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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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GA Looks at Means of Implementing ICPD Programme of Action

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY LOOKS AT MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action requires a major mobilization of resources and effective mechanisms for monitoring follow-up actions, speakers stressed in a UN General Assembly debate on 17 and 18 November.

Reinforcing international support for the commitments made in Cairo, the Assembly devoted three plenary meetings to consideration of the report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/CONF.171/13). Speakers from 46 countries, some representing groups of States, addressed the meetings.

Following directly from this debate, the General Assembly's Second Committee (dealing with development matters) has begun negotiating a draft resolution, sponsored by Algeria for the Group of 77 and China, and Indonesia for the Non-Aligned Movement, on

follow-up to ICPD. In other post-Cairo activity at the international level, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development met in Paris from 29-30 November to address ways of generating the financial resources required to implement the ICPD Programme.

Prior to the General Assembly debate, the UN Secretariat released the report of the Conference in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). The report includes: the full Programme of Action and the resolution adopting it; other resolutions adopted by the Conference; an account of procedural actions and attendance; a list of speakers in the general debate; the report of the Main Committee; a summary of the debate around adoption of the Programme of Action, including oral and written statements from 23 States which requested that their reservations or comments be put on record; and closure of the Conference.

A list of ICPD documents, opening and closing statements of the Conference, and a description of parallel and associated activities have been issued as an annex to the report.

The ICPD Secretariat has been active distributing thousands of copies of the report, particularly to UN field and public information offices and non-governmental organizations.

ICPD SUCCESSES ACKNOWLEDGED

All who spoke in the two-day General Assembly plenary session acknowledged the achievements of the September Conference, with many hailing the Programme of Action's emphases on the need to

empower women and on a comprehensive approach to reproductive health which includes family planning. Most of the statements focused on follow-up to ICPD, particularly resource allocation and institutional mechanisms for supporting and monitoring implementation of the Programme of Action.

The context for this debate was set by Chapter XVI of the Programme of Action, dealing with follow-up at the national, regional and international levels. Paragraph 16.25 calls on the General Assembly to regularly review implementation of the Programme of Action; the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is asked to provide system-wide coordination in monitoring implementation, and to review the UN reporting system.

The General Assembly, during its forty-ninth session, and ECOSOC in its June 1995 high-level session, are specifically requested to review the responsibilities, mandates and comparative advantages of intergovernmental bodies and UN system organs concerned with population and development, to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities based on the Programme of Action.

Speaking on behalf of the developing countries in the Group of 77 and China, Algeria began the 17 November debate by praising ICPD's accomplishments, especially its recognition of the key role that population policies play in development and its endorsement of a new approach centred on human beings rather than numbers. The speaker stressed that the Conference had affirmed the sovereign right of States to establish their own population and development policies. He called for a concerted international mobilization to meet ICPD goals in regard to maternal, infant and child mortality,

and access to education.

Algeria reiterated the Group of 77's agreement in Cairo that developing countries could be expected to pay two thirds of the implementation costs projected in the Programme of Action. The speaker called on developed countries to provide the remaining one third, noting the consensus that new and additional resources are needed "to support the efforts of developing countries, particularly the least developed, to strengthen their programmes to fight the poverty that is endemic in several regions of the world".

Germany, speaking for the European Union, termed ICPD "a great success" and said the world had "moved from the earlier emphasis on demography and population control to a focus on sustainable development including sustainable consumption and production patterns, mutual and individual rights and responsibilities, women's rights and the freedom to chose in particular with regard to child spacing and reproductive health". The upcoming World Summit on Social Development and Fourth World Conference on Women can and should carry forward the Cairo agenda, the speaker said. Several Western European countries have already pledged substantial increases in population assistance and others will follow suit, he stated.

Institutional roles in ICPD follow-up might need to be adjusted to reflect the Conference's integrated approach to issues, Germany said. Since ECOSOC has coordinating responsibilities in all areas covered by the Programme of Action, it should be the principal monitoring mechanism; the role of ECOSOC's Population Commission needs to be adjusted so it can respond to the integrated

approach called for in Cairo.

"The European Union," Germany stated, "encourages a complementary approach between the Population Division of the Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), within their respective mandates. We hope to see some pragmatic arrangements that would ensure cooperation ... to ensure overall coordination of the population activities of the UN system."

Other speakers also called for strengthened cooperation between UNFPA and the Population Division, building on the excellent cooperation that already exists.

Speakers from developing and developed countries addressed a number of other topics. Some reviewed their own countries' population situation and experience with population policies and programmes, and spoke about national-level plans for implementation of the Programme of Action.

CALL FOR MIGRATION CONFERENCE

Six countries (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and Tunisia) reiterated the call made by many in Cairo for a global conference on international migration. "The fundamental factor underlying international migration is economic in nature: the supply and demand of a qualified labour force," Mexico stressed; sending and receiving countries share the resulting economic, social and cultural benefits. The basic human rights of migrants must be respected, the speaker added.

Many spoke on the subject of monitoring. The United States stressed the need for a monitoring system able to: identify

obstacles to implementation so that UN agencies can address them; produce reports that policy makers can use; and be consolidated with the monitoring requirements of other international agreements.

Focusing on the need for a strong follow-up mechanism within the UN system, several speakers said that the Population Commission should be changed from an expert body to an intergovernmental mechanism and its mandate broadened to encompass monitoring of implementation of the Programme of Action; some suggested that its membership should be substantially increased to ensure transparency. Japan proposed that it be renamed the Commission on Population and Development.

UNFPA should retain overall responsibility for operational implementation in the area of international cooperation, Brazil stated. The Russian Federation said the Fund should be assigned some monitoring and follow-up coordination functions. A number of countries stressed the need for greater funding for UNFPA activities; New Zealand noted that it planned to increase its assistance to the Fund by 20 per cent next year.

In its statement, Canada, in common with a number of other countries, stressed the need for both the General Assembly and ECOSOC to review the mandates and comparative advantages of the various UN bodies involved in ICPD-related activities before considering major shifts in their responsibilities.

Paragraph 16.27 of the Programme of Action calls on the General Assembly to consider the advisability of creating a separate Executive Board for UNFPA, which currently shares a

governing body with the UN Development Programme. A number of countries (Egypt, Indonesia and Pakistan, e.g.) supported the move, but some others (including the European Union and Japan) indicated that this is not the right time for such a change; still others said it deserved further consideration. There was general agreement to keep the matter open, particularly as the General Assembly in its fiftieth session in 1995 is required to review the establishment and operation of Executive Boards of all UN programmes and funds.

Speakers addressed a number of other points during the debate: China stressed that population must be closely integrated with efforts to eliminate poverty, improve education, health care and living conditions, and improve women's status. Antigua and Barbuda, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community and Suriname, said it wished the Programme of Action had paid more attention to environmental concerns. The Russian Federation emphasized the need of countries in transition for technical assistance.

Indonesia and the Republic of Korea spoke about increasing South-South cooperation in regard to population and development. Nigeria and the Holy See noted the Programme of Action's emphasis on national sovereignty in regard to laws and religious and cultural values. And Thailand, among others, noted that the outcome of ICPD will contribute to the upcoming Social Development Summit and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

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The General Assembly's consideration of the outcome of ICPD is part of an ongoing process of follow-up and implementation at the

national and international levels. Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD and Executive Director of UNFPA, outlined the main components of this process in a 4 November statement to the joint staffs of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington.

The review by the General Assembly and ECOSOC of the implications of ICPD for the UN system as a whole, and for UNFPA in particular, "will set a framework for an appropriate global monitoring system", Dr. Sadik reported, and "will have a major impact on international population-related assistance".

To ensure a common and integrated strategy for ICPD follow-up within the UN system, the UN Secretary-General has asked Dr. Sadik in her capacity as UNFPA Executive Director to chair an inter-agency Task Force which will include high-level officials from various parts of the system.

Through the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination, all UN agencies and organizations have been asked to review how they will promote implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Dr. Sadik said that as current Chairperson of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions she would work to ensure that the responsibilities of each part of the system are well defined and mutually supportive, with a minimum of duplication.

"As we all contribute to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, each institution should design its programmes, drawing on its comparative advantage, while ensuring the fullest possible

complementarity with programmes of others," she stated. "This requires even more regular and systematic information-sharing and communication than in the past." She said it is particularly important that each country "follow a common national strategy rather than a number of different strategies proposed and promoted by different donor institutions".

"There are a number of special issues emanating from ICPD which would benefit immensely from joint reviews," Dr. Sadik emphasized. "These include, for example, basic education and education of girls in particular; women's empowerment; access to reproductive health and family planning; maternal mortality; adolescent reproductive health, and community participation."

To be fully effective, she added, "population policies and programmes need to be amply integrated into the wider context of an overall strategy for sustainable development. I am confident that the World Bank and IMF will give their financial and intellectual support to this integration, so that population concerns will now be at the centre of developmental efforts and not any longer relegated to the back burner."

NATIONAL FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Speaking about national-level follow-up activities, Dr. Sadik noted that the ICPD Programme of Action called on Governments, assisted by NGOs and the UN system: to publicize the results of the Conference as widely as possible, through meetings, publications and the media; to establish appropriate follow-up mechanisms, in partnership with parliamentarians, NGOs, community groups, the media and the academic community: to formulate national action plans; to set up or strengthen national databases to include all

the indicators required for effective monitoring; and to determine what financial resources will be required to implement the Programme of Action.

National committees which played a key role in ICPD preparations, notably in drafting national reports on each country's population experiences (see page 3), are now being encouraged to continue their work, Dr. Sadik said. These committees are well placed to monitor and evaluate national progress in achieving Conference goals and objectives, and to transmit evaluation reports to regional and international organizations monitoring the Conference results.

To help ensure that national reporting does not impose undue additional burdens on countries, she recommended that they "seek to establish a comprehensive, integrated framework for all the international conferences and agreements in the social field, e.g., the Children's Summit, Education for All, Health for All, ICPD, the Social Summit, and the Women's Conference".

"At Cairo," Dr. Sadik pointed out, "most Governments have shown their commitment to addressing population within the development context; the Bank's and the IMF's help will be indispensable post-Cairo to build infrastructure, to furnish policy advice and to make financing available so that all countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Central America will be able to enjoy the same success in tackling population issues that have been experienced elsewhere."

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News in Brief

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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NEWS IN BRIEF

The impact of the world's population on the environment, and the relationship between free trade and the global environment were among the main topics on the agenda at the Tokyo Conference on Global Environmental Action, held 24-26 October. Thirty specialists and eminent persons from around the world took part.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD, told the meeting that the success of both local and global action in the environmental field "is significantly dependent on how successful we are in implementing the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action". The sooner implementation begins, she noted, the sooner the world's population will stabilize. Among the most important goals of ICPD, she emphasized, is the emancipation and empowerment of women: "Without gender equality, all other goals are likely to be wholly or partially unfulfilled."

The meeting was held as part of the preparations for a special UN General Assembly session in 1997 on the environment and as a follow-up to an April 1992 Tokyo meeting on financing global environment and development activities. Maurice Strong, who was Secretary-General of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, presided.

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The UN Development Programme on 28 October released "Uncommon Opportunities -- An Agenda for Peace and Equitable Development", prepared by the International Commission on Peace and Food. The report, the product of years of research and analysis, deals with such issues as full employment, food for all, developing human resourcefulness and the peace imperative.

The Commission, comprised of distinguished political, administrative and scientific leaders, was launched in October 1989 to utilize the growing global consensus over food issues to press for more rapid and substantial progress on peace, disarmament and development. M.S. Swaminathan, the first recipient of the World Food Prize and architect of India's "green revolution" is chairman.

The report offers a strategy to generate 100 million new jobs in India over the next decade, sufficient to eradicate the worst forms of poverty in a country that has about 25 per cent of the world's poor. The strategy, providing food security through sustainable agriculture and creating non-farm employment for the rural poor, has already been adopted by the Government of India and tested in 12 districts in that country with the assistance of UNDP.

The report emphasizes that increasing agricultural productivity has been a powerful engine for industrialization, economic growth and employment in East Asia and in other developing regions. It calls for "evolving a comprehensive theory of human-centred development that takes into full account the social and cultural forces that drive the development process".

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In seven of the world's largest countries, the fertility rate is now below two children per woman; women in 11 countries now have a life expectancy of 80 years or more. These are among the highlights of "The Demographic Yearbook 1992", released in September by the UN Statistical Division.

The newly issued data indicate that both fertility and mortality have continued to decline substantially in many countries and areas since the early 1980s. Crude birth rates as high as 50 births per 1,000 population are reported for only seven countries or areas, and life expectancy at birth is now in excess of 70 years for males as well as females in 40 countries or areas. The highest levels of fertility and mortality are in Africa.

The 44th annual edition of the "Demographic Yearbook" features fertility and mortality. It provides 14 detailed statistical tables on induced abortion; foetal, infant and maternal mortality; deaths by age, sex and residence; cause of death; and life expectancy. Tabulations on fertility include crude birth rates, births by age of mother, and sex- and age-specific fertility rates. In addition, the latest statistics on population size, marriage and divorce for

over 200 countries or areas of the world are presented.

The "Yearbook" (Sales No. E/F.94.XIII.1) may be obtained for \$125 per copy from United Nations Publications, 2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A., or through major booksellers world-wide.

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Eight hundred million people world-wide suffer from chronic malnourishment, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General Jacques Diouf told FAO's Governing Council in Rome on 15 November.

Provisional estimates for world agricultural production rose by 2.2 per cent in 1994, Mr. Diouf reported. This was partly due to increased grain production in the United States, following a sharp fall there in 1993. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, agricultural production grew by an estimated 1 per cent, well below the population increase, he said; 15 African countries, including Rwanda and all its neighbours, suffered losses or complete crop failures.

An FAO report to the Council stated that 30 countries face food shortages or emergencies related to large-scale migrations of refugees: Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Chad, Liberia, Swaziland, Zaire, Iraq, Yemen, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Synthesis of ICPD National Reports

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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ANALYSIS OF ICPD NATIONAL REPORTS IDENTIFIES COMMON THEMES

To assist understanding of the entire ICPD process, a "Synthesis of National Reports on Population and Development" prepared for the Conference has been issued by the United Nations (A/49/482) in all six official languages.

For many of the 167 countries that prepared national reports for ICPD, the reports constitute the most comprehensive surveys of population and development issues ever assembled, and their synthesis offers valuable information on national, regional and global experiences, issues and trends.

Collectively, the national reports represent a wealth of information and experience. They have provided an important avenue for the expression of national perspectives as input to the Conference, and for the exchange among countries of experiences and lessons learned.

Within countries, the process of gathering the experiences of the past several decades stimulated useful dialogues among policy makers, academics, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Preparation of the reports created opportunities to reassess national priorities, and provided a catalyst for all parties concerned to recommit themselves to population and development objectives and goals.

Most reports cover the full range of population dynamics: growth, structure, distribution and movement, providing an overview of: past, current and future demographic trends; policies and programmes; and operational issues. Most endeavoured to trace linkages between population and development.

The reports collectively convey the evolving state of the world population, tracing new and old socio-demographic trends and identifying their impact on people's well-being. They also chart the changing national perceptions of population-related issues.

The material and data assembled during the ICPD national report exercise can now serve as a basis for follow-up to the Conference. The reports contain baseline population and development indicators against which implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action can be measured in the years ahead.

The "Synthesis of National Reports" presents a series of analyses based on regional and subregional characteristics, as well as on common themes and issues. Some of these analyses provide insights into national perspectives on the ICPD agenda, comparing,

for example, the manner in which individual countries perceive the linkages between population and development.

Following an introduction and overview, the document has seven sections: political commitment to population concerns; population growth and structure; health, morbidity and mortality; fertility; the role and status of women; population movement; and the interrelationships between population, development and the environment.

MAJOR TRENDS

The overview section highlights some major trends:

* Although the global population growth rate is declining as a direct result of reductions in fertility levels, in a few subregions the trend is reversed and in many parts of the world the annual population growth rate is still over 2.5 per cent.

* Mortality levels have declined significantly over the past two decades; however, the gap in mortality indicators between industrialized and developing countries has widened.

* The combination of high population growth, low levels of socio-economic development and slow technological progress has become a major concern among developing countries.

* Women play a fundamental role in the development process, particularly in regard to population, but their low status relative to men hinders their potential contribution to development.

* The traditional family unit is eroding in many societies --

fewer couples are getting married, more marriages are ending in divorce, and the number of female-headed households is rising.

* More people than ever before are on the move in search of better living conditions, and an increasing number are crossing borders.

The overview also identifies the socio-demographic challenges most commonly cited in the reports. They include: finding a viable equilibrium between population growth rates and socio-economic development; reducing teenage pregnancies; overcoming cultural and traditional norms and practices that hinder efforts to improve the status of women; meeting the needs of rising numbers of both youth and the elderly; raising living standards and providing basic services in rapidly growing urban centres; and reducing youth unemployment.

The "Synthesis of National Reports" was prepared by the ICPD Secretariat and released at the Cairo Conference in draft form. The Secretariat is currently preparing a revised version of the document, incorporating into the analyses the national reports received after 1 August 1994. It is expected to be published by the United Nations Population Fund early next year.

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Book Review: "Beyond the Numbers"

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ANTHOLOGY REFLECTS DIVERSITY WITHIN ICPD CONSENSUS

Demographers, economists, feminists and environmentalists often present divergent analyses of issues related to population growth, socio-economic development, the environment and reproductive health. At times the failure to reconcile conflicting priorities has impeded action to address these issues.

During the ICPD process, however, there has been a historic shift to common ground – what U.S. Under-Secretary of State Timothy Wirth calls a "consensus in the middle of the spectrum". "Beyond the Numbers: A Reader on Population, Consumption and the Environment" (Island Press, Washington, 1994) illuminates this convergence of diverse views, succinctly presenting each of the various perspectives represented in the Cairo agreement.

Editor Laurie Ann Mazur acknowledges that her own reference point is environmentalism, which sees population in terms of the

planet's "carrying capacity" and emphasizes the ever-increasing human impact on its ecosystems; several essays elaborate this perspective, presenting a particularly strong argument for the need to reduce consumption by the world's privileged minority. But the book also offers the views of economists convinced that economic expansion can satisfy increasing human needs without exhausting earth's resources (and will eventually lead to lower population growth), as well as those whose priority is a more equitable development model.

MISPERCEPTIONS CHALLENGED

In her introduction, the editor takes on common misperceptions of the population problem, noting, for instance, that the rapid growth in the world's population in recent decades is the result of declining mortality rates, not rising fertility, and that most international migration to developed countries is from regions with relatively low population growth.

Ms. Mazur and other essayists point out that Northern consumption is more responsible than Southern population growth for global climate change, consumption of forest products, energy use, and generation of pollutants and wastes; while in the developing countries, environmental degradation is due more to poverty and inequitable distribution of resources than to population pressures. But they also raise concerns about increasing environmental impact in the developing world as both living standards and human numbers rise.

Also well-represented in this collection are those whose

concern for women's health, well-being and independence has sometimes clashed with population policies focused on demographic goals. Sections on population policy, reproductive health and reproductive rights; and population, gender and culture strongly make the case for the strategy embodied in the ICPD Programme of Action which emphasizes the empowerment of women and a holistic approach to reproductive health and family planning.

The priority is to broaden access to services and increase the quality of care and choice of methods offered. But it is also recognized that a focus on meeting unmet individual needs can both help women achieve their goals and reduce fertility rates more effectively than an approach that de-emphasizes human rights.

While in the past family planning advocates have sometimes been pitted against proponents of development, several authors cite studies showing that it is not an either/or proposition: family planning programmes can help lower birth rates independent of social and economic change, but are most effective in countries experiencing steady socio-economic development; on the other hand, while development measures can help reduce birth rates, none can match the demographic impact of improved access to high quality family planning services.

Other essays in "Beyond the Numbers" review the history of population and development policies and interventions, and examine the causes of and possible ways to break the cycle of rapid population growth, poverty and environmental degradation operating in many developing countries. There are also selections on urbanization and migration, AIDS, abortion, religion and ethics, racism, and population-related national security concerns.

By assembling a broad spectrum of views on the major population-related topics, this anthology provides useful insights into what the ICPD consensus encompasses and how it was forged, thereby helping to deepen the understanding that population growth, poverty, development, environmental protection and women's rights can no longer be addressed on their own.

"Beyond the Numbers" is available from Island Press, P.O. Box 7, Covelo, CA 95428, U.S.A.; tel. (800) 828-1302. The price is \$40 for hard cover, \$19.95 paper, plus \$4.25 for shipping and handling for the first book, \$1 for each additional copy.

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News for the NGOs

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NEWS FOR THE NGOS: ANALYSIS OF ICPD PARTICIPATION

The ICPD Secretariat's NGO Unit has completed its analysis of the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the in the ICPD process. The details make interesting and instructive reading.

A total of 1,254 NGOs were accredited to ICPD. Included in this number are the 153 NGOs which have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The accredited NGOs are a very diverse group. They are based in 138 countries representing all regions of the world.

Sub-Saharan African-based NGOs totalled 206 from 34 countries, or 16 per cent of the accredited groups. NGOs based in North Africa and the Middle East (including Turkey) totalled 135 from 14 countries, or 11 per cent. NGOs from the Asia and Pacific region comprised 238 from 23 countries, or 19 per cent. Latin America (including Mexico) was represented by 179 NGOs from 22 countries,

or 14 per cent. NGOs from the Caribbean region totalled 22 from 10 countries, or 2 per cent. Europe, including Eastern European countries, was represented by 188 NGOs headquartered in 33 countries, or 15 per cent. Canada and the United States were represented by 286 NGOs, or 23 per cent of the accredited groups.

Grouped according to type of organization, the list of accredited NGOs can be broken down as follows: women's groups, 17 per cent; population/family planning/health, 31 per cent; environment, 7 per cent; youth groups; 4 per cent; multisectoral development groups, 26 per cent; research groups/universities, 5 per cent; other groups (professional, parliamentary, trade unions, religious, etc.), 10 per cent.

A total of 1,347 NGO passes were issued to representatives from accredited NGOs. In addition, media passes were issued to a number of NGO representatives having direct journalistic responsibility for their accredited organizations. NGOs were also very well represented on many official delegations to the Conference. NGO representatives were active participants throughout the Conference, attending plenary sessions, Main Committee meetings and panel discussions, lobbying official delegates, attending the many events at the NGO Forum and interacting with the media. The success of the Conference was due, in large measure, to the ongoing active participation of the NGO community.

The ICPD Secretariat would be pleased to respond to any requests for further information concerning the accredited NGOs.

The ICPD Secretariat is sending each accredited NGO a copy of the just-released report of the Conference which includes the final version of the Programme of Action as adopted in Cairo. It is now available in all six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Should any NGOs require additional copies or copies in another language, they are requested to contact the Secretariat.

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In response to the recommendations made in the ICPD Programme of Action, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is committed to broadening and deepening its collaboration with the diverse NGO community. In the field and at headquarters, meetings and consultations are now taking place to identify new opportunities for UNFPA-NGO partnership. The Fund is committed to fulfilling this mandate concerning partnership with NGOs, especially at the national level. UNFPA will make all necessary efforts towards the creation of an environment conducive to innovative joint activities with national and international NGOs.

UNFPA recognizes the importance of strengthening its relationships with and exchanging information with NGOs active in all aspects of sustainable development. The Fund is most interested in learning of any ICPD related follow-up activities NGOs are planning and would be pleased to make copies of the Programme available or to provide any other needed information to help assure the success of any such activities.

For further information on partnership, NGOs are strongly

encouraged to contact the Interregional and International NGO
Branch, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, 220 E. 42nd
Street, New York, NY, 10017, U.S.A.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

1994

20 September-mid-December

United Nations Headquarters,

New York

Forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on

Population and Development.

1995

16-22 January

United Nations Headquarters,

New York

Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit

for Social Development.

21 February-2 March

United Nations Headquarters,

New York

Twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Population
Commission.

6-12 March

Copenhagen, Denmark

World Summit for Social Development.

15 March-7 April

United Nations Headquarters,

New York

Third meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in
preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

26 June

San Francisco, U.S.A.

Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the
United Nations Charter.

4-15 September

Beijing, China

Fourth World Conference on Women.

22-24 October

United Nations Headquarters

New York

Special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General

Assembly on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

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