



Calendar

International Conference On Population And Development (ICPD) Calendar Of

Events:

- 1993
- 10-21 May Second session of the Preparatory Committee for ICPD; U.N. Headquarters, New York.
- 1-18 June UNDP/UNFPA Governing Council, 40th session, U.N. Headquarters, New York.
- 28 June - 30 July 1993 ECOSOC substantive session (Geneva, Switzerland)
- 7- 10 July Maghreb Ministerial Meeting on Population and Development (Tunis, Tunisia).
- 11 July World Population Day.
- 24 August September 22nd IUSSP (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population) General Conference; (Montreal, Canada).
- 26-27 August ROUNDTABLE (1): "Women's Perspectives on Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights" (Ottawa, Canada).
- 6- 10 September South Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Population and Development (Port Vila, Vanuatu).
- 28 September 1 October ROUNDTABLE (2): "The Demographic and Health Impact of the AIDS Epidemic" (Berlin, Germany).
- 21 September mid- December U.N. General Assembly, regular session; consideration of agenda item "International Conference on Population and Development".
- 17-19 November ROUNDTABLE (3): "Population and Development" (Bangkok, Thailand).
- 24-26 November ROUNDTABLE (4): "Integration of Population into Sustainable Development: Learning from the UNCED Process" (Geneva, Switzerland)

1994

11-22 April Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for ICPD; U.N.
Headquarters, New York.

July 1994 ECOSOC substantive session, U.N. Headquarters, New York.

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

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Conference Adopts Consensus Document

Latin American/Caribbean Conference Adopts Consensus Document

The regional population conference held in Mexico City from 29 April - 4 May, produced an official document entitled "The Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development", which will constitute the region's principal contribution to the 1994 Cairo Conference. It was the last of the five regional conferences convened by ECOSOC as part of the ICPD preparatory process.

The Consensus reached at Mexico, which encompasses a total of 79 recommendations, set clear priorities for the region on reproductive health and family planning. Two separate resolutions were adopted: one on a Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, which would contain a series of goals; the other requesting observer status for the associate members of regional commissions to participate in the ICPD and its preparatory process. A large number of NGOs played a substantial and direct role in the regional conference.

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), and UNFPA.



Dr. Sai Elected as Chairman of Prepcom II

PREPCOM II Elects Dr. Sai as Chairman

Dr. Fred Sai, a senior population adviser to the Government of Ghana, was elected Chairman of the PrepCom and will serve as Chairman for the remainder of the ICPD preparatory process. With a reputation for leadership in government and in non-governmental organizations, Dr. Sai brings to the ICPD process a wealth of experience in many of the areas addressed by the 1994 Conference.

Dr. Sai, a medical doctor, is currently chairman of the recently established National Population Council of Ghana. He is also Honorary Professor of Community Health at the University of Ghana's Medical School. Since 1989, he has served the NGO community as President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the largest NGO dealing with family planning activities in the world.

His past experience includes an appointment as Senior Population Adviser at the World Bank, from 1985-1990, prior to which he served with FAO. In recognition of his widespread involvement and global leadership in family planning and population issues, he was awarded this year's United Nations Population Award.

The Man with Many Hats

Indeed, Dr. Sai's experience in international population activities is so diverse that he was accurately dubbed by one senior U.N. official as "the

man with many hats".

As he takes up leadership of the ICPD preparatory process, Dr. Sai will also be remembered for his effective chairmanship of the Main Committee at the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984. It was under his chairmanship that the final Mexico Document was negotiated.

Impressive NGO Credentials

Dr. Sai's involvement with IPPF has assured him a high profile in the NGO community. He was co-founder of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana in 1967 and two years later was instrumental in the formation of IPPF's African Regional Branch.

The ICPD Bureau consists of two members from each of the five regions of the U.N. system, as well as an ex-officio member from Egypt, representing the host country to the Conference.

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Draft Structure of Cairo Document

Draft Structure of the Cairo Document

Preamble

Principles / Fundamental Considerations

Choices and Responsibilities

Chapter I Interrelationships between Population, Sustained Economic
Growth and sustainable Development

Chapter II Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Chapter III Population Growth and Structure

Chapter IV. The Family its Role and Composition

Chapter V Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Health and Family
Planning

Chapter VI. Health and Mortality

Chapter VII Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal
Migration

Means of Implementation

Chapter VIII. International Migration

Chapter IX. Promotion of population Information, Education and
Communication

Chapter X. Capacity building

Partnership in Population - Actors and Resources

Chapter XI. Technology Research and Development

Chapter XII National Action

Chapter XIII International Cooperation

Chapter XIV Partnership with non Governmental Sectors

From Commitment to Action

Chapter XV. Follow up to the Conference

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From the NGO Desk

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Economic and Social Council Resolution 1993/4 provided non-governmental organizations (NGOs with an unprecedented opportunity to participate in the preparatory process of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be held in Cairo in 1994.

On the occasion of the second session of the Preparatory Committee - PrepCom 11 - 332 non-governmental organizations were officially accredited to the ICPD process. Of that number, 142 attended PrepCom 11, in addition to the 69 NGOs that already had consultative status with ECOSOC. This brought the total number of NGOs to 211 non-governmental organizations represented by approximately 400 NGO participants. Their contribution to PrepCom 11 was highly appreciated by both delegations and the ICPD Secretariat.

Forty-one NGOs addressed the plenary session and presented their views. One of the many important achievements for NGOs was the inclusion of Chapter XIV - "Partnership with the Non-Governmental Sector" - in the Conceptual Framework

In her opening statement, ICPD Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Nafis Sadik, reiterated the importance of NGO participation in population and development activities and welcomed active NGO involvement in the ICPD and its PrepComs.

Several government representatives, such as those from Brazil, Canada, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Sweden, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, confirmed

the importance their governments placed on the work of NGOs. "We are in this together. NGOs were the stars of UNCED"! were the words used by the Counselor at the United States Department of State, the Honourable Timothy Wirth, when he delivered his government's message to PrepCom 11 participants.

Dr. Fred Sai, PrepCom Chairman and President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), spoke of the important role played by NGOs on the national level "What happens at home is more important than what is taking place here", he said. Such was his message of encouragement to the African Regional NGO group.

The OAU Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Ibrahima Sy, in his address to the African NGO group, highlighted the importance of national population programmes in Africa and added that OAU was currently working on a Non Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) for its social programmes.

In addition to the scheduled meetings, NGOs participated in daily caucuses on women's issues, organized by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Participants were briefed on the activities of the PrepCom and on United Nations procedures.

The NGO Steering Committee organized a series of seminars dealing with issues such as ethics, AIDS, migration and reproductive health. The International Women's Health Coalition, U.N.-NGLS, IPPF and other groups also held regular meetings for their affiliates. The indigenous groups met on several occasions as well, to put forth their specific population and development concerns.

Three regional meetings were organized on a daily basis by the ICPD

Secretariat for NGOs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions. These meetings provided fora for NGOs to discuss important regional issues and to prepare speeches for the PrepCom. They also provided an opportunity for NGOs to meet representatives of their own governments, those from other countries, as well as U.N officials.

The regional meetings led to the creation of an organization called "The Southern NGO Forum" which is expected to meet in February 1994 to discuss common matters affecting developing countries from the South. The purpose of the Forum is to create networks and reach common positions on population and development questions.

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Investing Directly in People

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The Secretary-General of the ICPD told PrepCom 11 delegates that all developing country governments should increase the share of national public expenditures invested in the social sector at home, to at least 20%.

At the same time, she asked donor countries to increase the level of official development assistance allocated to population activities from 1.34% to 4%, and stressed that there was "no option" to such a shift of priorities.

"The results of our Conference must provide you with the necessary support for these changes in priorities", said the ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik, in her 14 May speech at PrepCom 11. Dr. Sadik went on to say, "we must give an unequivocal signal in our decisions that such investment is essential, indeed, that investing in people, in the quality of life each individual deserves is as important as investments in infrastructure and more direct economic activity".

The issue of financing is of fundamental importance if the international community is to adequately address the needs of the extra 5.5 billion people expected to populate this planet by the middle of the next century. Of the 5.5 billion presently living on Earth, over 1 billion people - or a fifth of the world's population, currently live in abject human conditions, according to a 1993 report from the British aid organization, Action Aid. The report also stated that the figure for people living in absolute poverty is overtaking population growth and could reach 1.5 billion by the year 2000

"We are not faring well in providing for these additional human beings judging by most economic and social indicators", said Dr. Sadik.

The 1989 Amsterdam Declaration attempted to provide a general assessment of financial requirements for population-related activities for the next decade. It stated, inter alia, that approximately \$9 billion, including both domestic investment and external financing, would be needed by the year 2000 to fund core population activities. World expenditures on family planning and other population activities in all developing countries were half that amount in 1987; and in 1991, donor governments committed, on average, only 1.34% of official development assistance to help fund population activities. Where to find the extra funds will be a central challenge of the Cairo Conference

It was clearly stated at PrepCom 11 that the extra funds needed to address population and development challenges in decades ahead would have to come, in large part, from countries themselves. But the role of international assistance would continue to be vital in a number of crucial areas.

Many delegates at PrepCom 11 said that more work would need to be done before the Cairo Conference, to better quantify financial requirements and reach agreement on funding responsibilities. This issue is expected to be a topic of substantial debate at the third session of the Preparatory Committee, to be held 11-22 April 1994. The subject of finance will likely be taken up under Chapter XI on "National Action" and Chapter XIII on "International Cooperation " .

Achieving developed country levels

Dr. Sadik pointed to the deplorable gap between developed and developing

countries in key social indicators and called on all governments to achieve current developed country levels by the year 2015, in areas such as infant and maternal mortality, life expectancy, access to family planning services, etc.

"I hope you will be properly shocked", said the ICPD SecretaryGeneral as she sought to awaken delegates to the extent of human suffering as a result of insufficient investment in the social development sector. We know why these infants are dying. The remedies are affordable if the resources are made available".

Delegations at PrepCom 11 reacted with a general endorsement of the Secretary-General's proposal to include a set of quantifiable goals in the final Cairo Document and overtly acknowledged that more resources would be needed to achieve them.

Dr. Sadik presented delegates with a set of quantifiable goals, which could be attained by the year 2015. In the area of infant mortality, Dr. Sadik said the current global rate of 62 infant births per 1,000 live births could be reduced to 12 per 1,000 by the year 2015; maternal mortality rates could also be substantially reduced to 30 per 100,000 women by the year 2015, and life expectancy at birth could be extended to 75 years in all countries. Dr. Sadik further suggested that all pregnant women should have access to pre-natal services by 2015, and that all school age children be entitled to complete their primary education, which should be accessible to all. She proposed that 71% contraceptive prevalence be attained by 2015, and that family planning information and services be universally accessible.

The above goals, which already appear in other international commitments, will need to be refined and harmonized with goals adopted at other international fora. They will also need to take into consideration regional

and national variations. This will be done by the Secretariat in further preparatory work on the Cairo Document.

Many delegations endorsed the 20 year time-frame proposed by the Secretary-General to achieve these goals and further suggested that they be translated into 5 and 10-year intermediate goals. Progress towards achieving these goals will need to be carefully monitored. Delegates at PrepCom 11 stressed that no coercion whatsoever should be exercised in their pursuit.

Some delegations also asked that a set of qualitative goals and objectives be included in the document, and that some social and economic goals be reflected as well.

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Members of the ICPD Bureau

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Chairman:

Dr. Fred Sai (Ghana)

Vice-chairmen:

H. E. Mr. Nicolaas Biegman (Netherlands)

Mr. Abdullah Cholil (Indonesia)

H.E. Mr. Mauro Couto (Brazil)

Ms. Maymouna Diop (Senegal)

Mr. IerzY Holzer (Poland) - ViceChairman-cum-Rapporteur

H.E. Mr. Lionel Hurst (Antigua and Barbuda)

H.E. Mr. Tauno Kaaria (Finland)

Mr. Andras Klinger (Hungary)

Mrs. Usha Vohra (India)

Ex-offlcio:

H.E. Mr. Nabil Elaraby (Egypt)



Preparing for Cairo

National Activities: Preparing for Cairo

More than 100 countries have advised the ICPD Secretariat of the special arrangements they have put in place to prepare for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In most of these countries, an ad hoc national committee has been formed. Though its composition may vary from country to country, these committees usually involve all relevant government departments and agencies, as well as NGOs, academics and sometimes parliamentarians.

National Committees essentially fulfill two tasks. The first consists of preparing a National Report on Population, which all countries participating in the ICPD have been invited to submit by the end of September 1993. These reports are prepared by national rather than international experts. The second task of the National Committees is to increase public awareness of population and development issues at both local and national levels in order to promote better understanding of the activities and purpose of the Cairo Conference.

Limited financial assistance is being provided by the ICPD Secretariat to developing countries to help fund their national preparations and cover the costs of drafting their national reports. The resources for this important assistance are being provided by extra-budgetary contributions from a number of both developed and developing countries.

(Out of 47 countries designated by the U.N. as "Least Developed Countries" (LDCs), 40 were able to attend PrepCom 11 through contributions made to the

U.N. Voluntary Fund).

How Bangladesh is preparing for Cairo

The Government of Bangladesh has established a 19-member National Committee to work on its National Report on Population. This Committee includes key government representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Planning Commission, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, as well as a number of NGOs, research organizations, academics and women's groups.

With financial support from the ICPD Secretariat, Bangladesh has also established five working groups to prepare its National Report and has organized three two-day seminars.

The Government of Guinea offers another example

The Government of Guinea established a National Committee to coordinate its ICPD-related activities, including the preparation of its National Report on Population.

This Committee includes representatives from government ministries involved in planning, population, human resources, communication and the economy.

National consultants have already started working on the draft version of their national report, which they will then present to the Committee and the National Population Council for comments and approval.

The Committee also plans to organize meetings to promote public awareness of the linkages between population and development issues at the national level. Seminars will also be arranged to ensure that all government sectors

can actively participate in the ICPD process.

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Putting Population at the Centre of the Development Debate

THE OUTCOME OF PREPCOM 11:

Putting Population at the Centre of the Development Debate

Population must be at the centre of action on economic, social and environmental issues - this was the overriding message conveyed by participants at the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at U.N. headquarters in New York, 10-21 May 1993. It will no longer be acceptable to treat population issues as an optional extra in the overall development debate. With this message, PrepCom 11 provided clear guidance for the Secretariat to begin drafting the first version of the final document, which will be adopted at the 1994 Conference.

A new plan of action: the "Cairo Document"

Delegates at PrepCom 11 agreed on a set of population and development issues to be discussed at Cairo as well as on the inter-relationships among them. Of particular importance was the widespread agreement on the draft structure of the final document of the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo 5-13 September 1994. (See draft structure of the Cairo Document on page 2).

We have made an excellent beginning in framing what will be a historic document in this most important area of human development", said ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik, at the closing of the second session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee - PrepCom 11.

The Secretary-General won overwhelming support for her proposal that the Conference adopt a new, free-standing document, which would include action-oriented recommendations that are realistic and operational, in order to effectively address population and development challenges of the next decades. There was broad consensus on the inclusion of many issues that will be negotiated in the final document, such as the interrelationship among population, environment, sustained growth and economic development; the empowerment of women; population aging; the emerging partnership between governments, NGOs and the private sector, as well as a number of other issues. I Please refer to the Chairman's Summary on the Conceptual Framework - document E/CONF.84/PC/L.9 - which highlights the views expressed at PrepCom 11 on these and other important issues. However, as Dr Sadik recognized, certain issues will need to be discussed at greater length in the coming months. The issues she identified as demanding particular attention were the elimination of unsafe abortions; reproductive health; international migration and international assistance.

Secretariat gets clear instructions

Dr. Sadik said she and her staff now have clear guidance to begin drafting the first version of the Cairo Document.

Participants at PrepCom 11 asked the Secretariat to include, in the preambular section of the document, an overview of levels, trends and prospects of the world's population, using a set of demographic and social indicators, based on a 20-year time span. These would be articulated in the context of economic growth and the sustainability of the environment, and would duly reflect the central theme of the 1994 Conference: "Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development".

Agreement to work on 20-year goals

Dr. Sadik also received widespread support for her proposal to include in the Cairo Document a set of realistic, quantifiable goals for 2015

"Setting goals for the international community is not an attempt to impose a rigid formula", said Dr. Sadik, "but rather a way to address the basic components of an acceptable quality of life for all members of our global family". The participants asked the Secretariat to examine the possibility of including some qualitative goals as well.

Section on Principles

The participants also suggested that the document include a set of principles which will cover the main issues to be discussed at the conference and provide the ground for action. These principles will be drawn, as much as possible, from other major international instruments, particularly the World Population Plan of Action and the Recommendations for its Further Implementation, the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Amsterdam Declaration.

Fifteen Chapters for Action Recommendations

The main body of the document will be divided into fifteen chapters, many of which will contain a variety of sub-sections This is the section which is expected to contain the relevant recommendations for action and how they are to be implemented.

In drafting the document, the Secretariat will be drawing on the views expressed at PrepCom 11, as well as those which will be elaborated at the

48th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 48) next fall. To ensure that delegates are well informed on preparations for Cairo, the Secretariat was asked to provide an annotated outline of the draft document, as an annex to the secretary-general's report to UNCA 48, to be considered under the item "International Conference on Population and Development" .

The full version of the draft document will be ready by February 1994 and made available in all official U.N. Languages. This will give ample time for delegations to consider the draft document before it is presented for in-depth negotiation at the third PrepCom, to be held 11 -22 April 1994.

More political support for ICPD

To give more political weight to the ICPD process, the Group of 77 submitted a draft resolution which was adopted in a revised version by the Preparatory Committee, calling for the ICPD Preparatory Committee, established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. This resolution states that the General Assembly, which is comprised of all 183 members of the United Nations, "is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to economic, social and related fields". This proposal will be taken up at the next substantive session of ECOSOC to be held in Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993; ECOSOC may then ask the General Assembly to take the necessary action.

The resolution also asked that ECOSOC make the appropriate arrangements to ensure adequate preparations for the Preparatory Committee and the conference and invited all countries in

¥ a position to do so" to contribute to trust funds established to assist developing countries to participate fully and effectively in the conference and its preparatory process.

When the General Assembly convenes its 48th session, it will have in hand the report of the second PrepCom, as well as a progress report on the conference, including an annotated outline of the first draft of the final document.

The PrepCom resolution also emphasized the important role of the media, and requested the U.N. SecretaryGeneral to promote the objectives and activities of the conference.

Extraordinary level of commitment by Governments and NGOS

Dr. Sadik praised the "extraordinary" level of commitment demonstrated at PrepCom 11 by almost the entire international community. Over 150 countries participated in this session, as well as a substantial number of NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. In addition to the 69 NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status, 332 non-consultative status NGOs were officially accredited to the ICPD and its preparatory process, raising the total to 401. While not all 401 organizations which received accreditation attended PrepCom 11, more than 400 representatives from 211 NGOs participated in the two-week meeting. Further NGO accreditation will take place at PrepCom 111.

Other key decisions at PrepCom 11

PrepCom 11 granted observer status to the associate members of the regional commissions to participate in the conference and its preparatory process. This will involve sixteen associate members, 10 from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and 6 from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Consideration of the conference's "Rules of Procedure" was postponed to PrepCom 111, in part to ensure that ICPD rules conform with a possible change of status from ECOSOC to the General Assembly.

PrepCom 11 concluded its work with the adoption of the agenda for PrepCom 111, with the clear understanding that most of PrepCom 111 will be devoted to the negotiation of the final document.

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Think Global Act Local

Parliamentarians for Global Action: "Think Global, Act Local"

Parliamentarians for Global Action translated their commitment to population and development issues into an official document entitled "Parliamentary Declaration on Population and Development", which was presented at PrepCom 11 on Monday, 17 May 1993.

According to this Declaration, this influential group of parliamentarians, representing more than 19 million citizens from 24 different countries, has pledged to act through their national parliaments to promote population and development goals and policies.

"The 1994 Cairo Conference must be a springboard to generating political will that ensures that the related issues of population and development are at the top of the political agenda of world leaders for the remainder of the decade".

Fighting aid fatigue"

Parliamentarians also made clear in their Declaration that there would be no lasting solution to the global population and development crisis without major financial contributions from the developed to the developing world. To that effect, the group echoed the ICPD Secretary-General's call for donor governments to allocate 4% of their official development assistance to population activities, and set the year 2000 as their target date.

Governments currently allocate less than 1.5% of official development assistance to population related activities, including family planning.

Parliamentarians also referred to the debt problems of many developing nations, and called for more open trade practices between the developed and developing world. Structural Adjustment Programmes were identified as another source of constraint, which further restricted the ability of governments to devote more funds to social sectors.

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