



ICPD Press Release, 94/01/29 (Eng)

"ICPD 94"

International Conference on Population and Development

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

PRESS RELEASE

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION NEARS COMPLETION

ICPD Preparatory Committee Becomes Assembly Subsidiary Body;
Round Tables Held on Population Communications, Population and
Environment

UNITED NATIONS, 21 January 1994--The United Nations General Assembly on 21 December made the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Resolution 48/186 elevating the status of ICPD, the culmination of the Assembly's consideration of Conference preparations, is covered in the January 1994 issue of the "ICPD 94" newsletter (Number 11).

ICPD will be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 5-13 September 1994. The third session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) will take place at UN Headquarters from 4-22 April. "ICPD 94" reviews the extensive advance work for the Conference undertaken in 1993. It reports that the draft ICPD programme of action, the negotiation of which will be the principal focus of PrepCom III, will be finalized in January and should be available in all UN languages in February.

Other news covered in this issue of "ICPD 94" includes:

- + A round-table meeting in Geneva on the links between population, environment and sustainable development.
- + A Vienna round table on communications strategies to support population programmes.
- + A lecture by historian Paul Kennedy on the challenges posed by demography and technology.

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The adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 48/186 came after the Assembly's Second Committee in November discussed Conference preparations, including an annotated outline of the draft ICPD programme of action. The Committee's debate has guided the Conference Secretariat in preparing the full version of the draft final document.

Resolution 48/186 also calls for informal consultations to

help delegations prepare for PrepCom III, and acknowledges the important contribution of non-governmental organizations to the ICPD process. "ICPD 94" includes the text of the resolution.

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The round table on population and sustainable development, held in Geneva from 24-26 November, focused on five regional ecosystems where poverty, population pressures and related factors are contributing to serious environmental degradation. Participants recommended that population be placed at the centre of development, environment and education policies; that family planning be made universally available; and that employment opportunities be created for the poor.

The meeting, part of the ICPD preparatory process, was organized by the International Academy of the Environment in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and with support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Swiss Government. Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director and Secretary-General of ICPD, was among the speakers; she addressed the environmental impact of both rapid population growth and excessive consumption.

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The Austrian Government, in cooperation with UNFPA, also convened an ICPD-related round table, on population and communication, in Vienna from 2-3 December. Film and radio producers joined population communications experts and government officials in examining the use of various media--electronic, print

and interpersonal--to create awareness of population issues and convey information about family planning and reproductive health.

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In his 9 December lecture in New York, sponsored by the Eminent Citizens Committee for Cairo '94, Paul Kennedy argued that population growth and technological changes were paramount in shaping the future of the world. He said new definitions of human security and human dignity that transcend different cultural and belief systems were needed.

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"ICPD 94" also reports on: a New Delhi summit of education ministers from nine of the world's most populous countries to review progress in making education available to all, particularly to girls; a Washington meeting organized by the Population Institute to make population policy recommendations to the U.S. Government; and a Cairo film and television festival being planned to coincide with ICPD.

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In the calendar of pending ICPD events are a 26-27 January Meeting of Eminent Persons on Population and Development, in Tokyo, organized by the Government of Japan and UNFPA; and a 14- 16 February Round Table on Population and Food in the Early 21st Century, in Washington, D.C., 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 and briefing kit are also in electronic form on several computer networks (for information, send e-mail to: icpd@igc.apc.org or ryanw@unfpa.org). Press inquiries should be made to (212) 297-5030 or 297-5279.

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