



ICPD Press Releases, November 1994 (English)

"ICPD 94"

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ICPD Secretariat, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: (212) 297-5244 or 5245; fax: (212) 297-5250

Press inquiries: (212) 297-5023, 297-5030 or 297-5279

E-mail: ryanw@unfpa.org

PRESS RELEASE

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE FOCUSES ON RESOURCES, MONITORING
MECHANISMS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Speakers Hail Conference's Emphasis on Empowering Women and Its
Holistic Approach to Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Implementing the Programme of Action adopted at the International
Conference on Population and Development requires a major
mobilization of resources and effective mechanisms for monitoring
follow-up actions, speakers stressed in a 17-18 November UN
General Assembly debate.

The Assembly's three plenary meetings devoted to the report of the Conference (A/CONF.171/13) are the focus of the November issue of "ICPD 94", the monthly Conference newsletter. Speakers from 46 countries, some representing groups of States, addressed the meetings.

Following directly from this debate, the General Assembly's Second Committee (dealing with development matters) has begun negotiating a draft resolution, sponsored by Algeria for the Group of 77 and China, and Indonesia for the Non-Aligned Movement, on follow-up to ICPD.

Also covered in this issue of "ICPD 94" are:

+ A 4 November statement by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), outlining national and international ICPD follow-up efforts.

+ The "Synthesis of National Reports on Population and Development" recently issued by the United Nations in all six official languages. This analysis of the 167 national surveys prepared for ICPD offers valuable information on global experiences, issues and trends.

+ The ICPD Secretariat's analysis of non-governmental organization (NGO) involvement in the Conference. A total of 1,254 NGOs based in 138 countries were accredited to ICPD. Their representatives were active participants in Cairo and throughout

the ICPD process.

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The focus of the General Assembly debate was the report of the ICPD, released by the United Nations this month in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The ICPD Secretariat has distributed thousands of copies of the report, which includes the Programme of Action, to UN field and public information offices and non-governmental organizations. Statements made at the opening and closing sessions of ICPD are published in an addendum to the report (A/CONF.171/13/Add.1).

ICPD requested that the General Assembly review the roles of intergovernmental bodies and UN system organs concerned with population and development to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action and system-wide coordination of related efforts.

Many who spoke in the two-day plenary hailed ICPD's emphasis on the empowerment of women and on a comprehensive approach to reproductive health including family planning. Most focused on follow-up to ICPD, particularly resource allocation and institutional mechanisms for supporting and monitoring implementation of the Programme of Action.

Speaking for the Group of 77 and China, Algeria called for a concerted international mobilization to meet ICPD goals in regard to maternal, infant and child mortality, and access to education. New and additional resources from donor countries will be needed to implement the Programme of Action in developing countries, the

speaker stressed.

Germany, on behalf of the European Union, said the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should be the principal mechanism for monitoring ICPD follow-up. Along with others, Germany called for strengthened cooperation between UNFPA and the UN Population Division.

Several speakers said that ECOSOC's Population Commission should be changed from an expert body to an intergovernmental mechanism and its mandate broadened to encompass monitoring of implementation of the Programme of Action; some suggested that its membership should be substantially increased to ensure transparency.

Other speakers addressed various topics, including the need to integrate population and development efforts, and the importance of South-South cooperation. Some reviewed their countries' experience with population policies and programmes, or spoke about national plans for implementing the Programme of Action. Six countries called for a global conference on international migration.

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"ICPD 94" will be published through December 1994. It is 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 computer networks (for

information, send e-mail to: ryanw@unfpa.org).

PRESS INQUIRIES: (212) 297-5279, 297-5023 or 297-5030.

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For further information, please contact: popin@undp.org
POPIN Gopher site: <gopher://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin>
POPIN WWW site: <http://www.undp.org/popin>