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Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee  
on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
November 2001

**REPORT ON THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL  
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE DAKAR/NGOR DECLARATION  
AND THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Since the last meeting of the Follow-up Committee (23-25 September 1998, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) many activities have been undertaken at the national , regional and global level towards reviewing the implementation of the recommendations of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) and the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD-PA).

2. The paper will attempt to review these follow-up activities and summarise the main findings and recommendations from the ICPD+5 review process including proposals for the preparation of the ten-year review and appraisal of the ICPD i.e. ICPD+10.

## **II. AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT ON ICPD+5**

### **2.1 Process towards building consensus on the regional report**

3. The African regional report on ICPD+5 is a synthesis of assessments by the sub-regional population and development institutions, completed questionnaires received from 41 countries, sub-regional reports provided by the UNFPA-Country Support Teams (CSTs) and reports of two ECA-sponsored field missions to twelve African countries<sup>1</sup>.

4. The revised report, which included amendments from the third Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, has been extensively reviewed at several other regional fora. The report was reviewed and endorsed by representatives of African Governments, international organizations and regional institutions at the First Meeting of the ECA Committee on Sustainable Development held in Addis Ababa, in January 1999, during a special session devoted to ICPD+5 event. Following the review, the meeting also made recommendations for the way forward. Subsequently, a summary of the revised report and recommendations was distributed to African delegates who attended The Hague Forum in February 1999, and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, in March 1999, in New-York.

5. Of great importance in building consensus on the findings and recommendations from the regional report, is the Third General Assembly of the African Population Commission which took place in Abuja, Nigeria, in May 1999 and which was devoted to ICPD+5. Sessions of the General Assembly provided opportunity for African countries to report on their experiences in the course of implementing the DND and the ICPD-PA and a special session was also organized to exchange ideas on pragmatic ways to overcome constraints encountered by African countries. The outcome of the General Assembly is a Joint ECA/OAU/ADB Statement on Population and Development based on an Assessment of African Experiences on the Implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA. This report, through the OAU, was

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<sup>1</sup> Uganda, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Lesotho, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal

circulated during the United Nations General Assembly special session on ICDP+5.

## **2.2 Summary of the findings from the regional report**

6. The regional report documents experiences, particularly the main achievements including policy changes that have occurred since ICDP, constraints encountered and success stories in the following key programme areas: (i) Institutional mechanisms for co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population programmes; (ii) Reproductive health including family planning and sexual health, reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS; (iii) Gender equality, equity, empowerment of women and male involvement; (iv) Advocacy and IEC strategies; (v) Forging partnerships with the NGOs, civil society and private sector.

### ***(i) Institutional mechanisms for co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population programmes***

7. Achievements/Best practices: Reformulation of national population and development policies and programmes; creation of institutional mechanisms for coordination and monitoring the implementation of national population policies; involving individuals and groups in formulation and implementation of population policies; emphasis on population /development relationships; improving the quality of census and survey data; creation of national population database.

8. Constraints: Inadequate financial resources and trained personnel; ineffective advocacy strategies; insufficient consultations with stakeholders; lack of clearly defined implementation strategies; inadequate integration of population factors in development planning; lack of cooperation among sectoral ministries; political instability.

### ***(ii) Reproductive health including family planning and sexual health, reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS***

9. Achievements/Best practices: Formulation of RH policies and standards; provision of integrated services; expansion of RH information and services to adolescents, displaced people and refugees; increased community-based FP; efforts to combat HIV/AIDS especially in Uganda; laws to eliminate FGM (Burkina Faso, Senegal, Uganda and Ghana); legal measures taken on age of marriage; re-entry into schools by drop-outs due to premarital pregnancy.

10. Constraints: Compartmentalization of RH services; non-involvement of males in RH activities; insufficient financial/human resources; cultural constraints; concentration of services in urban areas; unmet need among adolescents and disabled persons; breakdown of traditional family-support networks; spread of HIV/AIDS endemic.

***(iii) Gender equality, equity, empowerment of women and male involvement***

11. Achievements/Best practices: Ratification and implementation of the CEDAW; enactment of laws to abolish gender discrimination; establishment of institutional mechanisms to address gender issues; emergent role and leadership of First Ladies; establishment of femalefriendly banks and provision of credit and technical advice to female entrepreneurs; establishment of programmes to improve girls' education; availability of gender sensitive data; formation of organized women's groups; establishment of Gender Focal Points; introduction of quotas for women in parliament; increased recognition for men's participation to ensure gender equality.

12. Constraints: Perpetuation of traditional, cultural stereotypes; underfinancing of mechanisms for promoting gender equality; unequal opportunities for education for men and women; lack of specialized gender experts; ineffective advocacy strategy for promoting women's rights.

***(iv) Advocacy and IEC strategies***

13. Achievements/Best practices: Recognition of need leading to formulation/implementation of national IEC and advocacy strategies; establishment of institutional mechanisms for advocacy and IEC programmes (Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia); wide use of advocacy and IEC strategies by national NGOs to: (i) initiate programmes to prevent and treat STDs/HIV/AIDS; (ii) involve communities to eliminate FGM (Uganda, Burkina Faso, Ghana); (iii) support management of abortion complications (South Africa); outlaw sexual violence and support women's rights to inheritance (Tanzania, Uganda); support girls' education (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea); eliminate young girls as shrine slaves (Ghana).

14. Constraints: Lack of well coordinated institutional mechanisms; non-involvement of beneficiaries and private sector; prohibitive cost of media production; inadequate dissemination channels; absence of socio-cultural research-based information.

***(vi) Forging partnerships with the NGOs, civil society and private sector***

15. Achievements/Best practices: Many Governments recognize importance of involving NGOs, civil society and private sector in the implementation of population policies and programmes; there exists now a wide range of links between governments, NGOs, private sector and civil society in many member States; NGOs, civil society and private sector are increasingly being involved in discussions and decision-making related to population and other development issues; Governments are also increasingly willing to take actions related to concerns expressed by these entities.

16. Constraints: Lack of clarity in management structure; small scale intervention of African NGOs; lack of professional skill in project planning, implementation, monitoring and

evaluation; limited expansion of the roles and activities of the private sector due to uncertain and complex legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks; diversity and complexity of civil society; absence of coordination of efforts by the different components of the civil society in their endeavor towards poverty reduction, women empowerment, protection of human rights.

### **2.3 Summary of the recommendations from the regional report**

17. In charting the way forward on population and development in Africa in the 21st Century, the assessment argues that:

- (i) The most important policy issues for the region were related to strengthening support for policy development and programming of HIV/AIDS prevention and related services. Governments and the international community should therefore make HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the region a priority at the highest political level;
- (ii) The centrality of achieving family values should be the basis for development. In this regard, given the extreme poverty which face many families in Africa, women and adolescents should be provided with income-generating opportunities so they can cope with poverty and hence be empowered to address sexual and reproductive health issues;
- (iii) The issue of conflicts and political instability in the region should be given more prominence in analyzing the various transformations the African families have undergone;
- (iv) Appropriate population and development policies should be formulated and adopted and effective and targeted interventions intensified in regard to adolescents and youth in all aspects of reproductive health programming ;
- (v) Adequate decentralized policy and programme implementing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established by those countries that have not yet done so and, both short-term and long-term training programmes provided so to increase the number of qualified personnel ;
- (vi) The role of NGOs, civil society and the private sector should be better recognized and increased in addressing population concerns;
- (vii) Governments, as well as NGOS, civil society and the private sector, should increase IEC/advocacy activities that mobilize support for integrated RH, women's empowerment and economic, environmental and other social welfare programmes. In this regard, appropriate research should be undertaken for the development of IEC/Advocacy messages with the full involvement and

participation of all stakeholders;

- (viii) Governments and their partners in the development process (bilateral and multilateral donors, international organizations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector) should help in allocating the level of resources required for the full implementation of DND and ICPD-PA recommendations.

### **III. THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON ICPD+5**

18. The United Nations General Assembly special session (UNGASS) on ICPD+5 was convened on 30 June-02 July 1999 in New York to analyze the operational experience at the country level and determine progress made and constraints faced in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The review process involved all partners in the implementation of the ICPD-PA including programme countries, donor countries, the United Nations System, representatives of civil society, NGOs and the private sector. The 177 Member States participating in the special session adopted by consensus the final document on proposals for - Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development - (A/S-21/5/Add.1).

#### **3.1 Summary of the findings from the final document**

19. The comprehensive document adopted at the UNGASS affirms that the Programme articulated a comprehensive approach to issues of population and development and identified demographic and social goals to be achieved over a 20-year period. It also reflected the view that an early stabilization of the world population would make a crucial contribution to realizing the objective of sustainable development.

20. It states that the five-year review of progress showed that the implementation of the Conference's recommendations had had positive results. Many countries have taken steps to integrate population concerns into their development strategies. In addition, many civil society organizations are contributing to the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects on their own or in partnerships with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as with the private sector.

21. However, the document shows that, in some countries and regions, including Africa, progress has been limited. Some of the major limitations findings of the review process include the following:

- (i) Financial constraints that have hampered developing country capacity to implement the ICPD-PA: Countries have not yet met the agreed target for allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product as official development

assistance (ODA); at least 4 per cent of ODA should be devoted to population-related activities;

- (ii) Lack of access to appropriate information and services for young people and weak political commitment to adolescents' rights and to reproductive health, although acceptance of the concept of reproductive and sexual health is growing;
- (iii) Little progress in reducing high levels of maternal mortality in a number of countries; the HIV/AIDS situation is much worse than in 1994;
- (iv) Persistence of unsafe abortion which is still not adequately addressed as a public health issue in a number of countries. Consequently, these countries have not been able to reduce the prevalence of unsafe abortion through the provision of family planning services and information;
- (v) "Zero-tolerance " for all forms of violence against women and children, including rape, incest, sexual violence and sex trafficking is still not reached by many countries although these countries have enacted gender action plans aimed at promoting and protecting women's rights.

### **3.2 Summary of the recommendations from the final document**

22. Based on the main findings of the review process, the final document adopted by the UNGASS outlines key future actions needed to achieve the goals and objectives agreed to at the ICPD in the following five substantive sections: (i) population and development concerns; (ii) gender equality, equity and empowerment of women; (iii) reproductive rights and reproductive health; (iv) partnerships and collaboration; (v) mobilizing resources. Some of the proposed actions in the final document are summarised as follows:

- (i) In the area of population and development, Governments, in cooperation with the international community, need to create enabling conditions that will enable developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and to establish the means for managing resource flows. In this regard, developing countries should be helped to eradicate poverty by ensuring an open, equitable international trading system, by encouraging direct investments, by cutting debts, and by ensuring that structural adjustment programmes respond to social and environmental concerns;
- (ii) Developing countries should also be helped to adopt multi-sectoral approach to population issues, institutionalize capacity-building, enhance partnerships, implement strategies to increase awareness and promote the availability of data and indicators for monitoring progress;



- (iii) Concerning resource mobilization, both donors and developing countries should fulfil their funding commitments. In financing, HIV/AIDS prevention should be given priority, and the ICPD-PA target of \$1.3 billion for this effort should be met quickly. Moreover, Governments, at the highest levels, should also commit themselves to improve care for HIV-infected persons and work to mitigate the impact of the AIDS epidemic;
- (iv) In the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, a gender perspective should be incorporated in all development initiatives, and health sector reforms must accord priority to gender-sensitive reproductive health services. Actions should also be taken to eliminate negative traditional, religious and cultural attitudes and practices that subjugate women and reinforce gender inequality. In this regard, greater efforts should be made to combat sexual violence, which threatens girls' and women's human rights and put them at the risk from sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. The impact on women of globalization of the economy and of the privatization of social and health sectors must also be monitored, and specific mitigating measures adopted, especially for the poor;
- (v) In the area of youth and adolescents, national plans for investing in young people should be developed and implemented with the full involvement of adolescents. Such plans should include education, professional and vocational training, income-generating opportunities, and sexual and reproductive health information and services. Special attention should be given to gender equality and equity and to youth disadvantaged by poverty, race, ethnicity, residence or disability.

#### **IV. PROPOSALS FOR THE TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD-PA AT THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL**

23. In order to update the work already done, the Joint Secretariat will continue to monitor, at the regional level, country implementation of the recommendations of the DND and the ICPD-PA, including the key actions adopted at the UNGASS. At the global level, although the comprehensive 10-year review and appraisal of ICPD (ICPD+10) has yet to be formally agreed upon, it is anticipated that it will soon be put on the international agenda, for implementation. This has already been the case for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit +10, 2002).

#### 4.1 At the regional level

24. The Second Meeting of the Working Group for the follow-up to the DND and the ICPD-PA met in Dakar, Senegal, on 14-16 June 2000, reviewed the main findings and recommendations from the ICPD+5 review process and made proposals for the ten-year-review and evaluation process in Africa.

25. These proposals are related to the themes to be covered by the evaluation, the issues to be addressed in each thematic area, the type of evaluation to be used and the partnership.

26. The meeting suggested that the ten-year review process in the Africa region should focus on the following five main thematic areas: (i) **Poverty and demographic changes**; (ii) **HIV/AIDS**; (iii) **Youth**; (iv) **Migrations**; (v) **Gender**.

27. The following main issues will be addressed in each of the five thematic areas:

(i) **Poverty and demographic changes :**

- Relevant indicators to measure and monitor poverty ;
- Focus on trends and collect data to enable comparative analysis within subregions;
- Determine the qualitative aspects of poverty based upon the data collected.

(ii) **HIV/AIDS :**

- Issue of appropriate methodologies to determine more accurate AIDS prevalence ;
- Socio-economic implications of HIV/AIDS ;
- Appropriate IEC strategies for prevention, counseling and treatment;
- Budget allocation in co-financing HIV/AIDS treatment;
- Issues addressed and data generated by Africa Development Forum 2000;
- Results of Africa Development Forum 2000;
- Consolidated partnerships among institutions dealing with HIV/AIDS.

(iii) **Youth :**

- Proportions and characteristics of the youth;
- Education and vocational training;
- Employment and insertion of young graduates in the labor market;
- Strategies formulated and implemented by Governments to address these issues;

- Health and adolescent sexuality.

(iii) Migrations:

- Internal migrations;
- International migrations;
- Type and systems of migrations within sub-regions in Africa;
- Integration instruments – Find out whether African sub-regional economic communities (SADEC, ECOWAS, COMESA....) have formulated strategies and put in place data collection systems on migrations;
- Impact of migrations on receiving and sending countries;
- Data collection and analysis on migrations.

(iv) Gender :

- Issues addressed in the final document of UNGASS on ICPD+5;
- Operationalization of the concept;
- Strategies to integrate gender perspectives into the socio-economic process;
- Women empowerment through access to land, micro-credits, education,....
- Partnerships between Governments and NGOS including community-based associations.

28. As regard to the evaluation, the meeting recommended that both quantitative and qualitative aspects should be evaluated during the process. The quantitative evaluation will be based on the analysis of completed country questionnaires assessing progress made in country implementation of the DND and the recommendations contained in the final document on the key actions. The qualitative evaluation will use information contained in the country reports which will be prepared by country experts using guidelines provided by ECA /FSSDD.

29. Concerning partnership, the meeting recommended that the Joint Secretariat should involve NGOS, IGOs, sub-regional economic communities in the evaluation process and make use of existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between members of the Joint Secretariat and other institutions to complement different areas of intervention.

#### 4.1 At the global level

30. The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) held its thirty-fourth regular session at UN Headquarters on 2-6 April 2001. During the session, the Commission's deliberations centred on the critical exploration of the linkages between population, environment and development. The Commission also reviewed the recommendations of the ICPD and discussed the possible options for ICPD+10 at the global level. In this regard, the Commission considered the following recommendations made by the Bureau at its inter-

sessional meeting held at Nairobi on 27-28 September 2000<sup>2</sup> :

- (i) The Commission on Population and Development should have the primary responsibility for quinquennial reviews and appraisals of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action ;
- (ii) Special session of the General Assembly or conferences should take place only for 10-year reviews ;
- (iii) It would be useful to have a 10-year review in 2004 that would focus on key population issues that are of major concern to all countries. The event should deal with issues that were not fully covered at the ICPD and issues that have become more prominent during the last few years that need to be brought to the attention of the international community ;
- (iv) Taking into account the activities already planned by other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of population and development, an international event should be convened in 2004 and the title of the event might be :

*Population and development challenges for the twenty-first century : population structure, population distribution and migrations.*

- (v) The proposed international event should deal with population structure in a broad sense, encompassing all population groups, not only the elderly and the oldest old, but also child and youth populations : the working age population ; the impact of HIV/AIDS on the population structure, focusing on the increasing number of orphans left behind by the epidemic and grandparents who have to provide for them ; population distribution , including the growth of urban agglomerations in developing countries and the spread of urban agglomerations in the developed countries ; movement of people to coastal areas and impact of urbanization on rural populations ; and international migration and its impacts on both sending and receiving countries.

31. The Commission on Population and Development, however, could not agree neither on the draft resolution on the 10-year review of the ICPD in 2004 nor on the other resolution on financial resources for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The main points of contention at the meeting were on the possible options for ICPD+10, the focus of the review and the increase of the level of funding from the private sector. Several delegations

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<sup>2</sup> Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its inter-sessional meeting, held at Nairobi on 27 and 28 September 2000, E/CN.9/2001/CRP.1

expressed their disappointment at the failure of the Commission to reach consensus on a draft resolution on ICPD+10. Comments were made by the representatives of Sweden (on behalf of the European Union and associated States), Iran (on behalf of the "Group of 77" and China), Bangladesh, Mexico and Japon.

32. It was decided to continue the consultations on the issue of the 10-year review in order to agree on the modalities for the review and appraisal in 2004 of the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

#### **V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM THE MEETING**

33. Keeping in mind that ICPD+10 will have to be completed in 2004, activities described below are proposed for the period 2001-2004 in preparation of the Africa regional assessment:

- Convening of the third meeting of the Working Group in 2002 to review the substantive preparation of the ICPD+10 review process, including the country questionnaire, the guidelines for preparation of country report, the inputs of sub-regional population and development institutions, and the schedule of events in preparation for the regional assessment;
- Preparation of country reports (2002, 2003) on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA, including best practices and programme needs, for presentation and discussion at the subsequent meetings of the Follow-up Committee ;
- Organization of the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee in 2003 to enable participants, including African Governments, International Organizations, donors and NGOs, to review country-specific reports on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA;
- Production, as the final outcome from the ICPD+10 review process, of a comprehensive African regional evaluation report (2003-04) highlighting the main achievements and constraints in the goals of the DND and ICPD-PA and formulating recommendations for the way forward.

34. The fourth meeting of the Follow-up Committee is invited to pay particular attention to issues and recommendations emanating from ICDP+5 review process in order to come out with guidelines and proposals to enhance activities of the Joint Secretariat and major stakeholders towards effective monitoring and evaluation of country implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA recommendations, including the key actions adopted at the UNGASS. Therefore, the meeting is, among others, expected to discuss and agree on the:

- (i) Proposals for follow-up activities during the coming years in preparation for ICPD+10 review process in Africa including the preparation of the regional evaluation report;
- (ii) Orientations and guidelines for the scope and content of the country questionnaire and the county reports;

35. Given the theme of the meeting, the Committee is also expected to discuss the demographic transition in selected African countries in order to identify the main factors, including policy and programme interventions, facilitating a significant decline in fertility in Africa.