



## ICPD Bulletin (Complete)

"ICPD 94", No. 13

March 1994

Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and  
Development

Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994

### IN THIS ISSUE

1. Preparatory Committee's Final Session Set to Negotiate  
Programme of Action
2. News in Brief
3. Experts Debate Prospects For World Food Supply
4. Provisional Agenda for PrepCom III
5. Women, Population and Development: Statement by Dr. Nafis Sadik  
for International Women's Day, 1994
6. Anti-Discrimination Committee Takes Up ICPD Issues
7. News from the NGOs

9. NGO Planning Committee Organizes PrepCom Activities

10. Youth Consultation to Take Up ICPD Themes

11. Calendar of Upcoming Events

\*\*\*

For printed or electronic copies of the "ICPD 94" newsletter, in English, French or Spanish, or further information, please contact:

ICPD Secretariat 220 E. 42nd Street, 22nd floor

New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

Tel: (212) 297-5244/5245

Media contact: (212) 297-5023/5030 or 5279

Fax: (212) 297-5250

E-mail: [ryanw@unfpa.org](mailto:ryanw@unfpa.org) or [icpd@igc.apc.org](mailto:icpd@igc.apc.org)

\*\*\*

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE'S FINAL SESSION

SET TO NEGOTIATE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Groundwork for the third and final session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) is nearly complete, as Governments and non-governmental organizations continue to study and engage in informal exchanges of views on the draft Programme of Action of the Conference in preparation for PrepCom negotiations.

The agenda for PrepCom III (4-22 April) is in place, and at press time a series of three informal, intergovernmental consultations on the draft Programme had begun.

In the first of these, at UN Headquarters on 22 February, ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik provided an overview of the document; about 20 delegations then commented generally on various aspects of the draft. The second informal consultation on 10 March provided information and details on the goals and resource requirements proposed in the draft Programme.

The 24 March consultation was to focus on principles and on follow-up to the Conference, including follow-up by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

#### WORKING GROUPS TO BE FORMED

Negotiation of the Programme of Action of the Conference will be the principal focus of PrepCom III. After two or three days of plenary sessions, it is expected that two Working Groups will be formed to address specific sections of the document. They will seek to reach consensus on the wording of each and every part of the proposed Programme, leaving as little as possible to require further negotiation at the Conference.

After initial organizational matters, the PrepCom will consider the ICPD Secretary-General's list of NGOs proposed for accreditation to the Conference. As Dr. Sadik reported at the first informal consultation, the Secretariat has received some 300 applications for accreditation from NGOs, in addition to the over 400 that were represented at PrepCom II. A wide variety of NGO

activities will run concurrently with the three-week session (see page 7).

Next will be a review of Conference preparations. The Secretary-General has prepared two progress reports. One covers organizational matters, five ad hoc round tables on ICPD-related topics, subregional consultations, interagency coordination, participation of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, information activities, financial requirements, funding status, national preparatory work, and other activities. The second contains the recommendations of the five regional and five subregional population conferences held in the past 18 months.

The PrepCom will then receive a report summarizing 20 years of population programmes and activities by Governments, NGOs and the international community. This first draft of the "Fourth Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action", mandated by the 1974 World Population Conference, will not be negotiated, but Governments' comments and reactions to it at PrepCom will be taken into account in revising the report for presentation at the Conference in September.

The ICPD Secretariat has analysed the first 109 national reports that have been submitted describing countries' population situations and related policies and programmes. This analysis forms the basis of another report to the PrepCom.

In addition, the Preparatory Committee at this session will determine the provisional agenda of the Conference, and adopt a report on its activities.

The final Programme of Action will be the most important outcome of ICPD. The three informal consultations on the draft Programme were intended to facilitate preparations and otherwise help set the stage for the crucial negotiations of the draft final document at PrepCom III. (The draft was released in unofficial form in February, and officially in all UN languages in March.)

As Dr. Sadik reported at the 22 February informal consultation, numerous submissions from delegations, NGOs and other concerned parties were taken into account in preparing the draft Programme, as were the recommendations of the five regional and five subregional conferences, the six expert group meetings, the five round tables and several NGO meetings.

In her overview of the draft document, she discussed its 20-year objectives, and referred to the progress made over the past 20 years in regard to infant and child mortality, life expectancy, school enrolment, contraceptive use and poverty alleviation. She also noted, however, that infant and child mortality rates remained far too high in many countries, and that maternal mortality rates in many of them have not come down at all. Neither primary education, particularly for girls, nor access to family planning and reproductive health services are yet close to being universal.

The largest number of comments on the draft received by the Secretariat, particularly from women's groups, she said, were in regard to gender equity, the empowerment of women, and the changing roles of women and men.

Goals in regard to stabilizing population growth and fostering

sustainable development can be achieved, Dr. Sadik stated, "only if we cater to individual needs and rights". There had been a lot of input into formulation of the draft's broad definition of reproductive health, she added. The goal of universal access to family planning and related health services is defined in terms of meeting unmet needs, she observed.

#### RESOURCE ESTIMATES

Dr. Sadik also cited the estimates of national resource requirements given in the draft for four packages of population and family planning activities in the developing countries and countries in economic transition. The total annual costs for the four packages (comprising: family planning; reproductive health care; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases; and data collection, analysis and dissemination) are projected to be (in 1993 U.S. dollars) \$13.2 billion in 2000, \$14.4 billion in 2005, \$16.1 billion in 2010, and \$17.0 billion in 2015.

The envisioned international financial assistance portion of these activities, she noted, is projected to be \$4.4 billion in 2000, \$4.8 billion in 2005, \$5.3 billion in 2010, and \$5.7 billion in 2015. The document's section on international cooperation stresses partnership with NGOs and private sector.

\*\*\*

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the Family Planning and Health

Foundation of Turkey are the winners of the 1994 United Nations Population Award. Nicolaas H. Biegman, Chairman of the Award Committee and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, announced the winners at a UN Headquarters press conference on 24 February.

The award is presented annually to individuals or institutions who have made the most outstanding contributions to the awareness of population questions or their solutions. Ten UN Member States, elected for three years, serve on the Award Committee. Winners receive \$10,000 and a gold medal. The presentation will be made later this year.

According to Mr. Biegman, the Family Planning and Health Foundation of Turkey was selected for its efforts to improve family planning services in Turkey. The group was founded in 1985 by industrialists and scientists. It has worked with many governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop a wide range of activities including education campaigns, publications, training programmes and contraceptive distribution services linked to maternal and child health and nutrition.

President Mubarak was selected, Mr. Biegman said, for his national and international leadership on population issues, including his creation of Egypt's National Population Council to formulate a strategy and carry out effective programmes for fertility limitation. Under his leadership, Egypt has given increasing priority and attention to family planning and population issues in its five-year plans, has recently established a Ministry for Population and Family Affairs, and has offered to host ICPD.

\*

To increase public awareness of ICPD, and of population and related issues, Reuters News is producing four video news releases and three public service announcements for world-wide distribution prior to the Conference. Each video news release is four minutes long, and focuses on a different theme.

The first, released in late February, is on population and the environment. The others deal with: women, population and economic opportunities (due to be released in April); migration (May); and reproductive health, and maternal and child health (July). The 30-second public service announcements will focus on population and the environment, the status of women, and reproductive health.

Reuters will send all the productions, along with supplementary footage, via satellite to its subscribers (more than 1,000 in North America, including all major broadcast networks in the United States; 40 in Western Europe; 40 in Asia; and 12 in Africa). Additionally, the European Broadcast Union will send the productions via satellite to all its subscribers in Western Europe, and the World Environment News to its 250 broadcasters in five continents. UNFPA will send copies to all its field offices.

\*

The ICPD Global Media Project, a television marketing campaign to raise awareness of issues on the ICPD agenda, is organizing a series of 12-15 globally broadcast advertising spots to run from July through September. These will feature interviews with former



U.S. President Jimmy Carter and other world leaders, juxtaposed with people working at the community level around the world.

The spots will be shown several times daily on CNN International and other networks, and will be promoted by a public relations and radio campaign. Sponsors include Global 2000 of The Carter Center and Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Sustainable Technology, both based in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Cairo-based National Association for the Protection of the Environment.

\*

NGONET, a Uruguay-based computer network affiliated with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), plans to set up a computer communications centre for NGOs at PrepCom III and ICPD. It provided similar services at PrepCom II. Meanwhile, many NGOs world-wide are participating in an exchange of documentation and discussion on ICPD in an electronic forum, "icpd.general", on the APC system.

\*\*\*

#### EXPERTS DEBATE PROSPECTS FOR WORLD FOOD SUPPLY

Growth in the world's food supply will keep pace with population growth for some time to come, according to experts who met in Washington last month. Nevertheless, they warned, in some regions problems will persist in getting food to those who need it most.

>From 14 to 16 February, some 30 experts in the field of

population and food from all over the world gathered at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D.C., for the Round Table on Population and Food in the Early 21st Century: Meeting Future Food Needs of an Increasing World Population. The meeting was organized by the Rockefeller Foundation and IFPRI, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as part of the ICPD preparatory process.

The round table was convened to allow experts to discuss the current and future global food situation, as well as the regional outlooks, in light of current and projected population growth rates, new agro-technologies, and environmental factors.

In an opening address, Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director and Secretary-General of ICPD, noted that family income, family size and social status were key determinants of food self-sufficiency. "In the community, women and girls are much more likely to be poor, and in the family they are far more likely to be undernourished than men or boys," she pointed out. "There is nothing inevitable about food shortages, particularly food shortages within the same family," she stated. "They can be eliminated; and for the sake of the future they must be eliminated."

Some 20 papers were presented, on topics ranging from technological advances to the influence of global warming on food production. The main discussion centred around three global and regional food supply/demand projection studies up to the year 2010, prepared by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank and IFPRI. Despite differences in methodology

and food products covered, the studies came to similar conclusions, namely that growth in world food supply is likely to keep pace with growth in food demand. This is so because the rates of population growth will continue to slow down and grain yields will continue to grow, albeit more slowly than in recent years.

According to the experts, there is and will be enough food to feed the world's population, but all three studies acknowledge that these global projections, as the IFPRI study put it, "conceal emerging problems at regional and country level, which show that there will continue to be problems in getting food to those people who need it the most". The experts warned that there will be significant regional problems in food supply in the near future, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and to a lesser extent in South Asia.

The round table also focused on selected issues affecting future food supplies, such as the availability of land and water, the contributions of both existing and new technologies, and the impact of climate change. No major breakthroughs in biotechnology (a new "green revolution") are to be expected in the short or medium term, the experts predicted. But this need not be a problem, they added, if the use of the best existing agricultural technologies can be further expanded throughout the developing world.

Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute, however, raised serious doubts about the possibility of increasing agricultural output given the ongoing loss of agricultural land and problems affecting water supply in many parts of the world.

The experts disagreed on whether the recently concluded round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would have a significant impact on world food production. There was also disagreement over the likely effects of predicted global climate change. But all were concerned about the decreasing funding of agricultural research and the insufficiency of investments in the agricultural sector by donors and Governments.

Based on the outcomes of the round table, IFPRI will publish a set of recommendations and a statement on population and food to be presented at PrepCom III.

\*\*\*

#### PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR PREPCOM III

The provisional agenda for the ICPD Preparatory Committee's third session (4-22 April 1994) is as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Conference and its preparatory process.
3. Preparations for the Conference.
4. Review and appraisal of progress made towards implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.
5. National reports of countries on their population situation,

policies and programmes.

6. Draft final document of the Conference.
7. Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Conference.
8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

\*\*\*

#### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE TAKES UP ICPD ISSUES

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has made a number of recommendations as a contribution to ICPD preparations. At CEDAW's Thirteenth Session, from 17 January to 4 February, a working group was set up to provide follow-up to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and input to ICPD.

The working group's report, adopted by the Committee, asserted that population and development policies need to address the "vicious circle of women's illiteracy, poverty, fertility rates and discrimination in formal and informal employment."

"As women are generally the poorest of the poor," it stated, "eliminating social, cultural, economic and political discrimination against women is a prerequisite for ... achieving sound population policies."

Noting the increase in female-headed households, the report called for special measures to address their particular needs. It

emphasized that a main objective of ICPD is to eliminate discrimination against girls, eliminate the causes of son-preference, strengthen girls' self-esteem and improve their status, "especially with regard to health, nutrition and education".

The report recommended that "in the formulation of sustainable development policies, ... the needs and tasks of women, especially in terms of their impact on natural resources, should be recognized and that women should participate in governmental and non-governmental decision-making processes on these issues."

CEDAW is a 23-member expert committee that reports annually on countries' progress in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Convention, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, is a statement of women's human rights and how to achieve them, as well as a framework for women's participation in the development process.

\*\*\*

#### WOMEN, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) issued the following statement on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March 1994:

UNFPA has always accorded great importance to the observance

of International Women's Day. This year, the occasion has special significance for the Fund because of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which will be held in Cairo on 5-13 September 1994. The international community will strive to agree on a firm plan of action on population for the next 20 years in accordance with universally recognized principles of human rights and national sovereignty. The empowerment of women is a key conference goal.

Women's reproductive health and rights will be a central concern at the conference since without reproductive freedom, women cannot exercise fully their other rights, such as those in education and employment. Fulfilling women's right to health and enabling them to exercise their reproductive rights requires quality health services, which include a wide range of safe and effective methods of family planning, along with relevant information, education and counselling.

Over the past three decades, many countries have made substantial progress in expanding access to reproductive health care and lowering birth rates, as well as in lowering death rates and raising education and income levels, including the educational and economic status of women.

#### CONTRACEPTIVE USE HAS GROWN

At present, about 55 per cent of couples in developing regions use some method of family planning. This represents a nearly five-fold increase since the 1960s. However, the full range of modern family planning methods still remains unavailable to at least 350 million couples world-wide.

Survey data suggest that approximately 120 million additional women world-wide would be currently using a modern family planning method if more accurate information and affordable services were easily available, and if husbands, extended families and the community were more supportive.

One indication of the large unmet demand for more and better family planning services is the estimated 40 million abortions which occur every year, many of them unsafe. Maternal mortality and morbidity rates continue to be unacceptably high in developing countries. Unsafe abortion, responsible for a significant proportion of the approximately 500,000 maternal deaths every year, is a critical health problem requiring urgent response. Health programmes should respond to women's needs at all stages of life, combat sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and promote safe motherhood.

Family planning, of course, is not just a matter of providing contraceptives. Experience shows that family planning and population programmes work best in an environment where efforts have been made to improve the overall status of women. For example, education for women is one of the key factors in reducing fertility and infant mortality and improving family well-being. Despite progress made in the past two decades in primary education for girls, women continue to be at a serious disadvantage in higher education and in the quality of education they receive. This leads to their being handicapped in employment and poorly represented at all decision policy making levels in Governments and the private sector.



The Fourth World Conference on Women (WCW) will be held in 1995 at a time when the connection between the status of women and the success of development programmes has become clear. ICPD will provide a valuable input into the preparations for WCW by ensuring that the reproductive role, health and rights of women continue to be recognized as key elements in any strategy designed for the advancement of women. International Women's Day this year, therefore, gives us an excellent opportunity to support the goals of both conferences by reaffirming our commitment to improving the status and participation of women in all spheres of development.

\*\*\*

#### NEWS FROM THE NGOS

##### JAPAN'S NETWORK FOR WOMEN AND HEALTH, CAIRO '94

To increase the involvement of Japanese women in ICPD and its preparatory process, a group of scholars, politicians, doctors, journalists, and members of women's and environmental NGOs have formed Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94. Organizers believe it is essential that women play a central role in policy-making in regard to population issues such as fertility, ageing, women's labour, migrant workers, welfare and sexuality.

In the months before the Conference, the group plans to conduct a number of activities to promote better public understanding of reproductive health issues. Organizers hope to ensure that the Government's national report and its delegation to the Conference reflect Japanese women's perspectives.

The network has organized several symposia with panels and

guest speakers; a platform meeting is scheduled in March. The group plans to send representatives to PrepCom III.

#### U.K. NGOS TAKE PART IN WORKSHOPS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

To facilitate consultations with NGOs as part of the ICPD preparatory process, the British Government last year set up the NGO Forum ICPD Cairo 1994, under the aegis of the Overseas Development Administration. Three workshops were organized: women and population; primary health care, family planning and women's reproductive rights; and population in the context of development.

Some 46 NGOs took part in the third session, held 11 November 1993. Working groups focused on population and development interactions and relationships; structural adjustment programmes and population; development, population and environment; and women and development.

While the views expressed in these groups were diverse, two concerns were widely shared. First, discussions of population should move away from an exclusive emphasis on fertility; the focus should also encompass the causes and consequences of population growth, population and development relationships, and the causes and alleviation of poverty. Second, structural adjustment programmes should not preclude a development focus that gives priority to the alleviation of poverty and inequality, empowers the poor and guarantees the conditions through which women can exercise their reproductive rights.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE HELD IN RIO

The Reproductive Health and Justice: International Women's Health Conference for Cairo '94 was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 24-28 January. Following a number of regional and national women's meetings on population and reproductive health issues in 1993, the Conference was designed to produce specific strategy recommendations for ICPD. Some 227 women from 79 countries took part.

The conference adopted a Rio Statement, which voiced opposition to population policies that do not address women's rights to a secure livelihood and freedom from poverty and oppression, or which do not respect women's rights to free, informed choice and adequate health care. The statement declared that quality reproductive health services should be available, accessible and affordable; and abortion safe and legal. It also urged Governments to redirect military expenditures to social programmes, and recommended that the United Nations establish a commission on women's reproductive rights.

\*\*\*

## NGO PLANNING COMMITTEE ORGANIZES PREPCOM ACTIVITIES

The NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD has sent copies of the draft Programme of Action of the Conference to all NGOs on its mailing list to help them prepare for PrepCom III.

Registration for NGOs at the PrepCom will begin 4 April at 8 am, at the Church Center (777 United Nations Plaza, across the street from the UN Secretariat building). Accredited NGOs can pick

up their UN passes at the ICPD NGO registration desk which will be set up inside the Secretariat building.

An orientation session will be held at 5 pm at the Church Center. This will prepare NGO participants for discussions of the draft document and provide orientation for their visit to New York. A programme of NGO presentations planned during PrepCom will be available.

The daily schedule for NGO activities at PrepCom is as follows: 8-10 am, issue caucuses; 10 am to 1 pm, NGO presentations and workshops (at the Church Center or the UN Secretariat building); 1-2 pm, NGO panel sessions; 2-3 pm, briefing sessions (with delegates, NGO representatives, ICPD Secretariat staff and others); 3-5 pm, NGO workshops, presentations or videos at the Church Center; 5-7 pm, regional caucuses at the Church Center.

The NGO Planning Committee staff and a number of volunteers will be able to assist NGO representatives in finding places to meet for group discussions, to register participants for the NGO Forum 94 in Cairo, and to assist in other ways.

A complete meeting of the NGO Planning Committee, with over 270 organizations, will be held on 11 April. (The Committee will announce the time and place at the start of the PrepCom.)

The Committee has also begun to organize a communications strategy for the NGO Forum. It wants the input of all NGOs who will be seeking press coverage of their events or programmes. All NGO representatives will be welcome to attend a media strategy session

during PrepCom, held to help the Committee staff prepare the facilities and logistics in Cairo to allow journalists easy access to NGO representatives.

For more information: NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD, 777 UN Plaza, 8th floor, New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel. (212) 545-7344. Fax (212) 745-7581.

\*\*\*

#### YOUTH CONSULTATION TO TAKE UP ICPD THEMES

A Youth Consultation on the themes of ICPD will be held in Cairo from 31 August to 4 September 1994. Initiated by the Family Life Education Subcommittee of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the meeting is intended to provide a platform for young people to express their concerns relating to population and development.

Organizers include the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Red Cross Youth, the World Alliance of Young Women's Christian Associations, the World Assembly of Youth, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Council of Churches, the Society for International Development and the World Organization of the Scout Movement. All agree that ICPD provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the role that youth can and should play in population and development issues.

A steering committee will select 100 participants, from all

regions and representing diverse social and economic backgrounds, ensuring equal participation by young women and men.

Four categories of issues will be addressed: human rights and population (protection of young people's rights, elimination of discrimination and injustice, young people's rights and responsibilities in relation to their reproductive life, and protection of vulnerable youth); society's responsibility for human development and reproductive health (ensuring choices and responsibilities, especially for young women, sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, and substance abuse); sustainable development and population (North-South economic and social justice on resource use and consumption, redistribution of resources, environmental impact and repercussions for future generations, population growth, demography and youth migration); partnership in population (North-South solidarity, interdependence among young people and their organizations, and moving from commitment to action).

These themes will be introduced in plenary sessions, followed by working groups. A youth statement will then be drafted to present at the NGO Forum coinciding with ICPD.

It is expected that the consultation will take place in the International Scout Centre in Heliopolis/Cairo. Field visits will allow participants to see NGO achievements in relation to population and development.

\*\*\*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

24 March

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Informal intergovernmental consultations on the draft ICPD Programme of Action, focusing on follow-up and institutional issues.

28-31 March

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission.

30 March

Washington, D.C.

Population and Economic Growth: Perspectives from the Global South, a conference at The American University, sponsored by The Center for the Study of the Global South.

4-22 April

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

July

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Substantive session of the United Nations Economic and Social

Council.

3-4 September

Cairo, Egypt

Pre-Conference intergovernmental consultations.

5-13 September

Cairo, Egypt

International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

Mid-September-mid-December

United Nations Headquarters, New York

49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on  
Population and Development.

\*\*\*

For printed or electronic copies of the "ICPD 94" newsletter, in  
English, French or Spanish, or further information, please  
contact:

ICPD Secretariat 220 E. 42nd Street, 22nd floor

New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

Tel: (212) 297-5244/5245

Media contact: (212) 297-5023/5030 or 5279

Fax: (212) 297-5250



E-mail: [ryanw@unfpa.org](mailto:ryanw@unfpa.org) or [icpd@igc.apc.org](mailto:icpd@igc.apc.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

---

For further information, please contact: [popin@undp.org](mailto:popin@undp.org)  
POPIN Gopher site: <gopher://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin>  
POPIN WWW site: <http://www.undp.org/popin>