECTIONS

In June, the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) Executive Board, at its annual session of 1995, endorsed new programme and policy directions for UNFPA. These new directions were presented in the report "Programme Priorities and Future Directions of UNFPA in light of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)", in which UNFPA proposed to concentrate its core funding in three programme areas:

- * Reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health;
- * Population and development strategies; and
- * Advocacy.

Within each of these areas, support would be given for research, training, awareness creation and information dissemination. Recognizing that there can be no sustainable development without the full and equal participation of women, UNFPA will emphasize gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women as a cross-cutting

dimension in the three core areas.

All activities in UNFPA-supported programmes will be undertaken in accordance with the principles and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action, in particular with Chapter II, "Principles".

At the country level, UNFPA will continue to assist Governments in aligning their programmes with the directions of ICPD. The Fund will strengthen inter-agency coordination and collaboration in the implementation of the Programme of Action under the United Nations Resident Coordinator system. It will also build new partnerships with the non-governmental sector at national and international levels.

At its annual meeting, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board also took note of the agreement between UNDP and UNFPA to designate UNFPA resident Country Directors as UNFPA Representatives and recommended that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly endorse the agreement. ECOSOC did so at its substantive session of 1995 (26 June-28 July) and, in turn, recommended to the General Assembly that it endorse the agreement at its upcoming fiftieth session.

The report to the Executive Board was the culmination of a process that began immediately after the Cairo conference. UNFPA launched a series of technical reviews and regional consultations. These meetings provided valuable insights into the needs of various countries and produced practical suggestions for policy and operational activities.

With three partner agencies in the United Nations system -- the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) -- UNFPA convened a series of joint workshops to examine how best to implement the Programme of Action at country and local levels. These workshops focused on: reproductive health and family planning; information, education and communication (IEC); and population data, policy and research.

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UNFPA and NGOs Strengthen Collaboration

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On 12-13 April 1995, the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Advisory Committee to UNFPA met at UNFPA headquarters. The Committee was requested to advise UNFPA on proposed policies, programmes and strategies. Convened by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, the meeting built upon the long tradition of UNFPA-NGO cooperation. Since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the Fund's collaboration with NGOs has intensified, especially with respect to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

Participants on the Advisory Committee - from Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America - discussed a wide range of issues: gender and development, poverty alleviation, reproductive health, research, training and advocacy.

The agenda also included sessions on the evolution of collaboration between UNFPA and NGOs, future directions for UNFPA programming and the identification of national-level NGOs.

Participants also reviewed a draft of the recently revised

"Guidelines for UNFPA Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations".

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