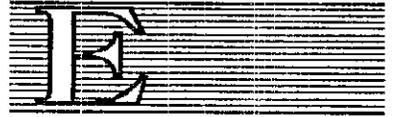


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**PREPARATION FOR THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: THE AFRICAN COMMON POSITION**

I. Introduction

1. The Capital city of Egypt, Cairo, will be hosting the 1994 International Conference on Population and Sustainable Development (ICPD), from 5 to 13 September. The overall theme of the Conference will be population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

2. The thrust of ICPD will be to make further progress towards consolidating contemporary understanding of the complex population-development interrelationship, to adopt a set of recommendations for the next decade in order to respond to the population and development issues of high priority and to enhance the mobilization of resources needed, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the results of the Conference.

3. This paper presents a general overview of the preparatory activities for ICPD including details on the African regional preparatory inputs as well as follow-up activities for the implementation of the recommendations of the African Conference.

II. Preparations for ICPD

A. National activities

4. With a view to encouraging maximum national participation in the preparatory process for the Conference, the Secretary-General of ICPD invited all countries to establish national committees on population to serve as focal points for national preparatory activities. As of 30 November 1993, more than 100 countries informed the Conference secretariat of the establishment of such committees.

5. The principal activities of the national activities were the preparation of the national report on population and public awareness initiatives, both for the Conference and for population issues in general. The secretariat of ICPD sent the guidelines for the preparation of the national reports to Governments through their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in July 1992 and the deadline for submission of reports was 30 September 1993.

B. Regional Conferences

6. Five regional conferences have been convened by the United Nations regional commissions and UNFPA as part of the regional contributions to the preparatory activities of ICPD:

- (a) The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Denpasar, Indonesia, 19-27 August 1992)
- (b) The Third African Population Conference, (Dakar, Senegal, 7-12 December 1992)
- (c) The European Population Conference (Geneva, 23-26 March 1993)
- (d) The Arab Population Conference (Amman, 4-8 April 1993)
- (e) The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 29 April-4 May 1993)

7. Three of the regional conferences adopted a declaration, one adopted a consensus statement (Latin America and Caribbean) and the other one (Europa) adopted a set of recommendations on population and development. There were a total of 348 recommendations which will greatly enrich the foci of ICPD.

8. A synthesis of the regional conferences has been prepared by the secretariat of ICPD containing an overview of common concern and priorities as well as region-specific ones and will be included as part of the official documentation for third session of the Preparatory Committee for IPCD.

9. As follow-up of the regional conferences, three subregional conferences have been held: Maghreb countries Meeting on Population and Development (Tunis, 7-10 July 1993); South Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development (Port Villa, Vanuata, 6-10 September 1993); South Asian Ministerial Conference on Women and family Health (Katmandu, 21-23 November 1993)

C. Expert Group Meetings

10. Following the indentification by the ECOSOC of six groups of issues as those requiring the greatest attention, during the forthcoming decade, from the international community and from the Conference, the secretariat of the ICPD organized six Experts Group Meetings on:

- (a) Population, Environment and Development, New York, 20-24 January 1992
- (b) Population Policies and Programmes, Cairo, 12-16 April 1992
- (c) Population and Women, Gaborone, Botswana, 22-26 June 1992

- (d) Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being, Bangalore, India, 26-30 October 1992
- (e) Population Growth and Demographic Structure, Paris, 16-20 November 1992
- (f) Population Distribution and Migration, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 18-22 January 1993

11. ECA participated at the above Expert Group Meetings and contributed to each with a paper giving the experience of African countries in the issues considered. A synthesis of the Expert Group Meetings has been prepared by the secretariat of the ICPD as part of the substantive preparations for the Conference.

D. Round Table Meetings

12. Following the Expert Group Meetings, a number of Governments and organizations organized ad hoc round-table meetings on specific topics as additional activities preparatory to the Conference. As of early December 1993, the following five round-table meetings were organized:

- (a) Women's Perspectives on Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights, Ottawa, 26-27 August 1993
- (b) Population Policies, Programmes and HIV/AIDS, Berlin, 28 September-1 October 1993
- (c) Population and Development Strategies, Bangkok, 17-19 November 1993
- (d) Population and Sustainable Development in the post-UNCED Period (Geneva, 24-26 November 1993)
- (e) Population and Communication, Vienna, 2-3 December 1993.

E. Other preparatory activities

13. In terms of major inputs for the ICPD, three key activities will also have been undertaken namely the Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action; the Seventh Population Inquiry among member states; and, the Monitoring of population trends and of multilateral population programmes.

14. Interagency coordination of activities has also been promoted to elicit the participation of NGOs in the ICPD. Approximately 400 accredited NGOs were represented at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for ICPD in May 1993. The third session of the Preparatory Committee will take place at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 22 April 1994, following the twenty-session of the Population Council.

15. The ECOSOC, in resolution 1993/76, have also decided to convene pre-Conference consultations on 3 and 4 September 1994, at the venue of the Conference.

III. The African Regional Preparatory Inputs to ICPD

16. As preparatory to ICPD, the Seventeenth Session of ECA Conference of Ministers of Planning and Economic Development decided to convene the Third African Population Conference (APC.3). In that respect, the Ministers established a Preparatory Committee of APC.3 composed of experts of various African Institutions (like the OAU, ADB, IFORD, RIPS, UAPS and CERPOD) which, later, was broadened to include member States.

17. The Preparatory Committee held three sessions in Dakar, in close cooperation with the host country, closely monitored all aspects of the work of the secretariat and decided that the theme for the Conference will be population, family and sustainable Development.

18. In organising APC.3, ECA associated fully the Government of Senegal, UNFPA, OAU, and ADB. The meeting took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 7 to 12 December 1992, at ministerial level, preceded by a meeting of Experts.

19. UNFPA gave support to ECA during the preparation process in financing secretariat support, consultants and publication of reports. Its efforts were supplemented by the Governments of the Netherlands. The host country, as is the rule, met the extra cost for moving the Conference from the ECA Headquarters. It received financial assistance from the Governments of France, the Netherlands and USA to enable it provide the required services.

20. A total of about 370 participants were represented at the Conference including 176 delegates from 50 ECA member States (Somalia did not attend); several observers (33 from 10 UN member States, 46 from 19 specialized UN Agencies and 67 NGOs, IGOs, Institutions, and Organizations). A remarkable feature among the delegations was the increasing proportion of women, who accounted for the first time, around a third of the participants.

21. The main aim of APC.3 was to review the efforts made by member states in implementing the KPA recommendations and the associated difficulties. Additionally, the Conference :

- (a) examined the concept of sustainable development and discussed the prerequisites for achieving it;
- (b) examined also, the ability of African families to raise and educate their young in contexts of increasing poverty and deprivation and escalating political tensions;

- (c) reviewed some of the emerging population problems since adopting the KPA, including the deterioration in public health, continuing high fertility, questions arising from the structure of the population, environmental damage, AIDS and poverty; and,
- (d) reviewed also, the formulation and implementation of population policies in selected African countries.

22. In order to streamline the agenda of the Experts, a Roundtable was organized by the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) on the structure and dynamics of family formation in Africa. The debates covered all relevant issues affecting the changing African family in a changing environment including the importance to girl's education; improving rights of widows and children; programmes to reduce teenage pregnancies; establishment of social security systems; problems of AIDS; and the need to change norms and values which support a large family size.

23. APC.3 adopted its report, a draft Declaration (the draft Dakar/Ngor Declaration on population, family and sustainable development) and the accompanying resolution and a motion of thanks to the host country.

IV. The African Common Position on Population, Family and Sustainable development to be presented at ICPD

24. The draft Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development and the accompanying resolution adopted by APC.3 were endorsed by the nineteenth meeting of ECA Conference of Ministers of Planning and Economic Development. The Ministers underlined both the significance of the Declaration as an instrument for accelerating the implementation of the KPA during the 1990s and beyond and as the African Common Position to the ICPD. The Declaration comprises a Preamble, Principles and Objectives and three main sections.

25. The first section contains a total of 42 recommendations with 36 of these addressed to African Governments in the areas of population, socio economic growth and sustainable development; Family; Fertility and family planning; Mortality, morbidity and AIDS; Urbanization, migration and physical planning; Refugees and displaced persons; Women in development; Children; Youth; Data collection, analysis, information dissemination, training and research; Information, education and communication; Private and non-Governmental Organizations. The remaining 6 recommendations of the first section are addressed to Subregional/Regional Groupings; ECA and UNFPA; and, the International Community.

26. The thrust of the first section is that no population policy can be implemented without a peaceful and stable political and social environment. It also calls on African Governments to integrate these policies and population programmes in their development strategies and to strengthen the social sectors. Environmental issues and food security are given special attention. Quantitative population targets are set, like reducing the annual growth rate from today's 3% to 2.5% by the year 2000 and to 2% by the year 2010. Life expectancy at birth should increase to at least 55 years for the region, infant mortality should decrease to less than 50 per 1000, child mortality to less than 70 and contraceptive prevalence should increase from its present insignificant level to 20% by the year 2000 and 40% by the year 2010. Maternal mortality should be reduced by 50%

27. The second and third sections with three recommendations each, focus on resource mobilization and follow-up mechanism for implementing the various recommendations. The ECA, UNFPA, the World Bank, OAU and ADB, among others, are called upon to implement the recommendations and to promote joint activities within their respective mandates. It confirms the ECA mandate to monitor and evaluate its implementation. In particular, the International Community is invited to increase its support to Africa.

V. Follow-up of the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development

28. The Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the accompanying resolution invite the ECA Executive Secretary of ECA to establish a Follow-up Committee of member States in co-operation with OAU, ADB and UNFPA to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and assist member States during the preparatory process of ICPD.

29. The nineteenth meeting of ECA Conference of Ministers of Planning and Economic Development endorsed the composition and terms of reference of the Follow-up Committee and decided that it should constitute an open-ended Committee of member States with the APC.3 Bureau as core members (Senegal, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Namibia).

30. The functions of the Follow-up Committee derive from guidelines on the follow-up and implementation mechanism defined in the Dakar/Ngor Declaration. These include the following activities:

- (a) Providing assistance to African countries in the preparatory process and follow-up activities of the ICPD, consistent with the directives of the Preparatory Committee of the ICPD;

- (b) Defining actions and programmes of highest priority to be undertaken by African countries, United Nations Agencies, Donors, IGOs and NGOs for the implementation of the Declaration and the KPA;
- (c) Reviewing progress in the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and preparing relevant reports, including: (i) annual reports on the activities of the Follow-up Committee (ii) analytical reports assessing factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (every two years) ; and, (iii) comprehensive evaluation reports (every five years) on the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration.
- (d) Defining Strategies for resources mobilization for the implementation of the KPA and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration.
- (e) Establishing the Working Group assisting the Follow-up Committee

31. ECA has developed a 5-year programme activities for the implementation of the recommendations of APC.3 including the monitoring/evaluation process, the convening of the inaugural meeting of the Follow-up Committee and the mobilization of available experts and the institutions that will work to backstop the efforts of the member States.

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