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YOUTH SPEAK OUT ON PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR

Young people around the globe say they need accurate information about sex, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs); they want access to family planning information and services; and they want to marry and have children later in life. They also want their parents' help in all these matters, but they do not want to be pressured or controlled by them.

Those are some of the views of youth and adolescents that emerged during a recent international essay contest sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the theme "Promoting Responsible Reproductive Behaviour: The Youth Perspective." The contest was held in support of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations (UN), which took place in Vienna, Austria, 25-29 November 1996. The Forum aims at promoting collaboration between UN organizations and agencies and youth non-governmental organizations (NGOs), several of which helped organize the essay contest.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) highlights the critical need to address adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, which have largely been ignored by existing reproductive health services: "[I]n particular, information and services should be made available to adolescents to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and subsequent risk of infertility. This should be combined with the education of young men to respect women's self-determination and to share responsibility with women in matters of sexuality and reproduction" (paragraph 7.41).

UNFPA is increasing its attention to addressing the reproductive health needs of youth and adolescents through its programming and information activities. Since the ICPD, increased resources have been devoted to this key area. As Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA, noted in a recent interview, "[Adolescent reproductive health] is an area where we will have to work in a very culturally sensitive manner; presenting the problems to the

Government and to policy-makers; giving them the information on what works and what doesn't work. . . ."

UNFPA's role in promoting adolescent reproductive health was singled out for mention in the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1995.

Recognizing that youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives, UNFPA organized the international essay contest to get a clear indication of their concerns. "We want to listen to young people," said O.J. Sikes, Chief of UNFPA's Education, Communication and Youth Branch. "We need to know their dreams, fears and concerns. To be effective, policies and programmes that seek to meet their needs must be based on a proper understanding of their attitudes and behaviour."

Young people from 107 countries participated in the essay contest. Thousands of entries were received at the national level; 520 of the top national essays were entered officially in the international contest. The 15 winners attended the World Youth Forum in Vienna, with UNFPA bearing the travel costs.

The essays expressed a number of common concerns, including:

- * The need for timely, specific sex education and accurate information, particularly because of the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS and other STDs;

* The important role of parents and families in providing accurate sex education and information and enabling young people to understand their responsibilities;

* The need for family planning services for sexually active youth so that they can exercise responsibility;

* The need for an enabling sociocultural environment that supports youth who choose to abstain from sexual relations;

* The need for gender equality and equity, particularly in education and employment; and

* The need for greater male involvement in family affairs, including family planning.

Other recurring points made by the young essayists include the following:

* Although parents are the preferred source of information on sexuality, they are not often equipped to help their children; programmes should be designed to help parents educate their children, as a complement to school programmes;

* Community support, including that of religious leaders, is needed for education programmes on reproductive health for both in-school and out-of-school youth and adolescents;

* Ignorance is a root cause of irresponsible and risky behaviour, and alcohol often plays a role in early sexual

experimentation, first intercourse and unplanned pregnancies;

* Accurate information about reproductive health and sexual education is more difficult to obtain for young people who are not in school; and

* Early marriage and early child-bearing severely limit young people's options for life.

In addition, many essayists from Africa opposed harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation.

UNFPA will shortly publish a book containing the full texts of the prize-winning entries as well as selected excerpts from other entries. This will serve both as a source of youth views on reproductive health issues and as an advocacy tool to promote reproductive health information and services for youth and adolescents.

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NEW DIRECTIONS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

By Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director

United Nations Population Fund

In the two and a half years since the International Conference on Population and Development, countries have been addressing population issues in a wide variety of ways. Several countries reoriented their policies and family planning programmes to adopt the broader reproductive health approach advocated by the ICPD.

Others drafted -- and some have already adopted -- population policies for the first time, using the ICPD Programme of Action as a guide. Several countries have established institutions to safeguard women's rights, and several are emphasizing the importance of increasing the role and responsibility of men in family planning and family life. In addition, attention is being focused increasingly on adolescents' needs for information and services in reproductive health. Improving the quality of services has been a widespread concern in many regions.

The common thread in these activities -- an emphasis that can be traced largely to the ICPD Programme of Action -- is an emphasis on responding to people's needs. These needs differ from country to country and so, too, do the responses from Governments and civil society.

In sub-Saharan Africa, countries are moving ahead with programmes. Many African countries that never had a population policy -- including Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe -- have now adopted or are developing one. Uganda has undertaken programmes in adolescent reproductive health, women's empowerment and reproductive rights, and the prevention of harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation. In the United Republic of Tanzania, parliamentarians have been active in translating the Cairo recommendations into reality. A Tanzanian NGO, Elimu ya Malezi ya Ujana -- Responsible Parenthood Education for Youth -- initiated a youth guidance and counselling project.

In the Arab States and Europe, countries are examining the

implications of the Programme of Action for their own services and programmes. For example, the Syrian Arab Republic is increasing its focus on such concerns as the reproductive health rights of women and the roles of youth and men in population and in support for women in their realization of reproductive health rights. In countries with economies in transition, steps are being taken to assess the status of reproductive health services and to identify the training needs of service providers and the information, education and communication activities to support reproductive health. Ten Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) met in Kazakhstan to discuss implementation of the Programme of Action.

In Asia, several countries have made remarkable progress. In Bangladesh, where the size of family is down to 3.1, the focus is on integrating the family planning programme into a broader reproductive health programme. India responded positively to the call to eliminate targets and quotas and has reoriented its reproductive health and family planning programme to emphasize the quality of services. Indonesia is integrating family planning into a broader reproductive health concept. In the Philippines, the Department of Health is setting up a Task Force on Women's Reproductive Health to carry out programmes within the context of the Philippine Family Planning Programme. The Government of Viet Nam has organized several workshops to address the ICPD follow-up.

In Latin America, the emphasis has been, inter alia, on institutional development, as well as an extension of quality services. Brazil established the National Commission of Population and Development. In El Salvador and Mexico, new

departments for reproductive health were established in their respective health ministries. In Panama, the Ministry of Health created a National Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health. Other institutions established to safeguard women's rights are the Directorate for Gender Equity in Colombia, a Ministry for Women's Affairs and Women's Rights in Haiti and the Women's Rights Commission in Peru.

In many of these countries, new and more far-reaching relationships are being forged between Governments and NGOs, including women's organizations. In South Africa, the Planned Parenthood Association has launched a project responding to the urgent needs of young people vulnerable to sexual health risks. In the Philippines, women's groups are being actively supported for their advocacy and monitoring role and their service programmes, which include counselling and care for abortion complications. These new relationships between Governments and NGOs, too, stem in part from the emphasis on cooperation with NGOs and civil society expressed in the ICPD Programme of Action.

Despite the progress made in many of these and other countries, many problems persist. Moreover, the sensitivity of certain topics sometimes creates a barrier to progress. For example, youth are concerned about problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). In many countries, however, they are denied information. The subject of what kinds of information and services should be provided to adolescents is very controversial -- not just in developing countries but within developed countries as well. Meanwhile, however, an increasing

number of young girls are becoming pregnant in their teens. Some, before the age of 20, have had two or more children, which compromises their health and hinders the attainment of their potential. Above all, we must give a voice to young people themselves and let them be heard.

To reach the goals set by the ICPD, both countries themselves and the international community need to commit more resources. Many developing countries have already increased the share of their own resources for population. It is essential that the international community honour its commitments. The 20/20 Initiative would facilitate these processes. This Initiative calls on countries to allocate 20 per cent of their domestic resources to the social sector, and it calls on donors to channel 20 per cent of official development assistance to the social sector. The private and non-governmental sectors also have an important role to play in mobilizing resources for social development at the country level.

The entire United Nations system will continue to play a key role in assisting countries in implementing goals of the ICPD and other United Nations conferences which emphasized the importance of eradicating poverty and providing basic social services for all, including safety nets for vulnerable population groups. Eradicating poverty, which will require sustained economic growth within the context of sustainable development, will contribute to achieving early population stabilization and to the ultimate goal of raising the quality of life for all people.

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The concerns of youth were the focus of the recent African Youth Forum on Adolescent Reproductive Health, held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-24 January 1997. Organized by UNFPA and an international non-governmental organization (NGO), the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), the African Youth Forum was attended by approximately 500 participants from 48 countries, representing youth and youth-serving NGOs, research and other institutions, and donors. Approximately 200 of the participants were young people under the age of 25.

The Forum drew up a comprehensive set of recommendations that are also relevant to other regions of the world and have wide applicability as guidance for programme design and implementation. The recommendations deal with: information, education and communication activities; reproductive health services; policy and legislation; religion and culture; gender and empowerment; parents and communities; training and research; networking and coalition; implementation of international resolutions and declarations; and funding and sustainability.

In her closing statement to the Forum, Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director, emphasized that UNFPA stood ready to implement and present to decision makers the recommendations adopted at the meeting. She underscored to the participants that "together, we can become effective advocates for change that will, at last, ensure the reproductive and sexual health of all adolescents everywhere in the world."

NEWS BRIEFS

Expert Group Meets on the Global Programme of Training

UNFPA convened an Expert Group Meeting on the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development in New York on 3-5 February 1997. The objective was to establish a framework that would facilitate the translation of ICPD priorities and recommendations into the global training initiative. Fifteen experts from the field, including directors and coordinators of the Global Training Programme, and 20 UNFPA staff members attended the meeting.

Established in 1986, the Global Training Programme is part of a comprehensive effort to assist developing countries in integrating population into development strategies, policies and programmes. It is being undertaken in conjunction with host-country Governments and participating institutions. Training courses of the Global Training Programme have been established in association with the Cairo Demographic Centre, Cairo, Egypt; the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, India; the Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (INSEA), Rabat, Morocco; the Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile; and the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana. The Training Programme at INSEA in Rabat was originally at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, and the Training Programme in Botswana was originally at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Expert Group Meeting's recommendations addressed curriculum development, operations and management. In line with the ICPD priorities, the Expert Group urged that the curriculum give special attention to the interlinkages between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, with emphasis on poverty eradication, gender equality and the situation of vulnerable and underserved groups; reproductive health; adolescents' concerns; population mobility; and environmental degradation. The Expert Group also discussed expanding the range of potential participants and modalities for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Global Training Programme. The Group recommended greater collaboration with UNFPA-funded training programmes at global, regional, subregional and national levels and with UNFPA Country Support Teams.

Centres of Excellence for South-South Cooperation

On 1-4 April 1997, representatives from the Centres of Excellence for South-South cooperation (located in Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Tunisia) met at UNFPA headquarters in New York to discuss and share experiences of their reproductive health training programmes, designed within the framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). They also discussed the institutional sustainability of the Centres, which are currently supported by UNFPA for 1996-1999.

The training programmes offered by the Centres are designed for policy makers, programme managers and service providers. The training modalities are short-term and emphasize practical application. Examples include courses and study tours on the

topics of adolescents and mass media in Mexico, community participation and programme management in Indonesia, population and development policies in Thailand and gender perspectives and programme management in Tunisia.

At the April meeting, it was agreed that the Centres will use selected common materials on reproductive health that reflect the ICPD approach, improve the participant selection process and employ a common evaluation strategy.

Agenda 21 to Be Reviewed

Preparations are now under way for the Special Session of the General Assembly in June 1997 to assess progress on Agenda 21, the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group met in New York on 24 February-7 March 1997 to assist the CSD in these preparations. The CSD met 7-25 April to review proposals in the Working Group's draft report, entitled Proposed Outcome of the Special Session. The document, which reflects population and gender considerations, assesses achievements since the Rio Conference, reviews implementation and takes account of international institutional arrangements. Population is included among the areas requiring urgent attention along with such issues as poverty eradication, consumption and production patterns, trade and the environment, health and sustainable human settlements. The report will be submitted to the General Assembly for further debate.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, has welcomed the initiative of the International Fellowship on Population and Development of Rotary International (a non-governmental organization) to hold a meeting at UNFPA headquarters in New York, on 9-10 May 1997. The meeting aims at promoting closer collaboration, at different levels, between the International Fellowship and UNFPA. About fifty Rotarians from different parts of the world plan to attend the meeting. The programme will include presentations by senior UNFPA staff on various aspects of UNFPA's work including the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It is expected that the meeting will produce a set of recommendations on how best the Rotarians could increase their attention to population and development. In keeping with the ICPD Programme of Action, the meeting with the Rotarians is yet another example of UNFPA's continuing efforts to increase and enhance partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Nicaragua Approves National Population Policy

In June 1996, after 18 months of intensive work following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Nicaragua's Social Council of Ministers approved the National Population Policy. The Policy aims at promoting the social and institutional conditions that will facilitate responsible parenthood so that couples can decide on the number and spacing of their children. It also aims at increasing access to information related to reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP) and to quality RH/FP services as basic rights of all couples. The

Policy was formulated as part of the nation's efforts to reduce poverty and increase access to education and basic health services by the very poor, especially by women.

To facilitate the implementation of the National Population Policy, a National Plan of Action is now being formulated with the wide participation of governmental institutions and civil society.

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ACC TASK FORCE ON BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ALL

The ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (BSSA) held its third meeting at UNFPA headquarters on 11 March 1997. A total of 31 participants from 16 organizations and agencies attended the meeting, chaired by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA. The BSSA Task Force is one of three Task Forces established, in October 1995, by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to galvanize the United Nations (UN) system around priority goals emerging from recent UN global conferences and to strengthen the system's follow-up mechanisms for delivering, at country and regional levels, coordinated assistance aimed at meeting the overall goal of the eradication of poverty.

The other two task forces are on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, chaired by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development, chaired by the World Bank. The BSSA Task Force maintains close linkages with these task forces, the Inter-Agency

Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and other UN initiatives.

End-products

Steady progress has been made towards completion of the Task Force's end-products. The Wall Chart on Basic Social Services for All (see Box) was published recently and is being widely disseminated to, inter alia, UN Resident Coordinators, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties. The wall chart will also be made available electronically, via the Internet. Eight of the indicators on the BSSA wall chart are the same as those in the Minimum National Social Data Set (MNSDS) of fifteen indicators, as endorsed by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations at its twenty-ninth session in February 1997.

Other end-products of the BSSA Task Force which are nearing completion are: (1) Guidelines for the UN Resident Coordinator system on primary health care; reproductive health; basic education; national capacity-building in tracking child and maternal mortality; and guidance notes on international migration and development; (2) a report on lessons learned/best practices in donor collaboration in assistance to the social sector; (3) an information card on advocacy for basic social services; and (4) a compendium of international commitments relevant to poverty and social integration.

Technical Symposium on International Migration

Under the auspices of the BSSA Working Group on International

Migration, a technical symposium on international migration is planned for May 1998. The aims of the symposium are to: examine salient international migration policy issues faced by Governments such as protecting migrants and preventing their economic and social marginalization, taking into account gender concerns; provide fresh insights through in-depth country-level analyses on a comparative basis using new information, defining measurable indicators and, where necessary, developing methodologies; study existing policies, procedures, measures and mechanisms in the light of their stated or implied goals and advance ideas on how to increase their effectiveness; and foster orderly migration flows and suggest ways to counteract the economic and social marginalization of migrants.

Follow-up

At the meeting on 11 March, Dr. Sadik emphasized the importance of ensuring that the guidelines are short, clear, and user-friendly so that they may be easily and readily used by the Resident Coordinators and field staff in their day-to-day work. Underscoring the importance of training in the use of the guidelines, the Task Force agreed that the Turin Training Centre in Italy would be asked to design and test modules on the guidelines; also, one day of training focusing on the guidelines would be added to already scheduled/planned training sessions organized by the Task Force member-organizations. The guidelines would also be used as an input in the Common Country Assessment process. Moreover, the UN Regional Commissions have key role to play in promoting the use of the BSSA Task Force end-products; at the same time, these products can serve as valuable inputs to the work of the Regional Commissions.

Dr. Sadik underscored the importance of having a country-level focus in implementing the work of the Task Force. Special attention should be focused on developing partnerships with NGOs, the private sector and civil society, in assisting countries in achieving the goals agreed to at the recent UN global conferences. To ensure feedback from the field, some months after the issuance of the guidelines, a questionnaire should be sent out to the UN Resident Coordinators concerning the usage and usefulness of the guidelines.

The BSSA Task Force agreed that special attention should be given to establishing a "gender perspective" throughout the UN system and in all operational activities. It is essential that the UN system be a leader on this key issue. From the very outset, the gender perspective has informed the work programme of the BSSA Task Force and is one of the cross-cutting dimensions treated in the guidelines and other end-products.

The Chair noted that mobilizing resources is a critical theme in the work of the BSSA Task Force. Linkages should be made with the 20/20 Initiative so as to allow the UN Resident Coordinators to help countries to mobilize additional resources for basic social services. At the same time, donors should be informed of what the consequences would be if sufficient resources are not mobilized.

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The Wall Chart on Basic Social Services for All was recently published and is being widely distributed. Prepared under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (BSSA), chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the chart shows, for 184 countries and areas, quantitative indicators directly related to social goals adopted at recent United Nations global conferences, including the ICPD. The United Nations Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis was the lead organization in preparing the chart, with inputs from other member organizations of the BSSA Task Force, including financial support from UNFPA. Shortly, the wall chart will be made available electronically, via the Internet.

The chart's 12 indicators are total population size; the percentages of population with access to health services, to safe water and to sanitation; contraceptive prevalence rates; maternal mortality ratio; infant and under-five mortality rates; life expectancy at birth, by sex; gross enrolment ratios for primary and secondary schools combined, by sex; adult illiteracy rates, by sex; and floor area per person (this measures the adequacy of living space in dwellings). The wall chart also presents maps for several indicators and summarizes the goals for selected indicators of basic social services, agreed upon at the recent United Nations global conferences.

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The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights.

International cooperation and universal solidarity, guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in a spirit of partnership, are crucial in order to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world.

In addressing the mandate of the International Conference on Population and Development and its overall theme, the interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and in their deliberations, the participants were and will continue to be guided by the following set of principles:

PRINCIPLE 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

PRINCIPLE 2

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. People are the most important and valuable resource of any nation. Countries should ensure that all individuals are given the opportunity to make the most of their potential. They have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation.

PRINCIPLE 3

The right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, and the human person is the central subject of development. While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet the population, development and environment needs of present and future generations.

PRINCIPLE 4

Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes. The human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human

rights. The full and equal participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, are priority objectives of the international community.

PRINCIPLE 5

Population-related goals and policies are integral parts of cultural, economic and social development, the principal aim of which is to improve the quality of life of all people.

PRINCIPLE 6

Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized, properly managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance. To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies, in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

PRINCIPLE 7

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for

sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world. The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed, shall be given special priority. Countries with economies in transition, as well as all other countries, need to be fully integrated into the world economy.

PRINCIPLE 8

Everyone has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States should take all appropriate measures to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, universal access to health-care services, including those related to reproductive health care, which includes family planning and sexual health. Reproductive health-care programmes should provide the widest range of services without any form of coercion. All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

PRINCIPLE 9

The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. Indifferent cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners.

PRINCIPLE 10

Everyone has the right to education, which shall be directed to the full development of human resources, and human dignity and potential, with particular attention to women and the girl child. Education should be designed to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those relating to population and development. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with the parents.

PRINCIPLE 11

All States and families should give the highest possible priority to children. The child has the right to standards of living adequate for its well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health, and the right to education. The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents, families and society and to be protected by appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sale, trafficking, sexual abuse, and trafficking in its organs.

PRINCIPLE 12

Countries receiving documented migrants should provide proper treatment and adequate social welfare services for them and

their families, and should ensure their physical safety and security, bearing in mind the special circumstances and needs of countries, in particular developing countries, attempting to meet these objectives or requirements with regard to undocumented migrants, in conformity with the provisions of relevant conventions and international instruments and documents. Countries should guarantee to all migrants all basic human rights as included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

PRINCIPLE 13

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. States have responsibilities with respect to refugees as set forth in the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

PRINCIPLE 14

In considering the population and development needs of indigenous people, States should recognize and support their identity, culture and interests, and enable them to participate fully in the economic, political and social life of the country, particularly where their health, education and well-being are affected.

PRINCIPLE 15

Sustained economic growth, in the context of sustainable development, and social progress require that growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all people. All countries should recognize their common but differentiated responsibilities.

The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development, and should continue to improve their efforts to promote sustained economic growth and to narrow imbalances in a manner that can benefit all countries, particularly the developing countries.

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COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS ICPD FOLLOW-UP

The 1997 theme for the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), which met on 24-28 February 1997 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, was "International Migration, with special emphasis on the linkages between migration and development, and on gender issues and the family." At this, its 30th session, the CPD considered, inter alia, five reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The Report of the Secretary General on world population monitoring, 1997: international migration and development summarizes recent information on selected aspects of international migration. It covers such topics as the international migration agenda from the World Population Conference in Bucharest (1974) to the ICPD in Cairo (1994) and beyond; migration dynamics; international migration policies; documented and undocumented migrants; refugees and asylum-seekers; labour migration; gender issues; and relationships between migration and development. The report observes that the numerous and complex linkages between international migration and development -- in the size, type and direction of migration

movements and in national policies -- are a function of political, economic and social contexts. The report notes that discussions of migration are generally characterized by: a lack of migration data, the absence of a comprehensive theory to explain international migration and a limited understanding of the intricate interrelationships between migration and development.

The Report of the Secretary General on the monitoring of population programmes reviews progress with respect to policies, programmes and other activities in international migration that Governments undertook at the national level following the ICPD. It focuses on efforts to promote cooperation and dialogue between sending and receiving countries and on policies and programmes to facilitate family reunification, promote social and economic integration, facilitate short-term and project-related labour migration, assist refugees, protect migrants against discrimination, prevent international trafficking in migrants and monitor migratory flows. The report also underscores concerns raised by Governments in matters pertaining to policy formulation and programme implementation in international migration.

The Report of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All presents an overview of the activities of the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (BSSA), highlighting the efforts of the Task Force's Working Group on International Migration in considering dimensions of international migration and development. In line with the ICPD Programme of Action, the report stresses the need for United Nations (UN) bodies to collaborate on assisting countries in addressing the causes of migration, increasing partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

and civil society, advancing the human rights of migrants, enhancing resource mobilization and strengthening international cooperation in this field. Based on information received from BSSA Task Force members, the report identifies elements that have contributed to successful cooperation and collaboration among UN bodies. It also notes some of the difficulties encountered. The report concludes that the UN system is uniquely positioned to facilitate cooperation in international migration and development through regular dialogue and communication; the sharing of relevant information and data; joint programmes; advocacy; and the promotion of increased understanding among sending and receiving countries.

The Report of the Secretary General on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the area of international migration summarizes information gathered through correspondence and questionnaires sent to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to assess their progress towards achieving the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action. The report includes a summary of activities undertaken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in collaboration with NGOs, in the search for solutions to problems of refugees.

The Report of the Secretary General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action notes the evidence of an increasing flow of resources in the form of external assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action in 1994 and again in 1995. The report

describes domestic resource flows in developing countries based on provisional data and indicates how information on both international and domestic flows will be systematized in the future through a cooperative agreement between UNFPA and an international non-governmental research institution. The report concludes that, although the trend of increased resource flows documented for the 1994-1995 period is encouraging, successful implementation of the Programme of Action is still dependent on higher levels of resource mobilization and greater efficiency in resource utilization. It also emphasizes that additional resources are urgently required to identify and respond to unmet needs in the field of population and development. Sub-Saharan Africa, parts of Asia and least developed countries everywhere will need a much larger share of resources from the international community. In addition, all countries should redouble efforts to increase their own resources for population and reproductive health.

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TAKING STOCK:UNFPA PUBLICATIONS ON KEY ICPD THEMES

The more than two years since the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) have been full ones, both for UNFPA and for the countries it serves. In line with the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action, UNFPA reorganized its programming efforts to make reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, population and development strategies and advocacy the focus of its activities. This article highlights some of the UNFPA publications dealing with key themes addressed in the ICPD Programme of Action:

United Nations agencies and organizations have joined in an effort to follow up the ICPD and other global conferences of the past decade and to translate their various recommendations into reality. A forthcoming UNFPA publication entitled Gender, Population and Development Themes in United Nations Conferences, 1985-1995, reviews eight international conferences dealing with human rights and social concerns.

UNFPA's annual publication, "The State of World Population", in 1995 dealt with "Decisions for Development: Women, Empowerment and Reproductive Health", which examines the scope of reproductive health and family planning and the needs in various countries. The 1996 issue was entitled Changing Places: Population, Development and the Urban Future and was published in the same year as the Habitat II conference. It examines conditions of life in urban areas and strategies for improving cities. The 1997 issue, to be released in May, is entitled Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health.

Three months after the ICPD, in December 1994, UNFPA held a consultation to review the concepts and principles underlying the operationalizing of reproductive health programmes. The report of this meeting, Expert Consultation on Reproductive Health and Family Planning: Directions for UNFPA Assistance, reflects the new thinking about what reproductive health includes and about priorities in reproductive health programmes. The meeting was a major input for the post-Cairo development of UNFPA guidelines in the field of reproductive health.

The ICPD Programme of Action emphasized the importance of male responsibility in family planning. In 1996, UNFPA published *Male Involvement in Reproductive Health, Including Family Planning and Sexual Health* as part of its Technical Report series. The report examines a range of programmes and services for men and reviews the special information, education and communication approaches used to reach men concerning their reproductive health concerns. Examples are provided of efforts in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, the Territory of Hong Kong, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A special publication, *Report of the Technical Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation*, summarizes the discussions at a UNFPA-sponsored meeting in Addis Ababa in March 1996. There were 58 participants, representing 25 countries. Working groups at the meeting examined the types of training, research and services that would help eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation, the population and development strategies that could be employed and the advocacy and educational efforts that would be required. Presentations were made by participants from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, the Sudan and Uganda.

Maternal mortality is one of the overriding concerns in the Programme of Action. The UNFPA Office of Oversight and Evaluation undertook a technical evaluation of programmes for training traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in Bolivia, Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malawi, Nepal, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda. Recently published, this report, *Support to Traditional Birth Attendants*, identifies the strengths and any needed improvements in these seven national TBA training programmes.

UNFPA's Technical Reports series includes the publication Framework of Selected Indicators for Evaluating the Impact of Population Education Programmes, which presents a series of indicators and questionnaires to help programme managers and others assess student knowledge and attitudes towards population dynamics, reproductive health and family planning, family life, gender issues and other issues in the curricula of formal population education programmes.

The ICPD Programme of Action stresses the need for improved data collection and research. The Technical Report series includes two publications (in press) dealing with the potential and scope for using rapid assessment procedures in reproductive health and family planning programmes.

A pocket version of the ICPD Programme of Action is now available. Measuring 3.75 by 6 inches, the pocket version is a convenient resource for those who refer regularly to the Programme of Action.

A forthcoming publication, Food Security, Gender and Population, written by Professor Pan A. Yotopoulos of Stanford University's Food Research Institute, analyses the complex factors involved in chronic undernutrition, which afflicts some 800 million people. It looks at sociocultural and gender biases as well as land use and economic factors as elements in food security. The report also examines several indices used as indicators of food security and develops a complementary indicator that can help planners devise an early-warning system concerning countries at risk of food

shortages.

Under the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs, in-depth studies have been carried out in Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Technical reports have been published on each of these in-depth studies. Similar reports are forthcoming on studies undertaken in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Morocco. UNFPA also published two related technical reports, Contraceptive Use and Commodity Costs in Developing Countries, 1994-2005 and The Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs: Lessons and Methodologies.

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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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This is the final issue in this series of ICPD News. Readers are referred to Dispatches for news from UNFPA, including ICPD follow-up activities. Dispatches, a monthly bulletin, is available free of charge from UNFPA offices worldwide. For further information, contact the Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, at the above address.

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