



Asia and Pacific Countries

Asia and Pacific Countries Map Out Population/Development Strategies

The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNFPA, concluded with the adoption of the "Bali Declaration", which urged countries of the region to "make a firm political and financial commitment to fully incorporate population and environmental concerns into all national efforts to achieve sustainable development."

The nine-day conference, held in Denpasar (Bali), Indonesia, from 19 to 27 August 1992, included a senior officials meeting followed by a ministerial meeting. The Conference, which reviewed the region's current population situation, will provide Governments with policy guidelines for population and sustainable development into the next century.

Indonesia's President Soeharto opened the two-day ministerial-level segment of the Conference. He said development "must always take into account its relations with population and the environment" and "cannot be carried out without taking into consideration the condition of society at present and in the future. It must be sustainable development from one generation to the next."

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, stressed the importance of family planning in helping to reduce high population growth rates in the region. Family planning had been a great success in the region,

she said, but there was still a great unmet need for services, with an estimated 240 million people in the region lacking access to family planning services.

Commenting on the Bali Declaration, ESCAP Executive Secretary Rafeuddin Ahmed said the decisions taken by the Conference had put a strong and unmistakable emphasis on poverty alleviation, the interaction between population, the environment and consumption, and the strategic linkages between population and sustainable development.

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Bolivia Expert Group

Bolivia Expert Group Meeting Set for January

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia will be the site of the final expert group meeting being convened in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. The Meeting, which will address population distribution and migration, will take place from 18-22 January 1993.

Scholars, public officials and representatives of international, inter- and non-governmental organizations will gather to analyse the causes as well as the implications of recent population movements.

One of the major themes of the Expert Group Meeting will be how to meet the challenges of an urban-based world of the future and the problems posed by rapid rates of urbanization in much of the developing world. Experts will review historical and cross-sectional perspectives of urbanization, analyse distribution patterns in each major region, examine the family dimension of migration, investigate environmental problems associated with rapid urbanization and examine the impact of population distribution policies.

Another critical demographic issue which will

be examined is the potential for large-scale international migration in many parts of the world. The implications of growing global economic interdependence, the disintegration of nation states, the integration of migrant communities, and specific migration patterns between regions will be discussed. The Group will also highlight safeguarding the right to asylum and the issue of refugee migration.

The participants will adopt a set of action-oriented recommendations which will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 Conference. The Meeting, hosted by the Government of Bolivia and the Corporacion Regional de Desarrollo de Santa Cruz (CORDECRUZ), will be held at the "Centro Internacional de Formacion para el Desarrollo" (CIFD) in Santa Cruz, a study centre under the aegis of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

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Calendar of Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 993

¥ 8 January Meeting of NGO Planning Committee for ICPD; New York

¥ 18-22 January Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and
Migration; Santa Cruz, Bolivia

¥ 2-5 February ECOSOC Organizational Session

¥ 23-26 March 1993 European Population Conference; Geneva, Switzerland;
jointly organized by ECE, Council of Europe and UNFPA

¥ 4-8 April Arab Population Conference; Amman, Jordan; jointly organized
by ESCWA, League of Arab States and UNFPA

¥ 29 April - 4 May Regional Population and Development Conference for Latin
America and the Caribbean; Mexico City, Mexico; Jointly organized by
ECLAC and UNFPA

¥ Second half of May (pending ECOSOC approval) - Second session of
Preparatory Committee for ICPD; UN Headquarters, New York

¥ 1-22 June UNDP/UNFPA Governing Council, 40th session, UN
Headquarters, New York

¥ 28 June - 30 July ECOSOC 1993 substantive session, Geneva, Switzerland

¥ 24 Aug - 1 Sept. 22nd IUSSP General Conference; Montreal, Canada

¥ 21 Sept. - mid-Dec. UN General Assembly, 48th regular session;
consideration of agenda item "International Conference on Population and
Development"

1994

¥ February/March (dates to be determined) - Third session of Preparatory
Committee for ICPD; UN Headquarters, New York

¥ Spring (dates and venues to be determined) - Meetings of UN Regional
Commissions to discuss results of regional population conferences and
reports of Conference Preparatory Committee

¥ 5-13 September International Conference on Population and Development,
1994; Cairo, Egypt



Conference Secretary General

Conference Secretary General Addresses UN General Assembly

Debate on the report of the Economic and Social Council by the General Assembly's Second Committee provided Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary General of the International Conference on Population and Development, with an opportunity to present her perspectives on the 1994 Conference. The following are excerpts from her speech of 10 November 1992:

"To set the scene for what lies ahead, it is useful to look back to the past two population conferences. Despite their titles, both of these conferences addressed the interrelationships between population and development. The Cairo Conference will go one step further -- by examining the integral linkages between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Let us take a moment or two to highlight the particular relevance of the 1994 Conference. Many of you will remember the ceremonies in 1987 which marked the arrival of the five billionth human being on this planet. We do not have much longer to wait until the six billionth arrives -- only six years from now, at present growth rates. That would mean 11 years to add a billion people, an increase of twenty per cent.

We are not faring very well in providing for these additional billion human beings, by most social and economic indicators. As we came to understand quite clearly through the UNCED process, the news is far from encouraging -- in the areas of food production, availability of freshwater, rates of

pollution, generation of wastes, and inadequacy of health services and educational opportunities for millions of women and children. Rapid population growth is straining available resources, fuelling rapid urbanization and propelling uncontrolled migration. We see that the scorecard for the vast majority of people has not improved appreciably over the past decade.

The challenge of the Rio process is also very much what we might call the challenge of Cairo, the challenge of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Rio process sought to ensure the fullest possible integration of environmental concerns into economic activities and vice versa. It succeeded for the simple reason that the realities it presented were too stark for the international community to ignore. Business as usual was simply not viable.

The Cairo Conference must achieve similar results with regard to population concerns. To put it somewhat differently, it must address the 'quality of life' as well as the 'quantity of life'. It must address the first nine months and the next 99 years. Of particular importance is the need to address women's views and concerns on population issues.

The success of the preparations for Cairo will depend heavily on active intergovernmental consultations and negotiations. We place equal importance on the widest possible involvement of parliamentarians, women's groups, non governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector.

We are particularly conscious of the importance of encouraging the participation of NGOs from developing countries in the preparatory process and we would like to encourage bilateral donors and foundations to

provide financial support to NGOs for this purpose."

The full text of Dr. Sadik's speech to the Second Committee is available from the Conference Secretariat.

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Developing Countries

Developing Countries Signal Strong Support for Cairo Conference

Clear indications of the commitment of developing countries to the objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 have been forthcoming from several recent developing nation conferences.

At their Tenth Conference, heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries noted with deep concern the importance and urgency of the population question and stressed the need to address population and development concerns in a fully integrated manner. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) leaders called for more South-South cooperation in education, awareness-creation, safe motherhood and family planning; an intensified exchange of information regarding experiences with population and family planning programmes; and the establishment of joint and cooperative schemes for the production of medical supplies required for family planning programmes.

To ensure that NAM members are fully prepared for the 1994 Conference and its preparatory process, a ministerial meeting will be convened to formulate guidelines for preparations by member countries. No date has yet been set for the meeting.

Meeting in New York on 1 October, Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 welcomed the convening of the 1994 Conference in Cairo and underlined the importance of the relationship between population and development and the

need for all countries to strengthen awareness of population issues.

The need to address population issues has also been of concern to the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (Group of Fifteen).

The Group called upon the 1994 Conference to "provide the opportunity to work out and adopt policies and programmes aimed at achieving global demographic objectives."

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Europe & North America

European and North American Nations to Convene Population Conference

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Council of Europe and UNFPA will join forces from 23 to 26 March 1993 in Geneva, Switzerland to convene the 1993 European Population Conference. This intergovernmental conference, which will examine the most significant demographic issues facing the ECE region, which includes both Europe and North America, is part of the important preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

The Conference will include delegates from Member States of ECE and the Council of Europe. Other Member States of the United Nations, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the European Community, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as a small number of individual experts, will also be invited.

Objectives of the Conference are: (1) to review, examine and analyse key population-related issues in countries of the region; (2) to evaluate the implementation of population-related policies in those countries; and (3) to prepare a set of recommendations addressing key issues and policies in the ECE region. The recommendations will be submitted as the ECE contribution to the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

The agenda comprises international migration, fertility and the family, health and mortality, population growth and age structure, and international cooperation in the field of population.

The final session of the Conference will be devoted to the adoption of a formal report of the proceedings and conclusions and recommendations for the 1994 International Conference.

An ad hoc intergovernmental preparatory meeting was convened from 3 to 4 November 1992 in Strasbourg, France, to prepare for the regional conference.

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India Hosts Expert Group Meeting

INDIA HOSTS EXPERT GROUP MEETING

The Government of India recently hosted the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being in Bangalore from 26 to 29 October 1992. The meeting, an integral part of preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, focused on operational issues in family planning and health, such as how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of family planning programmes, how to reach larger segments of the population, how to devise innovative approaches to new or existing problems and how to obtain the funding to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for family planning services.

In opening the Expert Group Meeting, India's Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Mrs. D.K. Thara Devi Siddhartha, called for shifting the emphasis in family planning programmes from the "quantitative" to the "qualitative" and stressed the need for an integrated approach to family planning services.

Dr. Nafis Sadik Secretary-General of the 1994 Conference and Executive Director of UNFPA, highlighted the vast unmet demand for family planning -- the 300 million couples in developing countries who still lack access to modern family planning services -- and recalled the goals agreed upon at the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century held in Amsterdam in November 1989, which would raise contraceptive prevalence in developing countries from 51 per cent to 59 per cent by the year 2000. She also emphasized the need for increased involvement of local communities in family planning services.

Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference and Director of the UN Population Division, in addressing the opening session, stressed that the freedom of individuals to make their own reproductive choices should be the cornerstone of all policies and programmes in family planning.

The more than 60 participants included experts, representatives of United Nations regional commissions, specialized agencies and organizations, and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Peter Sumbung (Indonesia) was elected chairman. Mr. Japhet Mati (Kenya), Mr. J.P. Gupta (India) and Ms. Elizabeth Maguire (United States) served as vice-chairmen. The Recommendations Committee was chaired by Ms. Maguire. Mr. John Cleland (United Kingdom) served as the Meeting's rapporteur.

Participants argued for a more integrated approach to family planning policies and programmes. Family planning, they stressed, should be a major component of development strategy, and should not be seen as simply a matter of limiting births. The Group voiced its support for incorporating reproductive health and STD/AIDS prevention activities into maternal and child health/family planning programmes.

The Group noted that while political commitment was very important, many well organized family planning programmes had been successful even in the absence of political support. However, the increasing demand for family planning services could not be met without substantial increases in resources from both donor and recipient countries.

In discussing national family planning goals and targets, the Group noted

that goals and targets should not be converted into service provider quotas. The best way of meeting national goals, the Group agreed, was to respond to the unmet needs of individuals and couples through the provision of high quality services.

Participants recommended that Governments and international organizations give more support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs were encouraged to coordinate their activities and emphasize their areas of comparative advantage.

The Meeting adopted 35 recommendations which will be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee of the 1994 Conference.

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NGOs Gain Momentum

NGO'S GAIN MOMENTUM

Interest on the part of non-governmental organizations in the 1994 Conference is growing rapidly. More than eighty NGOs are now members of the NGO Planning Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

The Planning Committee recently facilitated NGO participation in the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference held in Bali, Indonesia in August 1992. As a result of NGO presence at the Conference, increased attention was given to the essential contributions made by NGOs. The Bali Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Conference recognizes the important role of NGOs in supporting national population programmes.

The NGO Planning Committee is organizing an information dissemination network for its members and other NGOs interested in participating in the ICPD preparatory process. The next Planning Committee Meeting is set for 8 January 1993 in New York.

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National Preparations Under Way

National Preparations Under Way

To assist in national, regional and international preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, a number of Governments have already established National Committees or are in the process of doing so. Active participation of all Governments in national-level preparations and awareness-creation, in the regional population conferences, and in the up-coming two sessions of the Conference Preparatory Committee are crucial for the success of the 1994 Conference.

The primary function of each National Committee will be to serve as a national focal point for the 1994 Conference, to facilitate national activities, and to coordinate the preparation of the country's National Report on Population. The Reports will address the population and development situation unique to each country and report on the country's population policies, programmes, services, experiences and concerns in population and development. Information will be culled from the Reports and a comprehensive analysis of the material presented to the 1994 Conference.

ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik has requested Governments to include broad representation on their Committees, including representatives of various Government ministries, departments and units, non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, indigenous groups, and academic and research institutions. Equally important is the need for gender balance on the National Committees.

To date, the ICPD Secretariat has been notified that National Committees and Working Groups have been established in Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, .Sweden United States. Yemen and Zimbabwe.

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Q&A's about NGO Planning Committee

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE NGO PLANNING, COMMITTEE

Which NGOS ARE Eligible for Planning Committee membership?

All international and national NGOs with an interest and competence in the areas of population and development are eligible for Planning Committee membership. Developing country NGOs are particularly welcomed.

HOW CAN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS LOCATED FAR FROM UNITED NATIONS CENTRES IN NEW YORK, GENEVA AND VIENNA PARTICIPATE IN THE ICPD PLANNING PROCESS?

In the age of computers, faxes, telephones, and electronic mail, the Planning Committee hopes to create a comprehensive information network. The Committee will receive input on the planning and decision-making processes from all interested NGOs and provide timely information on ICPD developments.

HOW CAN NGO'S BECOME INVOLVED IN THE REMAINDER OF THE REGIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCES?

Write to the Chief Population Officer of the relevant United Nations Economic Commission for information on registration procedures and NGO arrangements.

WHAT ELSE DOES PLANNING COMMITTEE HAVE IN MIND FOR NGOS?

The Committee will focus major attention on the two upcoming meetings of the Conference Preparatory Committee. The Committee is exploring possibilities for a Global NGO Population Consultation to be held in preparation for ICPD.

WHAT IS THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ARRANGING;N~ FOR THE CONFERENCE ITSELF IN SEPTEMBER 1994?

It is too early to definitively answer this question. The Planning Committee will respond to the wishes and needs of its member NGOs. Given the very large number of NGOs in the Planning Committee, and the wide spectrum of interests, there will be diverse NGO groupings in attendance. The Planning Committee, in consultation with the ICPD Secretariat, will endeavour to facilitate the linkage of these groups.

HOW CAN NGOS OBTAIN ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS; CONCERNING THE 1994 CONFERENCE?

Contact the NGO Planning Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 1994: David O. Poindexter, Co-Convener, or Valerie Stern, Coordinator 777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 7C, New York, NY 10017, USA. Phone: (212) 687-3366; Fax: (212) 661-4188.

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Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia Site of Regional Preparatory: Meeting

Saint Lucia was the site of the recently-concluded "Meeting of Government Experts on; development", held in preparation for the 1993 Latin America and Caribbean Regional Population and Development Conference.

The Meeting, hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia and Jointly sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECIAC) and UNFPA, took place from 6 to 9 October, 1992 in Castries.

Over 100 experts discussed current and projected population trends in the region; linkages between population and development; population policies and programmes; the spatial distribution of population; population and environment interactions; women and population dynamics; and family planning, health and family well being.

While overall optimism was voiced about the decline in the region's fertility rates, the experts cautioned that such progress was irregular, indicating that some countries were only at the initial stage of their fertility transition. Participants also noted that the region was characterized by demographic differences within countries -- with family planning and reproductive health services primarily accessible in urban areas and often by higher-income groups. The Meeting called for equity in policies so that rural and marginal groups gain effective access to population programme services.

The recommendation and conclusions of the Saint Lucia meeting will be submitted to the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Population and Development conference which will take place from 29 April to 4 May 1993 in Mexico City.

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The Bali Declaration

The Bali Declaration

According to the declaration, many parts of Asia and the Pacific continue to suffer from high fertility, high infant and maternal mortality rates, rapid urbanization and lack of adequate education and health care. Estimates show that the population growth in the region will increase by 900 million by the year 2010, with the most growth occurring in South Asia and in the region's least developed countries. Four-fifths of the population growth in the region during the 1990's will take place in urban areas.

The Bali Declaration proposes a number of goals and policies recommendations for consideration by national policy makers. It sets specific targets for countries with rapid population growth to reduce their fertility rates to 2.2 children per woman, to reduce infant mortality rates to 40 per 1,000 live births, and to reduce by half maternal deaths by the year 2010.

The Declaration recognizes that rapid population growth, changes in demographic structure and uneven population distribution impose pressures and constraints on social and economic development efforts, the environment and natural resources. Governments are urged to implement programmes which promote greater harmony among population, resources, environment and development.

Issues including urbanization, migration, family planning and maternal and child health, population and human resources development, women and population, poverty alleviation, mortality and morbidity, aging, population data, research and information dissemination and resource mobilization are

also addressed in the Declaration.

Measures to improve the status, role and participation of women, the Declaration states must be given high priority, because "women have a fundamental right to enjoy equality with men in all aspects of life and because women play a critical role in, and must fully participate in, the sustainable development process."

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UNFPA Hosts Economists

UNFPA Hosts Meeting of Economists

Prominent economists from around the world met recently to discuss the macro-level effects of rapid population growth on economic progress in developing countries. The meeting, entitled the "Consultative Meeting of Economists on Population Growth and Economic Development", took place at UNFPA Headquarters in New York from 28 to 29 September 1992.

The meeting was part of UNFPA's efforts to increase awareness of population-development interactions, improve policy formulation and contribute to preparations for the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development.

Dr. NaGs Sadik, in her opening statement, said that the meeting would "contribute to the International Conference on Population and Development, not only by helping us at UNFPA to better conceptualize population-development links, but also by providing substantive inputs for the preparation of the Conference".

Two background documents presented up-to-date summaries on the topic. One paper reviewed recent economic research on the consequences of population growth. It concluded that recent findings tend to confirm the negative impact of rapid population growth for specific linkages. For example, investments in human resources, through better health, education and opportunities for women, appear to be hindered in situations of high population growth.

The food-soil-water relationship is also strongly population-related. Evidence also points to worsening income distribution as a further consequence of rapid growth. On the whole, however, evidence of a strong negative relationship was not incontrovertible.

In contrast, the second background paper showed that an ever increasing number of developing countries were concerned about the macroeconomic costs of rapid population growth. It documented several cases of countries which had until recently ignored the population factor in their development plans, but were now issuing clear policy directives aimed at lowering fertility rates.

The conspicuous gap between findings from the research community on the macroeconomic consequences of population growth and the perceptions and actions of policy-makers was the main topic of debate. The "agnostic" attitude held by many economists regarding the populationdevelopment relationship was seen as the result of inadequate knowledge, coupled with exaggerated claims by population advocates in the past.

The meeting agreed that a more focused research agenda was in order, one that examined specific countries and issues (such as poverty alleviation and infrastructure investment) where population pressures seemed to clearly hinder development efforts.

A consensus was reached that action at the micro-level was well justified, without awaiting further macro-level research. These actions include striving to meet the growing need for qualib family planning and reproductive health services and the expansion of educational and other opportunities for women.

A report of the meeting will be available shortly from UNFPA.

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