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"ICPD 94"

International Conference on Population and Development

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

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PRESS RELEASE

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ICPD DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION IS CIRCULATED FOR CONSIDERATION

PRIOR TO THIRD SESSION OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

NEGOTIATION OF FINAL DOCUMENT TO BE FOCUS OF 4-22 APRIL MEETING

The draft Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has been made available to Governments, UN organizations and non-governmental groups so it can be studied in advance of the ICPD Preparatory

Committee's third session (PrepCom III), to be held in New York from 4-22 April. A description of the document, its chapter outline and key excerpts are included in the February 1994 issue of the "ICPD 94"newsletter (Number 12).

The first of three informal intergovernmental consultations on the draft Programme was held at UN Headquarters on 22 February. The others will take place on 10 and 24 March.

This issue of "ICPD 94" also covers:

- + A Meeting of Eminent Persons in Population and Development, held in Tokyo from 26-27 January.
- + A background report detailing the links between poverty, population growth and environmental degradation.
- + The formation of networks in the Netherlands, Pakistan and the United States to coordinate NGO preparations for ICPD.

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The Conference Secretariat prepared the draft Programme of Action in response to directives from the Preparatory Committee, the UN Economic and Social Council and the UN General Assembly. The draft is available in unofficial form; the UN Secretariat will soon release an edited version in all official languages. Negotiation of the final document will be the main focus of PrepCom III.

The draft's 16 chapters span the full spectrum of issues addressed by the ICPD mandate: "population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". Each of the 41 subchapters identifies the basis for action and key objectives in regard to a specific topic, and makes action-oriented recommendations.

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Some 15 distinguished individuals with expertise in population took part in the Tokyo meeting, convened as part of the ICPD preparatory process. It was jointly organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations University and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Keynote speakers were Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of ICPD; and Robert McNamara, former President of the World Bank.

Participants adopted the "Tokyo Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development". "A commitment by developing countries to reduce population growth," the Declaration states, "should be coupled with a commitment by developed countries to reduce the strain of consumption patterns on the global environment."

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"ICPD 94" reviews "Issues in Sustainable Development: Population, Poverty and the Environment", a report prepared for a November 1993 round table meeting in Geneva. It analyses conditions in five regions where serious environmental

degradation and resource depletion are compounded by poverty and population pressures. "To ignore population growth," author Mary Barberis concludes, would be to miss one of the most important driving forces, both immediate and long-term, behind many aspects of the current environmental crisis."

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Non-profit organizations involved with population, health, human rights, religious, environmental, media, women's, family planning and development issues have established a U.S. Network for Cairo '94. The aim is to facilitate citizen involvement in the development of U.S. Government positions for ICPD. The group is organizing 12 town meetings to discuss Conference-related issues before PrepCom III.

"ICPD 94" also reports on "Cairo Platform '94", being prepared by 50 Dutch NGOs to raise public awareness of population and development issues; and on an ICPD-related NGO group meeting organized by the Family Planning Association of Pakistan.

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Included in the calendar of pending events are a high-level meeting on the proposed ICPD-related Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held 1-4 March in Santiago, Chile; a Pacific NGO Conference on Population and Sustainable Development, in Nadi, Fiji, from 2-4 March; and a Mid-March meeting in St. Vincent of the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee, convened to adopt the Port of Spain Declaration on

Population and Sustainable Development.

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Copies of "ICPD 94" are available in English, French and Spanish from the ICPD Secretariat, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, USA; tel: (212) 297-5244 or 5245; fax: (212) 297-5250. A media briefing kit on ICPD issues is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The newsletter is also in electronic form on several computer networks (for information, send e-mail to: ryanw@unfpa.org or icpd@igc.apc.org).

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