



## Arab Population Conference

Arab Population Conference Amman  
4-8 April 1993.

Domestic Features: Young Populations and Rapid Growth

National population in the Arab region are expected to double in the next 25-30 years. For countries like Egypt which has 96% of its land as desert, this equates to another 50 million people on only 4% of its land - an enormous challenge for both people and the environment. In comparison, the countries of Western Europe will take more than two centuries to double their populations by natural increases.

With a 2.7% annual average, the Arab region is the second fastest growing in the world after Africa, according to U.N. officials in Amman. Recent figures, however, showed a considerable decline in fertility rates over the past thirty years. The number of births per women in the Middle East has dropped from more than 7 children in the 1960s to a level expected to be below 3 by 2025

Despite these significant reductions, the issue of high infant and maternal mortality in the region raised considerable concerns at the Arab Population Conference, which concluded in Amman, Jordan, on 8 April. UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, in her address to the Conference called for the improvement in women's access to better reproductive health care, not only as a means of reducing these high mortality rates, but as "a keystone to the improvement of the status of women" at all levels of society. "The failure

of men to take more responsibility for their actions also helps to explain the persistently high level of maternal mortality in the region", added Dr. Sadik. "By allowing women to delay childbirth until they are out of their teens, to space their births, and to stop having children before they became too weak to bear the strains of pregnancy, maternal mortality could be reduced by 40%". Dr. Sadik went a step further by urging men to get directly involved in family planning programmes despite cultural, religious or social reasons that restrain them from doing so.

An expanded job market will reduce migration pressures

Levels of emigration from Arab countries will depend largely on the ability of these countries to provide jobs for rising numbers of their people entering the work force. This was the clear message heard at the Arab Population Conference. If this is not achieved, substantial migration is seen as one of the few viable alternatives.

Pre-adult populations presently account for 40% of the total population of the region, with the vast majority expected to enter the job market in less than a decade. According to a paper submitted to the Conference on Maghreb migration, 24 million Maghrebis will be in the labour market by the year 2000; that figure is expected to rise by almost 50% in 2010 to reach 33 million. "Future emigration from the Maghreb will depend on the development gap between sending countries and the receiving countries, and on the level of economic and population growth in the Maghreb", the report said. Maghrebi migration to Europe, which involves approximately 2 million people, has been regarded as a permanent feature of the region since 1974. Larger numbers still have emigrated to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates).

The issue of migration underscores the importance of the close

inter-linkages between economic development and population growth. It is certain to be a central theme at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo

The Arab Population Conference was the fourth regional conference to be held in preparation for the ICPD. Jointly organized by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and UNFPA, this five-day meeting, which culminated in a ministerial meeting, focused on the following issues: 1) Population Growth and Structure; 2) Population Policies and Programmes; 3) Population, Environment and Development; 4) Population Distribution and Internal Migration; 5) International Migration; 6) Women and Development; and 7) Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being,

The Arab Population Conference concluded with adoption of the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development. This will constitute an important contribution by the Arab region to the 1994 Conference.

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## Calendar

### Calendar

1993

- ¥ 23-26 March 1993 European Population Conference (Europe and North America); 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
- ¥ 14- 17 April International Congress on Population Education and Development (ICPED), Istanbul, Turkey
- ¥ 20 April 12th Annual NGO/UN Population Consultation, New York
- ¥ 29 April -4 May Regional Population and Development Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean; Mexico City, Mexico; jointly organized by ECLAC and UNFPA
- ¥ 10-21 May Second session of Preparatory Committee for ICPD; UN Headquarters,
- ¥ 1-18 June UNDP/UNFPA Governing Council, 40th session, UN Headquarters, New York
- ¥ 28 June -30 July 1993 ECOSOC substantive session, Geneva, Switzerland
- 11 July- World Population Day
- ¥ 24 August - 22nd IUSSP General Conference; Montreal, Canada I  
September
- ¥ 21 September- UN General Assembly, 48th regular session; consideration of agenda item mid-December "International Conference on Population and Development"

1994

- ¥ 11-22 April Third session of Preparatory Committee for ICPD; UN Headquarters, New York

¥ 5-13 September

International Conference on Population and Development,

1994;

Cairo, Egypt

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## European Population Conference

European Population Conference  
Geneva, 23-26 March, 1993.

### Domestic Features: Ageing Populations and Low Fertility Rates

For the first time in history, the number of older people (over 60) in Europe and North America will exceed the number of young people (under the age of 15) in the next two decades, according to U.N. report delivered at the European Population Conference. The number of elderly people in the region - estimated at 90 million in 1950 - has doubled in the past 40 years, and is expected to almost double again in the next 30 years, reaching an estimated total of 310 million by 2025.

"This type of generational structure has never been even remotely encountered in the past", said the report released by the U. N . Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), at the European Conference. "Population ageing will affect social and economic systems, the quality of life and almost all other social arrangements until the middle of the next century, and almost inevitably, for many decades thereafter". Responding to concerns on the consequences of population ageing, the Conference recommended extending the working years of the labour force.

The Conference also addressed the issue of low fertility rates in the overall region, which continue to be well below the necessary levels for the replacement of generations. Experts at the Conference were especially

concerned with Europe's ability to replenish the indigenous composition of its work force, and sought less dependence on immigration to adjust long-term demographic imbalances. Immigration could be relied upon to fill temporary gaps in the labour market, the Conference said, but it "may not be a full solution for the adjustment of the age structure in the long run".

Experts also addressed the issue of high rates of abortions in some countries of the region, reflecting high levels of unmet demand for family planning there. The Conference responded to these demands with calls to implement a coordinated strategy to assist these countries in the field of reproductive health and health system reforms.

Mass migrations pressing borders.

Some 60 million people have asked to migrate to the Western world, said experts in Geneva

"Western Europe and North America face increases of between one and two million entrants per year, mostly from the Third World", said David A. Coleman, a Lecturer in Demography from Oxford University. The disintegration of the former USSR and the difficult economic transitions faced by East European countries were identified as the principal causes behind recent migrations to Western Europe, but their numbers were said to be far less than anticipated and their movements, only temporary. Increased turbulence in Russia and other CIS countries, however, could send new floods of migrants in the region.

What some experts in Geneva perceived as a greater long-term challenge, is the "continued population growth, economic weakness and political instability," which continue to drive massive numbers of migrants to flee their countries of origin in search of economic and political refuge. "If

Western countries wish to control or reverse this inflow, Coleman said, "they must manage the push factors, neutralize the effects of the pull factors or both". The only viable long-term solution therefore is: to reduce the gap in the economic disparities between developed and developing worlds.

Addressing the issue of migration not only served to underscore the important inter-linkages between population growth and economic development, but it may also have provided incentives to increase cooperation between developed and developing countries. "Governments of countries of origin and destination should seek to redress the causes of emigration in order to alleviate the massive and uncontrolled international migration flows," the Conference said, "This may require financial assistance, and reassessment of commercial and tariff relations, and stepped-up efforts by developing countries to create a more liberalized and market-oriented economic framework.

The European Population Conference, held in Geneva, 23-26 March, addressed the population and development concerns of European and North American countries, and concentrated on the following issues: 1) International Migration; 2) Fertility and Family; 3) Health and Mortality; 4) Population Growth and Structure; 5) International Cooperation. Jointly organized by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Conference was the third out of a series of five regional conferences, held in preparation for the 1994 Conference.

The European Population Conference produced a concrete set of recommendations, which will represent the major contribution of Europe and North America at Cairo '94.



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## Key Documents for Prepcom 11

Key Documents for Prepcom 11:

- 1) Annotated Provisional Agenda: Adoption of the Agenda and other Organizational Matters (E/CONF.84/PC/3/Rev. I )
- 2) ICPD Secretary-General's Progress Report (E/1993/49);
- 3) ICPD Secretary-General's proposed conceptual framework for the Conference's recommendations (E/CONF.84/PC/11 );
- 4) Recommendations and Declarations of the five Regional Conferences:
  - i) "The Bali Declaration" for the Asia/Pacific region;
  - ii) "The Dakar/Ngor Declaration" for Africa;
  - iii) Recommendations of the European Population Conference;
  - iv) "The Amman Declaration" for the Arab region;
  - v) "The Mexico Declaration" for Latin America and the Caribbean;- (each will be issued in the UN languages used by the respective regional commissions).
- 5) Reports of the six Expert Group Meetings:
  - i) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and Development E/CONF.84/PC/4);
  - ii) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Policies and Programmes (E/CONF.84/PC/5);
  - iii) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women (E/CONF.84/PC/6);

iv) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being (E/CONF.84/PC 7);

v) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure (E/CONF.84/PC/8);

vi) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and Migration (E/CONF.84/PC/9).

6) Synthesis report on the six expert group meetings (E/CONF.84/PC/12).

7) Accreditation of NGOs to the Conference and its preparatory process (E/CONF.84/PC/10)

(\*) Documents will be issued in each of the six U.N. languages.

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## Mexico to Host Conference

Mexico City To Host Final Regional Conference

Once the most populated city in the world when it hosted the 1984 International Conference on Population, Mexico City will now greet regional leaders for the fifth regional conference, to be held 29 April 4 May, 1993, in preparation for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

A future of mega-cities

The selection of Mexico City for this last regional conference provides useful insights into what the future may hold for the region, if present trends continue into the next century. According to U.N. estimates, Latin America could be home to not one, but four of the 10 largest cities in the world by 2010, namely Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Though the Tokyo Yokohama conurbation currently ranks first on world urban population charts - with 26 million, the average annual population growth of Mexico and Sao Paulo, between 1985 and 1990, was four times faster. The same outcome is expected to occur between 1995 and 2000.

Latin America and Caribbean countries already have the highest proportion of urban dwellers in the world - more than 70% of their total population, said a U.N. report. This high urban concentration of national populations, resulting from relatively high growth rates and massive migration from the countryside, has had a dramatic impact on the environment and the quality of life of a great number of people in the region. These are fundamental

problems which will be addressed at the Mexico Conference.

### Internal disparities

According to a U.N. report prepared for the Conference in Mexico, population dynamics between countries as well as within countries reflect a very mixed image of that shown by regional average figures. Population growth rates in the 1980s dropped to a 2% average for the overall region, while per country averages varied from 1% to over 3% during the same period. A closer look at the fertility rates of different social strata within countries, points to an even more distorted pattern from those shown by regional figures. Ms. Liliana Friero, Officer-in-Charge of UNFPA's Latin American and Caribbean Division explains. "Rural people in some Central American countries have average fertility rates of 7.6 children per woman, while urban people in the same countries, have less than half that number, with 2.8 children".

This example underscores the reality of perpetual poverty for a substantial segment of certain national populations and emphasizes the close inter-linkages between the level of economic development and the safeguard of adequate standards of living for increasing numbers of people. As a U.N. report stated "the predominance of high fertility reproductive patterns in poor stratum in itself promotes the transmission of poverty from generation to generation". Overcoming these inequities in the broadest, socio-economic sense, the report adds, will require the facilitation of individual decisions on reproductive patterns". In this respect, the role of the State must be emphasized in its capacity to influence and orient national social policies to the promotion of this aim.

High incidence of maternal mortality is another major problem affecting the region. According to the Pan- American Health Organization (PAHO), 50% of

maternal deaths in many of these countries can be accounted for as a result of unsafe abortions. This high incidence of abortions clearly indicates the unmet demand for family planning in the region," Ms. Frieiro said. It is likely to constitute a major source for concern when countries meet in Mexico City.

The Mexico City Conference will address the principal population and development issues affecting the Latin American and Caribbean region. jointly organized by the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Mexico Conference will concentrate on the following themes:

- 1) population growth, structure and distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean: the socio-economic trends and implications;
- 2) population dynamics and development in the Caribbean sub region;
- 3) population policy and programmes;
- 4) population growth and distribution: their relation to development and the environment;
- 5) women and population dynamics; and
- 6) family planning, health and family well-being.

The purpose of the Conference is to produce a set of operational recommendations that will effectively deal with these issues. A final document is expected to be adopted at the final session of the Ministerial Section of the Conference on 4 May, which will be available to all Prepcom participants in both English and Spanish.



## NGO Steering Committee

Members of the NGO Steering Committee for the ICPD

Peggy Antrobus	DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era)
Goran Backstrand	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Amparo Claro	ISIS International (Chile)
Stephen Isaacs	Center for Population and the Family Columbia University
Martin Khor	Third World Network (Malaysia)
Jacques Legare	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Dounia Loudiyi	Senior Program Officer/Population World Wildlife Fund
Peggy McEvoy	The Population Council
Dr. Florence Manguyu	Kenyan Medical Women's Association
David Poindexter	Population Communication International
Sunetra Puri	International Planned Parenthood Federation
Consultant: Dr. Mahmoud F.	
Fathalla	The Rockefeller Foundation Senior Adviser, Biomedical and Reproductive Health Research and Training
Ex Officio:	
Rosalind W. Harris	President, Conference of NGOs

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## **Prepcom 11: Setting Perspectives for Cairo 1994**

PREPCOM 11: SETTING PERSPECTIVES FOR CAIRO 1994

In both Geneva and Amman, the Secretary-General of the ICPD, Dr. Nafis Sadik, focused attention on the upcoming Prepcom 11, 10-21 May, 1993.

At the European and Arab regional conferences held in preparation for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Conference's Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik, directed attention towards the Second session of the Preparatory Committee - Prepcom 11 - to be held 10-21 May, 1993 at U.N. headquarters in New York.

The international community is now only 16 months away from the 1994 Cairo Conference which will address the fundamental population and development challenges of the next decade, under the overall theme of "population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". Preparations for the Conference are well under way.

Prepcom 11 will review the work accomplished since the First session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, held two years ago, in March 1991. Only one further intergovernmental preparatory session is scheduled between Prepcom 11 and the 1994 Conference Prepcom 111, to be held in New York, from 11-21 April 1994. The magnitude of the task ahead points to the need for Prepcom 11 to take all the necessary decisions during this two week session in May, with regard to the type of document the Conference will adopt, the precise issues to be addressed and the manner in which inter-related issues should be tackled. "This is the meeting which will decide the type of outcome which

the Cairo Conference will produce; not just the format of the document but also its tone and to a large extent its content", said ICPD Executive Coordinator, Mr. Shankar Singh.

Outlining her views at the recent European Population Conference, in Geneva, with regard to the type of document she hopes the Cairo Conference will adopt, ICPD SecretaryGeneral, Dr. Nafis Sadik stated, "It is my clear preference that this be a new, free standing document. Of course, it will be influenced by the experiences of the World Population Plan of Action and the 1984 Review and Appraisal. Equally, it must be reflective of the new perspectives of the international community on population issues, economic growth and sustainability. I would like to think it will represent a new international consensus on the full integration of population concerns into economic and social activity and sustainable development". Clearly, the key to the accomplishment of such an objective must be political will.

#### Conference Preparations to be Focus of Debate

Amid the proposed agenda items outlined for the organizational work of Prepcom 11 (see the details of the proposed work schedule on page 2), two specific items stand out as particularly important.

Item 4: "Preparations for the Conference" will provide the opportunity for Prepcom participants (delegations, NGOs and others) to set out their perspectives on regional conferences, national level activities and the six expert group meetings. Consideration of this item is seen as particularly important, as it is here that delegations will be able to set out their national perspectives on the Conference.

Participants at Prepcom 11 will be able to draw on a vast array of material

to assist their work, ranging from the 162 recommendations provided by the six expert group meetings to the proposals stemming from the five regional conferences, as well as other relevant inputs to the preparatory process (see the list of key Prepcom 11 documents on page 2). The Secretary-General is also submitting a progress report on the status of the Conference preparations.

As deliberations on the different perspectives proceed, remarks one ICPD Secretariat member, "we will be listening carefully to all the various views outlined at the Prepcom. We see it as providing essential basic guidance for our subsequent work on the main conference document".

Addressing the Issues in the Right Framework.

The second major item for Prepcom participants will be item 5: "Proposed Conceptual Framework of the Draft Recommendations of the Conference". A background document, outlining the Secretary-General's proposals for the final Cairo document, has been prepared on this topic. Dr. Sadik expressed the hope that discussions on this matter will achieve a great deal. "The first challenge for the May Prepcom session will be to reach agreement on a conceptual framework for the Conference's final document. It must set out very clear instructions for the Conference Secretariat so that it will be able to craft a substantive, meaningful and acceptable set of recommendations for consideration, negotiation and approval at the final preparatory session in April 1994".

More NGO Involvement Expected

Pursuant to ECOSOC's clear directions on the important role non-governmental organizations can play in the ICPD process, NGOs are expected to be well represented at Prepcom 11.

As the ECOSOC resolution 1993/94 stipulates in its accreditation criteria, those NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status need only inform the ICPD Secretariat of their intentions to participate. All others must comply with criteria of relevance and competence. There is already ample evidence of NGOs determination to be involved in the ICPD process, just as it was reflected throughout UNCED in Rio.

All non-consultative NGOs must have their applications for accreditation approved by Prepcom 11. Day One of the Prepcom 11 meeting - 10 May has been set out as the planned date for addressing this issue, NGOs which have sought accreditation before the 16 April deadline will have their requests considered at that time. Those received later will be considered as soon as feasible thereafter.

The ICPD can also expect good representation by NGOs from developing countries - such is the message conveyed by the NGO Accreditation Section. This clearly shows that the UNCED experience was well received by NGOs from all regions. Deepening the level of cooperation between NGOs from developed and developing countries will be a key feature throughout the ICPD.

After Prepcom 11, applications from NGOs will continue to be received. While some NGOs appear to be setting their sights on Prepcom 11, since it will be at that session that the final text will be negotiated, it will still be most important for NGOs to be active at Prepcom 11 to articulate their perspectives, as the framework for the final document is being negotiated.

#### ECOSOC Puts Priority on Strong LDC Involvement

For 47 countries, preparing for Prepcom 11 was made a little easier thanks to the ECOSOC's decision to provide each designated "least developing

countries" with the necessary funds for one capital-based representative to take part in Prepcom 11. Funds for this assistance are coming from extra budgetary contributions provided by Finland, Sweden and Spain. The total cost: close to US \$280,000 for this session alone. The availability of future funding will determine if this very important form of assistance will be available for Prepcom 111 and the conference in Cairo.

#### Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Accreditation of NGOs to the  
Conference and its preparatory process.
4. Preparation for the Conference. 5. Proposed conceptual framework of the draft recommendations of the Conference.
6. Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.
7. Draft provisional agenda for Prepcom 111.
8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

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## Proposed Organization of Work

### Proposed Organization of Work

Monday, 10 May

Morning

Opening of the session

Item 1 Election of officers

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Item 3. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the

Conference and its preparatory process (E/CONF.84/PC/I o)

Afternoon

Item 4 Preparations for the Conference

(a)General preparatory activities;

(b)Expert group meetings;

(c)Regional conferences;

(d)Preparations at the national level;

(e)Other related activities

(General discussion)

Tuesday 11 May

Item 4. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Wednesday, 12 May

Item 4 (Continuation of general discussion)

Thursday, 13 May

Item 4. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 4 Thur., 13

May, 6 p.m.

Friday 14 May

Morning and Afternoon

\ Item 5 Proposed conceptual framework of the draft recommendations of  
the Conference (E/CONF.84/PC/II )

Monday 17 May

Item 5 (Continuation of the general discussion)

Tuesday 18 May

Item 5 (Continuation of the general discussion)

Wednesday 19 May

Morning

Item 5. (Conclusion of the general discussion)

Afternoon

Item 6 Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

(E/CONF.84/PC/2/Rev. 1 )

Thursday 20 May

Morning

Item 6. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Item 7 Agenda for the third session of the

Preparatory Committee(E/CONF 84/PC/L.6)

Afternoon

Consideration of draft proposals submitted under items 4 and 5 Deadline

for submission of draft proposals under items 6 and 7: Thursday 20

May, 1

p.m .

Friday 2 I May

Morning and Afternoon

Consideration of draft proposals submitted under items 6 and 7

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory committee on its second

session

Closure of the session.

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## **Women's Rights**

Leading Women's Rights Leader To Head ICPD NGO Committees

NGOs: Getting Ready for Prepcom II

Planning by non-governmental interests for Prepcom II and the rest of the ICPD process took a major step forward recently with the establishment of a Steering Committee for the ICPD NGO Planning Committee. Following on from reports in ICPD '94, issue 5, this new Steering Committee has now been put in place and held its first meeting on 11-12 March in New York.

Committee Decides on Leader

On 11 and 12 March, the full NGO Steering Committee for the ICPD came together with a mandate from the Planning Committee for the ICPD to coordinate the participation of NGOs at Cairo and on the way to Cairo.

The first action taken by the Steering committee was the election of a Chair - Ms. Billie Miller from Barbados - internationally known for her work on women's issues, particularly family planning. Ms. Miller will head the Planning Committee and its Steering Committee through the preparatory stages leading up to ICPD in Cairo in September 1994. One of the major tasks will be to ensure the widest possible NGO representation.

In recognition of the immense administrative task facing the NGO community as it prepares for the ICPD, the Committee has set in place a strong administrative support team to assist it.



The Steering Committee agreed on mechanisms to ensure that the widest NGO representation was possible throughout the ICPD process and concentrated its efforts on the upcoming Second session of the Preparatory Committee meeting in May.

Dr. M. El-Banna, who came from Cairo to represent the Egyptian National Preparatory Committee, expressed his confidence in the Steering Committee and stated that the Egyptian NGO Committee will do all it can to be of assistance. The Egyptian National Preparatory Committee looks forward to working in partnership with the Steering Committee to ensure the success of the NGO Forum in Cairo. Dr. El-Banna extended an invitation to the Steering Committee to hold its summer meeting in Cairo to finalize plans for the NGO Forum.

The Steering Committee plans to meet again in New York in May, 1993 prior to the opening of the Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the ICPD.

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