



12/13/93: UN GA DEBATES ACTION PLAN OF ICPD

International Conference on Population and Development

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

PRESS RELEASE

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UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES ACTION PLAN OF
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In Second Committee, Delegations Comment on Proposed Document
Outline; Berlin Meeting Assesses Impact of AIDS on Population and
Development

The Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 4 and 5 November heard from more than 40 delegates--some speaking on behalf of groups of countries--regarding a proposed outline of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) final document. These comments, and ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik's report on Conference preparations, are summarized in the November-December 1993 issue of the "ICPD 94" newsletter (Number 10).

Among other recent ICPD-related developments:

- + A round-table meeting in Berlin assessed the impact of HIV/AIDS on population and development.

- + An unprecedented "summit" of the world's scientific academies called for national and international action to achieve "zero population growth within the lifetime of our children".

+ Ministers and senior officials of Non-Aligned Movement member countries, meeting in Bali, Indonesia, set out their collective perspective on population issues.

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Addressing the Second Committee on 4 November, Dr. Sadik said the ICPD Secretariat would draft a full version of the final document outline by 1 January, taking into account delegates' views on the proposed outline. She said the document should put population at the centre of all the issues addressed, and incorporate 20-year goals on reducing infant and maternal mortality, meeting the unmet demand for family planning, and providing universal access to primary education.

Dr. Sadik also reported that the Secretariat had assisted 92 countries with national-level activities related to ICPD, and had received 50 national population reports (since increased to 75).

Many speakers stressed that the document should: highlight actions and implementation of policies; stress the links between population and sustainable development, and the mutual responsibilities of developed and developing countries; emphasize individual rights and women's empowerment; and address the needs of adolescents.

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The Berlin round table, from 28 September to 1 October, was organized by the German Foundation for International Development and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) as an informal contribution to ICPD preparations. Participants concluded the AIDS epidemic will not significantly affect population growth rates, but will undermine development efforts and national health systems. Family planning programmes should play a major role in AIDS prevention, they noted.

Another ICPD-related round table, on "population and

development strategies", was convened from 17-19 November in Bangkok by UNFPA and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Participants called for a fresh approach to linking population and development planning in light of new thinking regarding the latter.

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Meeting in New Delhi from 24-27 October, 58 national scientific academies signed a statement linking rapid population growth to poverty and environmental degradation. They recommended adoption of policies to promote equal opportunities for women and men, provide universal access to family planning services and a variety of contraceptives, encourage voluntary approaches to family planning, and eliminate unsafe and coercive practices.

* * *

In Bali, Indonesia, from 9-13 November, the Ministerial Meeting on Population of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) resulted in adoption of the Denpasar Declaration on Population, a set of recommendations for ICPD, and a statement of NAM support for South-South collaboration in the population/family planning field. Indonesian President Soeharto and ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik addressed the meeting.

* * *

"ICPD 94" also reports on a 9-10 November Vienna meeting of Christian Democratic, Conservative, Liberal and Socialist political party internationals, their second focusing on population issues. Hosted by the Austrian Government and UNFPA, the conference issued a manifesto stating that support for development efforts in the South would ease economic pressures contributing to international migration.

* * *

In the calendar of pending ICPD-connected events are a Meeting

of Eminent Persons in Population and Development, from 26-28 January 1994 in Tokyo, organized by the Government of Japan and UNFPA; and a Round Table on Population and Food in the Early 21st Century, in Washington, D.C., from 14-16 February, sponsored by the International Food Policy Research Institute with support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

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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). Press inquiries should be made to (212) 297-5030 or 5279.

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