



ICPD Press Release, 94/03/23 (Eng)

"ICPD 94"

International Conference on Population and Development

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

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PRESS RELEASE

23 March 1994

ICPD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE'S FINAL SESSION SET TO NEGOTIATE DRAFT
PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Informal Consultations on Document Held Prior to 4-22 April
Meeting

The draft Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was the focus of a series of informal intergovernmental consultations in February and March. These were held to facilitate an exchange of views prior to negotiations on the document during the ICPD Preparatory

Committee's third and final session (PrepCom III), to be held in New York from 4-22 April.

The informal consultations and other Conference preparations are covered in the March 1994 issue of the "ICPD 94" newsletter (No. 13).

This issue of "ICPD 94" also reports on:

+ A Round Table on Population and Food in the Early 21st Century: Meeting Future Food Needs of an Increasing World Population, held in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 16 February.

+ An International Women's Day statement by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Secretary-General of ICPD.

+ ICPD preparatory activities organized by non-governmental organizations in Japan and the United Kingdom; and an international NGO conference on women's reproductive health, in Rio.

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In the first of three informal consultations at UN Headquarters, Dr. Sadik on 22 February provided an overview of the draft ICPD Programme of Action; about 20 delegations commented on the document. The second consultation on 10 March provided information on the draft's proposed goals and estimated

resource requirements. The third, on 24 March, was to focus on principles and on follow-up to the Conference.

"ICPD 94" reports that two Working Groups will be formed at PrepCom III to facilitate negotiations on the draft Programme; each will address separate sections of the document. The newsletter also describes what will be involved in other parts of the PrepCom agenda, including consideration of a report summarizing 20 years of population programmes and activities.

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At the Washington meeting, 30 experts on population and food assessed global and regional food prospects in light of projected population growth rates, new agro-technologies, and environmental factors. Growth in the world's food supply will keep pace with population growth for some time, they agreed, but in some regions problems will persist in getting food to those who need it most.

The meeting was organized by the Rockefeller Foundation and the International Food Policy Research Institute, in cooperation with UNFPA. Its recommendations will be presented at PrepCom III.

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To increase Japanese women's involvement in ICPD, a group of scholars, politicians, doctors, journalists, and members of women's and environmental NGOs have formed Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94. The network has organized several symposia to promote better public understanding of reproductive health issues.

"ICPD 94" also summarizes: the consensus reached by 227 women from 79 countries at The Reproductive Health and Justice International Women's Health Conference for Cairo '94, held in Rio from 24-28 January; and the results of a workshop on population and development, organized last November by Britain's NGO Forum ICPD Cairo 1994.

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In her International Women's Day statement, Dr. Sadik noted that significant progress had been made in providing reproductive health care -- a central concern of ICPD -- but that "the full range of modern family planning methods still remains unavailable to at least 350 million couples world-wide." She added, "Experience shows that family planning and population programmes work best in an environment where efforts have been made to improve the overall status of women."

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Other developments reported in the newsletter include: the production by Reuters News of four video news releases on ICPD themes; the selection of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the Family Planning and Health Foundation of Turkey as winners of the 1994 United Nations Population Award; recommendations for ICPD made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and a planned gathering of youth NGOs in Cairo just before the Conference.

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Included in the calendar of upcoming events is Population and Economic Growth: Perspectives from the Global South, a 30 March conference at The American University in Washington, D.C., sponsored by The Center for the Study of the Global South.

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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).

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