



## Advancing ICPD Through South-South Cooperation

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### Advancing ICPD Through South-South Cooperation

During the ICPD in Cairo, 10 developing countries announced the establishment of a South-South initiative called Partners in Population and Development. The rationale for this initiative was set out in the ICPD Programme of Action. The aim of Partners is to promote training, research and exchange of information among the 10 countries -- Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

Last month, the Executive Committee of Partners met in New York (18-19 September 1995) to select the Partners' Executive Director. The meeting was a follow-up to the first meeting of the Partners Board, which took place on 19-20 April 1995 in Harare, Zimbabwe. At the April meeting, the Board decided to establish a small secretariat, comprising an Executive Director and three professionals, to be based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The secretariat is being funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, the World Bank and UNFPA, through a UNFPA trust fund.

At the September meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously selected Dr. Ahmed Zayan from Egypt to become the first Executive Director of the Partners. Dr. Zayan is expected to assume his responsibilities by December 1995. The Executive Committee set the

next meeting of the Committee in Tunis on 16-17 January 1996. The next Board meeting will be held in Mexico in July 1996.

UNFPA is involved in another South-South activity. Through an interregional project, UNFPA is setting up projects aimed at supporting so-called Centres of Excellence in reproductive health and family planning. Four countries -- Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Tunisia -- have so far been identified for this purpose. UNFPA funds will be used to enhance the substantive and logistical capacity of institutions in these countries which will enable them to share their successful experiences in reproductive health and family planning with health and other experts from developing countries.

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## Beijing Events Focus on ICPD

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Several "Special Events" at the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing and at the NGO Forum in Huairou focused on the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD). A panel sponsored by UNFPA, "Implementing ICPD: The Women's Perspective", addressed initiatives in various countries for following up the ICPD. The speakers included, from Brazil, Mrs. Ruth Cardoso, First Lady; from Indonesia, His Excellency, Dr. Haryono Suyono, State Minister for Population and Chairman of the National Family Planning Coordinating Board; from Jordan, H.R.H. Princess Basma Bint Talal; and from Uganda, Her Excellency, Dr. Specioza Wandira Zaibwe, Vice President. Representing the perspectives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, President of The Population Council.

UNFPA also sponsored a Pan African Seminar entitled "Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights and the Economic and Political Empowerment of Women," moderated by Ms. Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjega, United Nations Senior Expert on African Issues. Seminar participants included government officials and NGO representatives from sub-Saharan Africa. To illustrate decision-making on population matters at governmental and local levels, the Seminar included a role-playing presentation in which participants assumed the roles of

government officials discussing population issues among themselves and with village leaders.

At the NGO Forum, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) sponsored a panel discussion, "Promises of ICPD". The Chair, Dr. Avabai Wadia, urged that the Beijing Platform amplify the ICPD's messages concerning a holistic approach to women's health. Panelists emphasized the importance of: educating adolescents about sexual rights and responsible behaviour, responding to the needs of the girl child and recognizing the role of partnerships between Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in meeting reproductive health needs.

For more on the Fourth World Conference on Women, see the excellent summary in Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 14, No. 21, 18 September 1995. The electronic version can be accessed on the Internet at <[gopher.igc.apc.org](mailto:gopher.igc.apc.org)>.

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## CEDPA Empowers Women in International Arenas

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### CEDPA Empowers Women in International Arenas

The most powerful voices at the ICPD and the subsequent Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) were women's voices. "Ordinary" women from villages, towns and cities, from grass-roots community groups as well as larger non-governmental organizations (NGOs), travelled to Cairo and Beijing to share their experiences and their concerns. There, they called on official government delegations to adopt agendas meeting their needs.

How did these women become such effective advocates in an international arena? Several were trained by The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), an international organization with a mission to "empower women at all levels of society to become full partners in development".

Before the ICPD, CEDPA began a policy-advocacy initiative to strengthen and expand women's leadership roles in population and sustainable development. Alumnae of CEDPA management and leadership training programmes around the world came to UN headquarters to attend preparatory meetings (PrepComs) for the ICPD and FWCW.

"In preparation for Cairo, we trained women leaders from 17 countries in advocacy strategies while they were in New York for

PrepComs 2 and 3," recalled Peggy Curlin, President of CEPDA.

"Subsequently," she added, "we held 10 workshops in Latin America so that women could identify key issues and influence national actions in Cairo."

For the Beijing Conference's final preparatory meeting, CEDPA brought 13 CEDPA alumnae to UN headquarters. Their 10-day visit, said CEDPA Vice-President Adrienne Allison, "helped the women understand how to work the corridors and to recognize who in their delegations they could interact with. It was a good trial run for Beijing."

During preparatory meetings for both Conferences, alumnae forged a consensus on vital issues related to improved and expanded access, choice and the participation of women and girls. Their consensus, ultimately, had an important impact on the processes that resulted in the ICPD Programme of Action and the FWCW Platform for Action.

"Our participation in the whole Beijing process was very empowering," Ms. Curlin concluded. "By the time the women got to Beijing, they were very skilled, they knew who their allies were, and they knew where the problems lay."

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## Countries with Economies in Transition: ICPD Progress Report

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

Countries with Economies in Transition:

ICPD Progress Report

The Romanian National Commission for Statistics and UNFPA co-hosted the Workshop on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. Held in Sinaia, Romania, 3-5 May 1995, the workshop was attended by 38 experts from the governmental and non-governmental sectors in 18 countries with economies in transition (CEIT) as well as several international organizations, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Workshop participants discussed general conditions in the CEIT; presented assessments of the status of reproductive health services in their countries; discussed information, education and communication (IEC) activities required to support reproductive health; and identified the training needs of service providers.

They also explored various health problems in the region, including high levels of abortion, a contributor to the high rates of maternal mortality in many CEIT countries. Among the reasons for high levels of abortion, which is legal in almost all countries of

the region, participants noted the limited availability and relatively high price of modern safe contraceptives. They also cited the lack of sufficient information on the benefits of contraception and the risks associated with repeated abortions; misunderstanding of the side-effects of modern contraceptives, especially hormonal methods; and a lack of sex education programmes in both formal and informal educational systems.

The workshop's recommendations stressed the importance of providing quality reproductive health services, with close monitoring of RH/FP programmes; increasing access to family planning services; and promoting related counselling services, information and education, research, and training for medical staff on contraceptive technology and the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The recommendations noted that international assistance may be needed temporarily for countries lacking the requisite technical and financial resources to implement the recommended steps.

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## From Cairo to Beijing: Women's Conference Amplifies ICPD

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From Cairo to Beijing:

Women's Conference Amplifies ICPD

The Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), which took place in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, solidified the gains that women had made at recent United Nations conferences. The Platform for Action that emerged from the FWCW enumerates critical concerns and delineates the strategic actions to be taken at various levels to respond to women's needs. As in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, women's organizations and networking by women activists were pivotal in producing a document that truly reflects the reality of women's lives and gives voice to women's aspirations.

The atmosphere in Beijing was infused with a strong resolve not to unravel any of the ICPD agreements, particularly those pertaining to reproductive health and rights. In her speech to the Plenary, Baroness L. Chalker, Minister of Overseas Development, United Kingdom, stated, "Most of us believe that Cairo was an outstanding achievement... We committed ourselves at Cairo to the advancement and empowerment of women, the elimination of all kinds of violence against women and women's right to control their own fertility. We must endorse these commitments here at the World

Conference on Women. These cannot be renegotiated now." Several other speakers in the Plenary referred to the principal concepts and language of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Many delegates felt that the hard-won breakthroughs at Cairo in reproductive health facilitated the negotiations at Beijing and contributed to the spirit of cooperation that prevailed in the corridors and in the working groups. In the end, the FWCW Platform for Action advanced the progress made in Cairo. It specifies that, "The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence."

The Beijing Platform also raised the possibility of the decriminalization of abortion, inviting Governments to consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions.

Participants in the FWCW and in the NGO Forum in Huairou came away with a sense of accomplishment. The world's women had spoken in unison and their voices had been heard. The discussions were grounded in an appreciation of the day-to-day conditions that women encounter. The agreements that emerged specify concrete and practical measures to expand opportunities for women and to improve their lives and those of their families.



## **IATF Issues Guidelines and Advocacy Statement**

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### IATF Issues Guidelines and Advocacy Statement

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action marked the first anniversary of the Conference by releasing the Guidelines for the United Nations Resident Coordinator System. The Guidelines, drafted by IATF working groups, address the following key areas: reproductive health; women's empowerment; a common approach to national capacity-building in tracking child and maternal mortality; and basic education, with special attention to gender disparities.

Building on coordination arrangements already in place, the Guidelines seek to foster closer collaboration among the United Nations system, Governments and other development partners. The Guidelines are not meant to be prescriptive or to supersede technical guidelines. Rather, they are intended to enhance the complementarity of agencies' programmes, thereby enabling the UN system to contribute more effectively to integrated planning and coordination of inputs for achieving ICPD goals within a national development framework. The Guidelines may be drawn upon for preparing the Country Strategy Note and other planning and programming tools.

The Guidelines encourage Resident Coordinators to build partnerships with NGOs, the private sector and civil society in

addressing the challenges of population and development.

Among the common themes in the Guidelines are the following: putting people first; promoting sustainable human development; reducing gender inequality and inequity; fostering accountability and transparency; and enhancing national capacity-building. The Guidelines may be accessed on the Internet.

In another recent follow-up to the ICPD, the IATF's Working Group on Policy-Related Issues developed a Common Advocacy Statement, which was recently approved by the United Nations system at the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The Statement seeks to establish a shared language for the UN system as it progresses in implementing the ICPD and recent UN conferences. Elaborating on the sectoral linkages between population and poverty eradication, environment, food security, the empowerment of women, employment, education and health, the Statement serves as a reminder of the Programme of Action and of the UN system's commitment to ensuring that population is considered an important component of development strategies.

At its July meeting, the IATF established a new working group on international migration, with the International Labour Office (ILO) as the lead agency. The working group, which will meet in October, was set up in response to a request from the Commission on Population and Development that the work of the Task Force be expanded to include migration issues.



## Implementing the Programme of Action: Tracking Progress

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### Implementing the Programme of Action: Tracking Progress

The success of the ICPD and its Programme of Action will ultimately be gauged by its effective implementation. The following are highlights of activities around the world to achieve the Conference's goals.

\*\* A Peace Forum on Population and Development was sponsored by the Rotary Foundation in May 1995 in Dakar, Senegal. Some 280 Rotarians from 14 countries adopted a resolution on population and development, calling for awareness-creation efforts among Rotarians and others and support for projects promoting the role of women in development. The resolution will be presented at Rotary's International Convention in France this November.

\*\* In Bangladesh, an NGO Advisory Group Forum has been established to strengthen governmental and non-governmental collaboration in following up implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Forum's first meeting, held in August at the UNFPA office in Dhaka, drew non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as research institutions interested in strengthening Government/NGO collaboration on population-related issues. The Advisory Group will play an advocacy role in following up ICPD recommendations, identifying priorities for interventions, assessing needs and

providing a forum for exchanging information and ideas.

\*\* The UNFPA Regional Meeting on Reproductive Health in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Cancun, Mexico, 22-26 August 1995. More than 120 participants from 25 countries contributed to the presentations and panel discussions. Most participants were from the technical levels of Ministries of Health and other government agencies. Others were representatives from national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector; international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); bilateral organizations; and United Nations agencies, including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The discussion focused on how to operationalize reproductive health at the national level, addressing the practical issues of implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. The next step is to develop national strategies for post-ICPD implementation of reproductive health and to support strategies through subregional programmes of assistance. Other follow-up activities include a regional programme for indigenous people and a regional meeting on adolescents and reproductive health, planned for the second half of 1996. The August meeting's final report is scheduled for distribution in December 1995.

\*\* As part of their follow-up to the ICPD, three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) -- Population Communications, the Global Committee of Parliamentarians for Population and Development and the Population Institute -- are working to call attention to population and sustainable development concerns. As

part of this initiative, Indonesia's President Soeharto will present a Statement of Population Stabilization, signed by 74 Heads of Government, to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at a ceremony to be held 25 October at UN Headquarters in New York. Signers represent 3.9 billion people, nearly 68 per cent of the world's population. Calling population stabilization "a worldwide necessity," the signers say it is time "for each country to adopt the necessary policies and programs to do so, consistent with its own culture and aspirations."

\*\* The Earth Summit Watch, a group which has been monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro, is also following the progress of countries in carrying out ICPD recommendations. At the Beijing Conference, the group released preliminary findings from its survey of implementation activities in 53 countries. The final report, One Year After Cairo, will be released in early 1996.

\*\* An international group of women's health activists known as HERA (health, empowerment, rights and accountability) has committed itself to monitoring the efforts of countries and the international community to enact policies and programmes that will ensure that the Cairo consensus on reproductive rights, reproductive health and the empowerment of women becomes operational. HERA's roots go back to the NGO Forum during the Earth Summit at Rio, where it became clear that women's voices needed to be heard in the design and implementation of reproductive health initiatives.

\*\* Under the sponsorship of the Population Institute and 105

national and international organizations, including the American Public Health Association, the National Audubon Society, and the International Confederation of Midwives, World Population Awareness Week will be held in the United States of America 22-29 October. The theme this year is the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Several U.S. governors have issued proclamations recognizing World Population Awareness Week. The proclamations draw attention to the goals and objectives of the ICPD.

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## India Reorients Its Family Welfare Programme

### India Reorients Its Family Welfare Programme

India is reorienting its National Family Welfare Programme away from a target-driven approach and towards a service-oriented one that emphasizes improved quality of care. This shift reflects the spirit of the ICPD Programme of Action, which emphasizes that Governments should define family planning goals in terms of unmet needs for information and services, rather than targets or quotas for the recruitment of clients.

In April 1995, the Indian Government announced that, in at least one district in each state, the Family Welfare Programme would be free of targets relating to contraceptive use. At the same time, contraceptive use would be expanded and the quality of reproductive health services improved. The Government has begun to implement this new policy in all states.

The target-based approach has been entirely eliminated in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which have the lowest total fertility rates in the country, and Kerala, the highest female literacy rate. Behind this change, according to Secretary of Family Welfare J. C. Pant, was "a growing recognition of a need for a paradigm shift in the way population issues are perceived in India." Mr. Pant explained that official attitudes began evolving before the ICPD. "The policy of the Government of India," he said, "had anticipated the changes ushered in by ICPD, Cairo."

The ICPD provided impetus to the process, however. On 3 April 1995, the Ministry of Health organized a meeting of all state-level Secretaries of Health and Family Welfare to discuss national implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. At the Ministry's request, the meeting included a UNFPA presentation on substantive issues in reproductive health and family planning.

In an effort to improve the quality of services provided, the Government is also focusing on training and on improved collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international agencies.

In the State of Himachal Pradesh, a UNFPA project is helping the government train medical officers at the primary health centre level to improve the quality of family planning services. A training manual, facilitator's guide and client-education booklet have been designed for the training. The Health Secretary of the State of Himachal Pradesh is overseeing the distribution of manuals to health administrations in other states of India.

In line with one of the major recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Government is increasing its collaboration with NGOs. NGOs, mainly those that participated in the ICPD, have established an information exchange network and are aiming at working with the Government to increase funding for the education and health sectors, to promote reproductive health services and to identify alternative ways to assess the performance of the Family Welfare Programme.

The UNFPA office in India is currently drafting the Fifth UNFPA Country Programme of assistance for the years 1997-2001. The preparatory process is being guided by the post-ICPD thematic approach to population programme development as well as the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action. A situation analysis and strategy papers have already been elaborated in reproductive health/family planning; education, communication and advocacy; and gender issues.

United Nations inter-agency collaboration in the national-level implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action is being promoted under the joint leadership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNFPA. A UN Inter-agency Working Group on Population and Development is developing a framework for advocating increased social-sector funding. The Working Group is preparing a set of common indicators for monitoring the impact of UN agency programmes on the achievement of goals set by the ICPD and other UN conferences. The Working Group is also organizing an inter-agency workshop, scheduled for late October, aimed at integrating population concerns into the work of other UN agencies as well as into the development activities of bilateral donors in India.

-- From Wasim Zaman

UNFPA Country Director

New Delhi, India

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## **Message from Dr. Sadik: Affirming Cairo's Messages**

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Message from Dr. Sadik:

Affirming Cairo's Messages

Last month's Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing was a strong affirmation and, indeed, an amplification of the principal messages of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo. The clarion call that went out from Cairo was that women are the key to achieving sustainable development and that they must be full and equal partners in the development process. The economic, cultural and political discrimination that women experience all over the world must be eliminated. The ICPD Programme of Action was truly ground-breaking in proclaiming that ensuring women's reproductive health and reproductive rights is essential to women's empowerment and advancement. The dialogue and debates on these issues throughout the Cairo process paved the way for the inclusion of a strong section on reproductive and sexual rights and health in the FWCW Platform for Action.

In Cairo, and a year later in Beijing, the international community was able to find common ground on highly sensitive issues. Both conferences were notable for focusing on practical interventions to improve the well-being of individual women and men and for stressing the importance of monitoring the implementation of measures

agreed to at these international forums.

I have been greatly heartened by the progress made in just one year's time to move the Cairo Programme of Action from the drawing board to concrete operational initiatives. Several countries in all regions have already drawn up national programmes of action which spell out how they will work, in terms of their national priorities, to achieve the goals agreed to at Cairo. Workshops are being held to clarify what is meant by a "reproductive health approach," and women are taking an active part in designing and implementing various components in this sector. A number of countries have put into place programmes addressing the reproductive health needs of adolescents, and many of these are being undertaken in conjunction with non-governmental organizations.

But we have only just begun. To make the recommendations of Cairo a reality, considerable and concerted efforts are needed. UNFPA is working with the donor community to secure additional external resources for population and with developing countries to enhance the effectiveness of their population allocations. Mobilizing financial resources is critical if we are to achieve the ICPD goals and ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Nafis Sadik

Executive Director

United Nations Population Fund

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# Monitoring ICPD Follow-up: Commission on Population & Development

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

Monitoring ICPD Follow-up:

Commission on Population and Development

At its 28th session (21 February-2 March 1995), the Commission on Population and Development, the intergovernmental body responsible for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, adopted a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme. The Commission also decided to consider five reports annually. Each of the five reports, listed below, focuses on the designated theme of the year. The theme for 1996 is reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication (IEC).

- \* World Population Monitoring, on population issues, trends, policies and programmes;
- \* Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes;
- \* Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Implementation of the Programme of Action;

- \* Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the implementation of the Programme of Action; and
- \* Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

UNFPA is responsible for preparing four of the five reports for the 29th session of the Commission on Population and Development, 26 February-1 March 1996. The World Population Monitoring report will be prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations.

For the Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, the UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation has sent an information form to all UNFPA Representatives and Country Directors in the field. The form contains questions about programme experiences in implementing reproductive health programmes since ICPD. The questions refer to the following:

- \* The integration of family planning information and services into the broader framework of reproductive health;
- \* The quality-of-care aspects of reproductive health programmes;
- \* The reproductive health needs of adolescents;
- \* The extent of women's participation in the design and implementation of reproductive health programmes;

- \* Initiatives under way to increase men's participation in reproductive health programmes; and
  
- \* The role of NGOs in formulating and implementing such programmes.

The information will provide insights into the initiatives undertaken, as well as the obstacles faced, in implementing reproductive health programmes.

The IATF Report will focus on UN system-wide collaboration and coordination in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. The Secretariat of the IATF has communicated with United Nations agencies and organizations, requesting their inputs on an overview of initiatives and programmes, planned or underway, focusing on the theme of reproductive rights and health, and population IEC, including programmes that specifically address the needs of youth and adolescents.

For this report, organizations have been asked to provide information on their collaboration with UN organizations, NGOs and the private sector in addressing needs and priorities, including, linkages with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

In preparing their inputs for the Secretary-General's reports, IATF members are asked to address these issues: How can financial resources for reproductive health and rights, and population IEC be augmented? What kinds of advocacy are needed to promote interest in reproductive rights and reproductive health at the country level? How can the IATF foster greater interaction among



institutions at the regional level? Another issue is how UN agencies can enhance the role of NGOs, the private sector and civil society in designing, implementing and monitoring reproductive health programmes, including population IEC.

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## **Parliamentarians Address Cairo and Beijing Themes**

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### Parliamentarians Address Cairo and Beijing Themes

On the eve of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing, 91 parliamentarians from 57 countries gathered to address key themes of the upcoming conference -- themes echoing those of last year's International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Among the major aims of the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development, held in Tokyo from 31 August to 1 September 1995, was a reaffirmation of the parliamentarians' commitment to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, in accordance with the goals of the FWCW. The meeting provided a forum for participants to discuss and design strategies for meeting those goals.

The gathering was jointly organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Inter-African Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Steering Committee of the Africa and Middle East Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. Members of the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization also participated in the event, which was supported by UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population, opened the meeting with a welcoming address. Among the keynote speakers was Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, who addressed the implications of the ICPD for the FWCW.

The topics discussed included the empowerment of women, the need for full and equal partnerships between women and men, women as agents of change as well as beneficiaries, and regional responses to the ICPD.

In the session on the empowerment of women, Ms. Fanny Pollarolo, Member of Parliament of Chile, noted some discouraging trends with respect to the empowerment of women. She asserted that the economic crises of the 1980s had an especially severe impact on girls and women, who suffered the most from cuts in education and health and from deteriorating working conditions. Calling on institutions with decision-making powers to give a greater voice to women, she appealed for solidarity among women legislators, members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and women in general.

In the session on equal partnerships between women and men, Dr. Manto Tshabalala, Member of Parliament of South Africa, stressed that most of the problems faced by women in developing countries could be attributed to illiteracy, which often has its roots in poverty. Parliamentarians should, therefore, commit themselves to developing policies aimed at eliminating illiteracy among women and girls within a specific time-frame. They should also develop policies that promote the equitable distribution of resources within

the household and adopt legislative and administrative measures that promote full and equal access to economic resources for both women and men.

Another speaker, Ms. Helle Degn, Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Danish Parliament and former Minister for Development Cooperation, spoke about mainstreaming women in the population and development process. She emphasized that social and economic development constituted the key to the empowerment of poor women and that political will was urgently required to achieve such development. Ms. Degn applauded the ICPD Programme of Action for its focus on poverty and basic human needs. According to Ms. Degn, the mainstreaming of women requires two steps: first, the "feminization" of policy and, second, the integration of women into all societal decision-making processes.

Participants adopted by consensus the Tokyo Declaration, by which they committed themselves to translating the ICPD Programme of Action's recommendations into political action and to ensuring that the ICPD's achievements would be reaffirmed both during the FWCW and in their national legislatures. The Declaration called upon parliamentarians to act as "advocates for women's empowerment and gender equality" and to "oversee the implementation of the goals and recommendations of the ICPD and the FWCW, paying particular attention to the need to mobilize the resources required to translate the goals and recommendations into reality".

#### Parliamentarians Appeal for Gender Balance

"We, the parliamentarians from 57 countries attending the

International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development,... in addressing ourselves to the issues before the Fourth World Conference on Women... urge Governments to... assure that, by the year 2005, women constitute at least 50 per cent of the membership of all governmental bodies, including elected and appointed positions at international, national and local levels.

"We... urge the donor community to strive to fulfill the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and to earmark 50 per cent of the share of this for women and gender-related activities."

-- "Tokyo Declaration",  
International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender,  
Population and Development, Tokyo,  
31 August-1 September 1995

"The Cairo Programme of Action itself is mainstreaming women in population and development policy. Mainstreaming women in policy means two things. Firstly, it means feminizing policy and, secondly, it means bringing women into all societal decision-making processes."

-- Ms. Helle Degn (Denmark), International Meeting of  
Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and  
Development, Tokyo

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## Recommended Reading

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### Recommended Reading

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

- \* The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Context and Characteristics.

Walter Mertens, IUSSP Policy and Research Papers (ISBN 2-87108-051-8). Copies: IUSSP, 34, rue des Augustins, 4000 Liège, Belgium (Fax: +32 41 22 38 47).

- \* New Perspectives on Population: Lessons from Cairo.

Lori S. Ashford. Population Bulletin 50, No. 1 (March 1995). Copies: Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 520, Washington DC 20009-5728.

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Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD

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## The Making of an Advocate

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### The Making of an Advocate

Espousing the theory that "advocates are made, not born," a handbook published by The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) seeks to help women become effective advocates for policy change. Written in clear, simple language, *After Cairo: A Handbook on Advocacy for Women Leaders* is a step-by-step guide to creating an effective advocacy campaign. Its strategies are divided into four parts: Planning for Advocacy, Taking Your Message to the Public, Forging Alliances and Advocating for Resources. Case studies of CEDPA alumnae who are outstanding advocates provide concrete examples of social-change processes.

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## **UNICEF Carries ICPD Goals Forward**

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### UNICEF Carries ICPD Goals Forward

The UNICEF Executive Board, at its third regular session in September 1995, endorsed the report "UNICEF Follow-Up to the International Conference on Population and Development" and stressed the need for speedy implementation. The Board also requested that the Executive Director report to the Board in 1996 on the process of integrating the follow-up to ICPD in UNICEF country programmes and to report in 1998 on activities undertaken by UNICEF, including those undertaken with other donor agencies, as follow-up to ICPD.

The report details the five UNICEF programming priorities in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action: girls' education; women's empowerment; primary health care and child survival; reproductive health; and tracking progress in reducing child and maternal mortality.

The priority areas noted in the UNICEF report correspond closely to UNFPA's post-Cairo programming focus. Thus, already existing collaboration between the two organizations is expected to expand in response to new opportunities for cooperating in implementing the Programme of Action.

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## **Uganda's Post-ICPD Initiatives**

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### Uganda's Post-ICPD Initiatives

In the light of the ICPD Programme of Action, Uganda has launched initiatives in adolescent reproductive health, women's empowerment and reproductive rights, female circumcision, referral systems and consensus-building. The post-ICPD initiatives have been integrated into the balance of the UNFPA-assisted programme of assistance for the biennium 1995/1996.

Responding to the ICPD Programme of Action, which notes that health services have largely ignored the reproductive health needs of adolescents, Uganda set into motion a participatory process aimed at meeting those needs. The result was the formation of the Programme for Enhancing Adolescent Reproductive Life (PEARL), which aims at enhancing the reproductive lives of Ugandan adolescents through the provision of appropriate counselling and services. To ensure sustainability, PEARL calls for young people and community leaders to take a leading role in implementation efforts.

Proceeding from the ICPD reproductive health/reproductive rights perspective, Uganda is working to promote the empowerment of women. In June, Uganda hosted an East African workshop on reproductive health and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) issues, examining how they affect women at the individual, family, social,

economic and cultural levels. The workshop's objective was to nurture the development of national and, eventually, regional advocacy networks on reproductive health and reproductive rights.

A community-driven initiative is under way in Uganda's Kapchorwa District to eliminate the traditional practice of female circumcision. The initiative had its roots in a UNFPA-supported workshop, which invited community leaders and others from the district to discuss this practice.

After the workshop, the Chairman of the Elders' Association issued an unequivocal statement that the community should "do away with the practice" while preserving attendant cultural rituals, such as singing and dancing. The Association subsequently requested UNFPA to assist it in educating the community about the procedure's harmful side-effects. Work has already begun on a programme to disseminate such information.

The ICPD Programme of Action identified the lack of appropriate referral systems as a major contributor to maternal deaths. In an important post-ICPD endeavour, Uganda is developing a pioneering, cost-effective referral system aimed at improving the health system's response to pregnancy- and birth-related emergencies. Nearly 40 per cent of Ugandan women deliver with the assistance of traditional birth attendants (TBAs), and the ability to refer women to a higher level of care when complications arise is often a matter of life and death.

The new system, known as Rural Extended Services and Care for Ultimate Emergency Relief (RESCUER), addresses transportation and

communication problems that constrained referrals in the past. It includes a radio communication network to link TBAs in villages with health referral points. When emergencies arise, TBAs contact a doctor at the health referral point and receive appropriate instructions. If necessary, an "ambulance" is dispatched to transport the woman for emergency care. The vehicle is capable of negotiating rough roads and requires minimal maintenance. The RESCUER model is being implemented in one pilot district where the maternal mortality rate is especially high.

Uganda's new Population Forum is helping to build consensus on approaches to population and development issues. The Forum had its first meeting on 6 July 1995-- a few days before World Population Day. The Forum, which is to meet twice a year, drew policy makers and planners from the Government, NGOs and the private sector. Following the Forum and World Population Day, President Yoweri K. Museveni issued a ground-breaking statement on population stabilization -- the first official statement of its kind on population issues in Uganda.

The Forum is expected to be a valuable tool as Uganda forges a national Plan of Action to implement its newly adopted Population Policy. The Plan, developed with inputs from local community leaders, donors and NGOs, will take the ICPD Programme of Action as a point of departure.

-- From Francois Farah

UNFPA Country Director

Uganda



## WHO/UNFPA Colloquium on Women's Health

ICPD News, No. 2, October 1995

### WHO/UNFPA Colloquium on Women's Health

A colloquium entitled "Women and Health Security" was one of a series of "Special Events" held in conjunction with the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing. Jointly sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNFPA, the Colloquium sought to define health security and its major components and to identify the determinants and consequences of women's lack of health security. Panelists addressed such issues as access to quality health care, the challenges of a reproductive health approach, violence against women, poverty and health, and enabling environments to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and STDs. Speakers included Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the FWCW; H.R.H. Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan; Ms. Amparo Claro, Chile; Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, Indonesia; and Ms. Cindy Robins, Canada.

In her keynote address to the Colloquium, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton of the United States of America emphasized the importance of investing in women's health and the close relationship between the health of women and girls and progress on other economic and social issues. She noted that "Cairo was particularly significant as governmental and non-governmental participants worked together to craft a Program for Action which, among other things,

calls for universal access to good quality reproductive health care services, including safe, effective, voluntary family planning; greater access to education and health care; more responsibility on the part of men in sexual and reproductive health and childbearing; and reduction of wasteful resource consumption."

Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, First Lady of Ghana and a member of the Global Commission on Women's Health, in closing the Colloquium, stressed the importance of women's health security as essential to the achievement of equality, development and peace.

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