



ICPD Press Release, 94/06/23 (Eng)

"ICPD 94"

International Conference on Population and Development

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

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PRESS RELEASE

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CAIRO WORK SCHEDULE, PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN LETTER TO GOVERNMENTS

Post-PrepCom Consultation Outlines Possible Informal Discussions
on ICPD draft Programme of Action

A note from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was sent to all Governments on 13 May, formally inviting them to participate in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be held in Cairo from 5-13 September.

Countries have since been sent details of Conference arrangements, in a 25 May letter from ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik.

To facilitate final preparations for ICPD, an informal consultation was held in New York on 3 June. There, Dr. Sadik reported on possible informal discussions that countries might have before the Conference to facilitate negotiations in Cairo on the Programme of Action of the Conference.

These developments are described in detail in the June issue of "ICPD 94", the Conference newsletter. This issue (No. 16) also includes reports on:

- + Plans for the eighth annual World Population Day, on 11 July. This year's celebrations, expected to take place in over 110 countries, will highlight the themes of ICPD.

- + A United Nations study, "AIDS and the Demography of Africa", which projects that population growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa will remain high despite a devastating death toll from AIDS.

- + The release of a book, "Population Policies Reconsidered: Health, Empowerment and Rights" (edited by Gita Sen, Adrienne Germain and Lincoln C. Chen, and published by the International Women's Health Coalition and the Harvard University Center for Population and Development Studies), which examines the ethical basis, objectives and methods of current population policies.

+ Arrangements for the NGO Forum '94, to be held in Cairo at the same time as ICPD, a short distance from the Conference site.

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Dr. Sadik's 25 May letter to all Governments describes the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, approved at the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) in April; these rules have been forwarded to the UN General Assembly for adoption.

Preliminary consultations will be held on 3 and 4 September to address procedural and organizational matters. The Conference will open on Monday, 5 September, at 10 am, at the Cairo International Conference Centre. The general debate, to take place in plenary meetings from 5-9 September, is expected to focus on experiences in population and development strategies and programmes.

A separate Main Committee will meet at the same time to complete negotiations on the Programme of Action of the Conference, focusing on those parts that were not agreed to at PrepCom III. Once adopted, the Programme of Action will be submitted to the UN General Assembly at its 49th session, along with a report on the background, proceedings and decisions of ICPD.

At the request of PrepCom III, Dr. Sadik convened a half-day informal consultation on ICPD at UN Headquarters on 3 June. She

outlined proposed arrangements for intersessional discussions to allow delegations to exchange views on portions of the draft Programme of Action that remain to be agreed on; she stressed that these would not be negotiations, but rather part of an effort to facilitate and accelerate negotiations in Cairo.

The document, she noted, "is now a text negotiated by and therefore the property of delegations and the countries they represent. Everything in the revised draft, including the bracketed texts, is at the instruction of national delegations at PrepCom III."

Any informal pre-Conference discussions are expected to focus on three areas: Chapters 1 (Preamble) and 2 (Principles); goals in regard to mortality, education (especially for girls) and access to family planning information and services; and estimated costs of basic reproductive health services (including family planning), programmes for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and meeting population data, policy and research needs.

Half a dozen speakers, some on behalf of groups of countries, spoke briefly at the 3 June meeting on the areas of discussion that were not finished at PrepCom III.

Dr. Sadik also reported that she expects 10 or more heads of State or Government, including President Soeharto of Indonesia and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, to participate in ICPD, and that UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are expected

to address the opening plenary.

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The edited ICPD draft Programme is expected to be released in the six UN languages by the end of June. 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. The newsletter is also in electronic form on several networks (for information, send e-mail to: ryanw@unfpa.org).

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