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GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS ICPD FINAL DOCUMENT OUTLINE

and Development will be the focus of debate in the Second Committee of the forty-eighth United Nations General Assembly. For at least two of its half-day meetings, the Second Committee will direct its attention to a progress report on ICPD preparations and an annotated outline of the draft final Conference document.

In an introductory statement to the Committee, the Secretary- General of ICPD, Dr. Nafis Sadik, is expected to describe the process through which the 42-page annotated outline is to be turned into a draft of the final document. Debate will then centre on the outline's overall emphasis and specific content, giving delegates the opportunity to comment on aspects of particular interest to their countries. The United Nations Economic and Social Council, in ECOSOC resolution 1993/76 of 30 July 1993, requested that such an outline be prepared for the General Assembly.

Many delegates and other interested parties at the second session of ICPD's Preparatory Committee (PrepCom II) requested that documentation be made available at the earliest possible opportunity. Towards this end, the ICPD Secretariat in late September widely distributed the final, unedited "yellow copy" versions of the nine-page Conference progress report (A/48/430) and the annotated outline (A/48/430 Add 1), soon after they had been submitted to the United Nations Secretariat's Office of Conference Services for editing, translation and processing. (This "yellow copy" mechanism has been used successfully in recent years for advance distribution of all UNDP and all UNFPA Governing Council documents.)

Copies of the ICPD progress report and the annotated outline can be obtained from the ICPD Secretariat.

The annotated outline is already a substantial document, addressing a wide range of Conference issues and indicating priorities among them. Its 17 chapters follow the format of and reflect many of the key points contained in the comprehensive summary of PrepCom II written by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. The ICPD Secretariat is preparing a first draft of the final document for Cairo based on the annotated outline; it will be guided in this effort by the General Assembly's suggestions and recommendations.

The first draft of the final document will be taken up by the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, to be held in New York from 4 to 22 April 1994. To ensure that delegations and other interested parties have ample time to study it before then, the draft is due to be released in all official languages by early February.

Because of the very tight deadlines and the magnitude of the endeavour, work on the first draft of the final document has already commenced. The ICPD Secretariat plans to complete the draft before 1 January 1994--it will be available in "yellow copy" form at that time--and submit it to the United Nations for translating and processing.

Any delegation or other interested party that has comments, suggestions, or proposed language regarding any of the currently envisioned 17 chapters of the first draft is urged to convey them to the ICPD Secretariat as soon as possible, and by 1 December at

the latest.

The Secretary-General of the Conference and many others have indicated that the final ICPD document should be focused and action-oriented, and stand on its own; it should address key population issues and their interrelationships with sustained economic growth, sustainable development and gender equality, in a 20-year time frame. Such a document must be concise and accessible; limit its recommendations to addressing the most important needs in a clearly-worded, realistic manner; and include the means of implementation, commitments and follow-up agreed to at Cairo.

NORWAY'S P.M. WILL COME TO CAIRO

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland has agreed to attend the International Conference on Population and Development next year. The eminent campaigner for sustainable development made the pledge before an assembly at the United Nations on 28 September, after delivering the fifth annual Rafael M. Salas Memorial Lecture.

Her commitment to come to Cairo, given spontaneously in response to two audience members' questions, was warmly welcomed by ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik and Egyptian Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister Raouf Saad. Both expressed the hope that other world leaders would follow her lead.

The theme of Ms. Brundtland's speech--sponsored by the

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in memory of that organization's first Executive Director--was "Population, Environment and Development" and the "shared but unequal responsibility" of all nations to support efforts to slow population growth.

"Unless we accept that the population explosion is the most serious, predictable and intractable crisis facing us," the Prime Minister cautioned, "we shall not be able to avoid it."

Ms. Brundtland, who chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development and was the chief author of its influential 1987 report, "Our Common Future", said the attainment of population goals required changes in production and consumption patterns in the industrialized countries, as well as increased support for meeting basic human needs in developing countries.

"Population is not about numbers alone; it is about the relationship between people and resources; it is about how resources are consumed; it is about how wealth and opportunity are distributed, and how we can provide more hope for the future."

Limiting population growth, Ms. Brundtland contended, depends on developing human resources, extending family planning, and empowering women. "Experience shows," she stated, "that investing in women is one of the most cost-effective ways of promoting development", resulting in "reduced poverty, better child and family welfare, and lower birth rates."

"There is no better insurance policy for developed and developing countries than funding population and family planning

programmes," she maintained, while warning of "aid fatigue" in some donor countries. "Norway has been deplorably alone among developed countries in meeting internationally agreed targets for both family planning aid and overall development assistance," she noted.

Her country was also out in front of other industrial nations in efforts to reduce consumption of energy and resources,

Ms. Brundtland said; consequently, business leaders complain that

Norway's tax on carbon dioxide emissions makes their products

uncompetitively priced. "Changing consumption is far from easy. But

we should begin by recognizing that lowering consumption of natural resources does not mean lowering the standard of living."

In addressing the need to expand the availability of family planning services in developing countries, the Norwegian leader denounced those seeking to block this effort on moral grounds:

"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means accepting mothers suffering or dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions, and unwanted children living in misery." Citing successes in reducing fertility in Thailand, Indonesia and Italy, she observed, "Traditional religious and cultural obstacles can be overcome by economic and social development."

IN BRIEF

The 110-member Non-Aligned Movement will produce its perspectives on ICPD issues at a special Ministerial Meeting on Population of the Non-Aligned Countries, to take place in Denpasar,

Indonesia, from 9-13 November. Senior officials will meet on 9-10 November and ministers on 12-13 November.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will hold a Ministerial Conference on Women and Family Health, in Kathmandu from 21-23 November 1993. Special emphasis will be placed on women's reproductive health, its relationships with family planning and birth spacing, and the role and status of women. The deliberations are expected to provide important input into ICPD preparations.

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Meeting in July for the first time, the Caribbean Working Group on Population and Development--representing Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago--called for full political support for ICPD and its preparatory activities. The Working Group, under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, produced a framework for a Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development, identifying priority issues, strategies and mechanisms for technical and financial cooperation. When the Working Group meets again in Curacao on 2-3 December, a draft of the plan will be prepared for incorporation into the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Plan of Action. Members will also work to place population and development on the agenda of the 1994 Caribbean Community Heads of Government Conference.

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his 1993 annual report on the work of the Organization, takes note of the preparations for ICPD, "a conference which will take up the challenge of people-centred development." In reporting on the activities of the United Nations Population Fund, the Secretary-General notes that "an increasing number of countries are now linking population issues to national development policies and priorities."

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To promote ICPD, a colourful brochure describing the aims and organization of the Conference is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. ICPD buttons have also been produced. Available soon will be a media briefing kit containing short articles on the ICPD mandate and process; population, the environment and development; gender equality; reproductive health and family planning; demographic challenges; implementation of Conference recommendations; and a calendar of ICPD-related events. These materials may be obtained from the ICPD Secretariat.

DRAFTING OF NATIONAL REPORTS YIELDS DIVIDENDS

One of the most significant ICPD preparatory activities is the drafting by over 100 countries of national reports on population. The information in these reports will be important both for future policy formulation and programme implementation in each country, and as contributions to the Conference. The process of producing the reports has already produced dividends, for example,

by involving many sectors of government in discussions of population and development issues.

The ICPD Secretariat is currently analysing the national reports and will formulate a Synthesis Report highlighting their principal themes and salient features. The Synthesis Report will also discuss demographic and development trends in relation to national policies, legislation, regulations, incentives and programmes; examine the results of various approaches to similar problems and constraints taken in different countries and contexts; and indicate possible directions to be taken in the future.

A draft of the Synthesis Report will be prepared for the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) and the final version will be ready for the Conference itself.

Countries are encouraged to distribute copies of their national reports to participants at both PrepCom III and the Conference. At each event, an area will be made available for this purpose.

Deadlines for submission of national reports and the complementary data forms were 30 September and 15 October 1993, respectively. The ICPD Secretariat has requested that each country provide five hard copies plus one diskette copy.

`DEFINING DECADE' FOR POPULATION, SAYS FONDA

American actress Jane Fonda, Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Population Fund, challenged listeners at United Nations headquarters on 20 September to use the 1990s as a

"defining decade" for stabilizing the world's population.

She set out four goals:

- + Universal access to family planning by the end of the decade;
- + Altering the underlying conditions that lead to large families;
- + Slowing the demographic momentum by addressing the needs of young people in regard to their sexuality; and
- + Encouraging and enabling all countries to develop national carrying capacity assessments, comparing population with available national resources.

Ms. Fonda delivered her 50-minute message to an attentive, standing-room-only crowd in one of the United Nations' largest conference rooms.

"We do know that right now approximately 1 billion people do not get enough food to function.... And we do know that we are dipping into one-time-only natural capital in the form of topsoil, water and fossil fuels which took billions of years to accumulate," she said.

"In business we know it's unwise to spend capital faster than it accumulates, that it represents a fiscal crisis when you do; why do we think it's any different in the natural world?"

Ms. Fonda was accompanied by her husband, Ted Turner, chairman of the board and president of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. Turner is also a UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador. Also on the podium were ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik and artist Robert Rauschenberg. Mr. Rauschenberg presented Ms. Fonda with one of 200 signed prints made from a new painting that he created especially for ICPD; other prints will be sold by the by Earth Pledge Foundation to help promote the Conference.

Ms. Fonda advocated cutting the U.S. budget for intelligence- gathering in the post-Cold War world by 3 per cent, or what she estimated as \$1.5 billion, "to address the new and real threats to our national security: the long-term economic and environmental problems which have taken on far greater significance in the last decade."

"To improve peoples' quality of life, reduce conflicts and reduce environmental destruction, we need sustained economic growth carried out in a manner that is environmentally sustainable," Ms. Fonda said, "and we absolutely cannot have such development over the long term unless and until population growth is brought into balance with available resources."

Her lecture, together with a reception and luncheon afterwards, was sponsored by the Eminent Citizens Committee for Cairo '94. Its chair is U.S. lawyer Theodore W. Kheel, a special adviser to ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik.

Pacific countries and territories provided their perspective on ICPD issues at a ministerial-level meeting in Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, from 6-10 September. Senior officials and their ministers from 19 South Pacific countries and territories debated the full range of issues to be addressed by next year's Cairo Conference.

The Port Vila Declaration on Population and Sustainable

Development, adopted on 10 September, follows a similar format to

that used by the ICPD Secretariat in preparing the annotated

outline of the draft final document for Cairo. It is the first such

declaration to do so, but not likely to be the last.

In overall population terms, the island developing countries and territories of the Pacific are far from large--they had a total of 6.3 million people in mid-1993, or slightly less than 0.1 per cent of global population. Their population growth rates, however, are high by world standards; the regional average of 2.3 per cent per annum covers a range of 9.5 per cent in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to negative levels in Niue.

Migration to metropolitan countries in the region is an important factor for some countries in limiting overall population increases and often hides the persistence of high fertility levels. A significant number of Pacific countries and territories will double their population size in the next 20 years, presenting them with challenges similar to those facing their larger Asian and African counterparts.

Running throughout the ministerial meeting was a strong sense of political commitment to tackle the interrelated challenges of population and development. In his opening statement, Vanuatu's Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman stressed the challenges facing political leaders:

"When my term as a politician comes to an end, whenever that may be, population pressure will be greater than it is today.

However, if I carry out my duties properly, by taking the right decisions, creating the necessary infrastructures, and continuing to listen to my fellow countrymen, then I shall have done something towards maintaining or giving hope. But there is one fear, and that is that our hopeful stand may crumble under the weight of our problem. Then what will future generations think of us?"

Pacific island missions to the United Nations propose to submit the Port Vila Declaration to the current General Assembly session, thereby ensuring it is widely available, including at PrepCom III and in Cairo. Copies of it can also be obtained from the ICPD Secretariat.

FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS EXAMINED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF WOMEN

Women's perspectives on family planning, reproductive health and reproductive rights were the focus of the first in a series of round-table meetings convened by a number of Governments and organizations as an informal contribution to the ICPD preparatory

process.

The round table, in Ottawa, Canada, 26-27 August, was organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). There were 25 participants from developing and developed countries, as well as a number of Canadian observers.

CIDA President Huguette Labelle, in her welcoming address, underscored women's essential role in achieving population and sustainable development goals. Dr. Nafis Sadik, ICPD Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director, stressed the need to expand women's access to quality health care, particularly family planning information and services, and to counter customs and traditions that perpetuate inequality between women and men.

The agenda was shaped by four background papers: "Women,

Human Rights and Reproductive Rights"; "Contraceptive Research and

Development--A Woman-Centred Approach"; "Family Planning Service

Delivery"; and "Men and Family Planning--Their Roles,

Responsibilities and Concerns".

Discussions centred on: abortion--in particular, the need to ban its use for sex selection of babies; the need to monitor health service delivery and to formulate indicators of service quality; how to respect cultures and traditions without compromising women's development; reproductive health needs of adolescents; and men's reproductive behaviour, and their role in helping women to empower themselves.

Participants adopted a set of recommendations directed at Governments, the international community and non-governmental organizations. Reaffirming that reproductive rights are human rights, they called for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other instruments relating to women's sexual and reproductive health.

They appealed for increased efforts to combat maternal mortality in developing countries; removal of barriers to the exercise of women's rights; greater spending to improve the reproductive health of disadvantaged women; increased support of contraceptive research; universal access to safe, legal abortion; the establishment of quality standards and provision of training for family planning services; actions to discourage the practice of genital mutilation; confidential services for adolescent boys and girls; and research and service programmes stressing males' responsibility for their sexual behaviour and its consequences.

Declaring that "in reproductive health programmes, cultural sensitivity should fully reflect gender sensitivity," the round table recommended: "In the development of policies and programmes, all parties are called upon to ensure that culture and tradition do not justify practices or procedures that stunt the development of girls and women, jeopardize their health, limit their freedom or threaten their security."

The meeting also called for efforts to promote the status and well-being of girls; "eliminate the root causes of son preference and the practice of sex-selective abortion"; invest in girls' education, health and nutrition; and discourage early marriage and child-bearing."

MAGHREB COUNTRIES ADDRESS MULTIPLE CHALLENGES

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia face a triple challenge of growing populations, increasing needs and scarce resources, concluded the Conference on Population and Development in the Maghreb Countries, held in Tunis 7-10 July. The Conference adopted a Plan of Action which acknowledges the different demographic situations in each country, but also stresses issues common to all five.

The Plan is based on principles accepted by earlier regional conferences in Amman (for the Arab countries) and Dakar/Ngor (for Africa). The Amman Declaration emphasized the role and status of women as well as the role of NGOs. The Dakar/Ngor Declaration on population, family and sustainable development asserted the primary importance of the family and the responsibility of Governments to improve the quality of life of each person.

The population of the Maghreb countries doubled between 1960 and 1990, from 29 million to 58 million, and is expected to increase by another 25 million by the turn of the century. It is growing at an average rate of 2.7 per cent per annum.

The Plan of Action recognizes the problems created by past growth in increasing the labour force and the pressures towards migration. "It is important to reduce high fertility rates, which are responsible for increasing migration pressure in the next

generation," ICPD Secretary-General Nafis Sadik said in her address to the Conference. "It is equally important to widen the range of economic opportunity. Our aim should be to ensure that no one is forced into migration by poverty, environmental degradation, or absence of economic choices."

Women's importance to the development process called for policies to prevent them being crowded out of a growing labour force, said Dr. Sadik. She called for special attention to education, training and employment opportunities.

Coinciding with the Conference, the Maghreb Forum of Non-Governmental Women's Organizations also met in Tunis from 7-10 July. The NGO Forum was an initiative of the National Union of Tunisian Women, undertaken with support from UNFPA. Twenty-one organizations active in family welfare and community development took part.

MEETING SUPPORTS FAMILY PLANNING IN CENTRAL ASIA

Formal consultations to help six republics that were formerly part of the Soviet Union set up and manage family planning programmes began 11-15 September in Tehran at the Regional Conference on Family Planning, hosted by Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education and cosponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Conference was called to identify programme needs in maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP),

particularly as programmes make the transition from reliance on abortion to promotion of contraception and family planning; and to foster regional cooperation, linking the six new republics (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to Asian countries with more mature family planning programmes.

Participants were briefed on a variety of available contraceptive methods, on family planning programme management, and on collaborative structures already in place. New avenues for cooperation were established, and the Government of Iran agreed to set up a regional centre to train health officials from the six countries in MCH/FP service delivery and other population-related fields. UNFPA pledged to supply contraceptives to meet the six countries' emergency needs in 1993/94, and to organize training of family planning service providers.

In an opening speech, Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive
Director and Secretary-General of ICPD, observed: "There are
several Islamic traditions indicating that regulating fertility is
part of the exercise of responsible parenthood. Writings by jurists
and scholarly research confirm that the practice of contraception
is acceptable, as long as it is free of coercion, and falls within
the framework of religious and moral teachings."

Countries in the Asia region "accept that rapid population growth, unplanned migration and urbanization, and increasing degradation of the environment threaten the drive for sustainable development," Dr. Sadik told participants. "They accept the need for strong and effective population policies, with the well-being

of the individual and the family as their primary goal."

Asian countries taking part in the Conference included
Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri
Lanka, Thailand and Turkey. Representatives from Afghanistan also
attended. Other participants included the United Nations Children's
Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health
Organization, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and
Family Health International.

NEWS FROM THE NGOS

The Centre for Development and Population Activities

(CEDPA), a Washington-based, woman-focused NGO, and its Southern

partners have mobilized their extensive network of women's NGOs for

ICPD. The 900-organization CEDPA network is committed to increasing

women's leadership in shaping population policies that empower

women and promote gender equity.

In September, network members who attended the second session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom II) organized ICPD Issues Meetings in 10 countries to bring more women's organizations into the Conference process. More than 200 NGO representatives participated in the meetings in Bangladesh, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru and Tanzania. Their recommendations on key issues will be compiled by CEDPA and reported to the ICPD Secretariat.

committees and working with official delegations to ensure that community perspectives on family planning, reproductive health care, the needs of the girl child, and gender equity are fully represented at the Conference.

Thirty-one women leaders from 17 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America represented CEDPA at PrepCom II in May. The delegation was the largest group of Southern NGOs at the meeting, and played a key role in advocating for the priorities of women. A two-day pre-meeting advocacy training workshop gave delegates the opportunity to exchange information and form regional groups, which became the core for women's NGO regional activities. Throughout the PrepCom, the delegates met daily to discuss issues with leading population experts, draft position papers, and formulate follow-up strategies.

For many of these leaders, the ICPD process is a unique opportunity to make community-level needs and priorities known to policy makers at the highest levels and to forge government-NGO linkages.

Overall, CEDPA network activities are geared to the implementation of strategies which emerge from ICPD. CEDPA delegates will hold regional and country-level meetings before and following ICPD to assure that new approaches developed at the Conference are the basis for more effective programmes.

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European states met in Lillehammer, Norway, from 1-6 August to review preparations for ICPD and make recommendations for PrepCom III and the Cairo Conference. This was one of seven meetings that the Population Institute is organizing prior to April 1994. ICPD Executive Coordinator Jyoti S. Singh was the keynote speaker.

Participants adopted the Lillehammer Declaration, which called on countries to intensify efforts to "achieve population stabilization at the level compatible with sustainable development", by increasing access to quality modern contraceptives. The Declaration proposed that a roundtable meeting be held to consider the particular population problems facing the newly-independent states and Eastern European countries in transition.

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REMINDER TO NGOS: The ICPD Secretariat is awaiting your comments on the PrepCom II documents.

SIGN UP NOW FOR PREPCOM III

Reminder to NGOs not yet registered for PrepCom III: the deadline for accreditation is 15 January 1994.

Thousands of demographers, social scientists and population experts gathered in Montreal, Canada, from 24 August to 1

September, for the Twenty-Second General Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). The Conference, held every four years, has been likened to an international information bazaar allowing professionals to exchange the latest theories, methodologies, research and data.

At special one-day session (1 September) on "The Contribution of IUSSP to the 1994 U.N. International Conference on Population and Development", ICPD Executive Coordinator Jyoti S. Singh and Deputy Secretary-General Joe Chamie described the preparations for Cairo. IUSSP members were invited to contribute to the ICPD preparatory process, particularly by making available the latest information and research findings on population-development links.

The special session also considered the reports and recommen- dations of the six expert group meetings held as scientific preparatory activities for Cairo. The resulting discussion will soon be made available as a conference report (IUSSP permanent secretariat, Rue des Augustins, 34 - 4000 Li Belgium; Fax: 041/223847).

IUSSP decided at the Montreal meeting to organize a special forum in Cairo in 1994, as part of the NGO activities that will be held concurrently with the official Conference. This forum should enable scientists and experts to make delegates aware of up-to-date research relevant for policy formulation.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

1993

21 September-mid-December United Nations Headquarters, New York
48th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Consideration
of agenda item "International Conference on Population and
Development".

9-13 November Denpasar, Indonesia

Ministerial Meeting on Population of the Non-Aligned Countries.

17-19 November Bangkok, Thailand

Round Table on Population and Development Strategies.

21-23 November Kathmandu, Nepal

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Ministerial Conference on Family Health.

24-26 November Geneva, Switzerland

Round Table on Population, Environment and Sustainable Development in the Post-UNCED Period.

2-3 December Vienna, Austria

Round Table on Population and Communication.

1994

Meeting of Eminent Persons in Population and Development.

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 consultations.

5-13 September Cairo, Egypt

International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

"ICPD 94" is the newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development. For further information please contact:

ICPD Secretariat 220 E. 42nd Street, 22nd floor New York, N.Y. 10017, USA Tel: (212) 297-5244/5245 Fax: (212) 297-5250

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