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**UNITED NATIONS**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Distr.: LIMITED

E/ECA/CAMSDE.1/95/11  
25 February 1996

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

First Conference of African Ministers  
responsible for Sustainable  
Development and the Environment

Meeting of the Committee of Experts

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
4-7 March 1996

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

First Conference of African Ministers  
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Ministerial meeting

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAKAR/NGOR DECLARATION  
ON POPULATION, FAMILY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

1. The links between population and development have always been seen within the context of population and resources. This issue has engaged the attention of traditional economists like Malthus who were worried about rapid population growth in the face of limited resources. With the emergence of environmental movements in the early 1970s, the whole question was extended to the links between population, environment and development and today, it encompasses sustainable development.<sup>1</sup> A consensus is currently emerging at the international level on the concept of sustainable development as outlined in the Brundtland report: a type of development which addresses the needs of the today's generation without undermining those of tomorrow. There is also a consensus on the need to practicalize the principle of incorporating population and environment into overall development policies in a bid to achieve sustainable development.<sup>2</sup>

2. The progress has been slow however of perceiving environmental issues and their links with population dynamics. The Stockholm Conference on the Environment (Stockholm, 1972) made it possible for the first time at the international level, to consider environmental issues and initiate the first policy instruments. At the regional level, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (Cairo, 1985) adopted the Cairo Programme which advocated cooperation in environmental matters.<sup>3</sup> A year earlier, the second African Conference on Population (Arusha, 1984) adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action which noted with concern the serious and worsening food situation as well as the devastating effects of natural and man-made disasters<sup>4</sup>. The International Forum on Population in the twenty-first century (Amsterdam, 1989) adopted the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations which acknowledged that population, resources and environment were inextricably linked<sup>5</sup>.

3. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or the Earth Summit (Rio, 1992) adopted a more global and integrated approach to environmental protection which can not be separated from development<sup>6</sup>. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 adopted by the Summit thus acknowledged the synergy between demographic trends and factors, and sustainable development<sup>7</sup>. Agenda 21 set aside a whole chapter on population dynamics and sustainability and made recommendations in the following three main areas:

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<sup>1/</sup> E. Thiltges and D. Tabutin (1992); Population and environment. A review of facts, doctrines and policies in the Southern countries, bulletin No. 15 of the International Centre for Population, Environment and Development.

<sup>2/</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development. Our Common Future, otherwise known as the Brundtland report, Montreal, Fleuve publishers, 1988.

<sup>3/</sup> UNEP, (1985): African Conference on Environment; the Executive Director's report, Cairo, 1985.

<sup>4/</sup> ECA, (1984): Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-reliant Development, second African Conference on Population, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 9-13 January 1984.

<sup>5/</sup> UNFPA, New York (1990): Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6-9 November 1989.

<sup>6/</sup> E. Thiltges and D. Tabutin, 1992, op. cit.

<sup>7/</sup> United Nations, (1992): Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992).

(a) Development and dissemination of data on demographic factors and trends and sustainable development;

(b) Formulation of integrated national policies on environment and development, taking into account demographic factors and trends; and

(c) Implementation of integrated programmes on environment and development at the local level, bearing in mind demographic factors and trends.

4. In keeping with the provisions of Agenda 21, the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) in its review of the interrelationship between population, environment and development, acknowledged that demographic factors, combined with poverty and lack of access to resources in some areas, and excessive consumption and wasteful production patterns in others, cause or exacerbate problems of environmental degradation and resource depletion and thus inhibit sustainable development<sup>8</sup>.

5. At the regional level, the third African Population Conference (Dakar, 1992), the regional preparatory consultation held prior to the Cairo Conference, also addressed the issues of environment and development on the continent<sup>9</sup>. The Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development (DND) adopted by the ministers, recommended that governments should take measures to tackle the underlying causes of environmental degradation such as poverty, focusing on environmentally sound and appropriate technologies<sup>10</sup>.

6. In summary, there is currently a growing awareness of the interrelationship between population, development, environment, not to mention the fact that poverty, production and consumption patterns are so closely related that none of them can be considered in isolation<sup>11</sup>.

**B. The significance of implementing the Dakar/Ngor Declaration**

7. Since all sustainable development strategies should focus on the welfare of the population and particularly on the family and individuals as both agents and beneficiaries of the development process, the interplay between population, environment and development can only be appreciated in the context of the family and its development<sup>12</sup>. In adopting the Dakar/Ngor Declaration, African governments acknowledged the crucial role played by the family in socio-economic development<sup>13</sup>.

8. The 38 recommendations from the DND, specifically meant for the African governments, addressed the following 11 areas: population; sustainable economic growth and sustainable development; family; fertility and family planning; mortality, morbidity and AIDS; urbanization, migration and rural development;

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<sup>8</sup> United Nations 1995, Population and Development Vol.1 Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994.

<sup>9</sup> ECA, 1994, Third African Population Conference Vol. 1. Report of the Conference and Programme Activities, Dakar, Senegal, 7-12 December 1992.

<sup>10</sup> ECA, 1993. The Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations 1995, op.cit.

<sup>12</sup> S. Kiggundu, 1994. Strategies for sustainable development.

<sup>13</sup> ECA Population Division, 1992. Working guidelines for APC 3.

refugees and displaced persons; women in development; children; youth; data collection and analysis, dissemination of information, training and research; information, education and communication.

9. The primary purpose of these recommendations is to slow down population growth and develop human resources in member States as the two main components of all sustainable development strategies.

10. The objective of slowing down population growth is to prevent the dissipation of the fruits of growth and thus promote sustainable development. As a matter of fact, the population growth rate should not exceed the GDP growth rate if sustainable development is to take place. In other words, overly rapid population growth will entail ploughing a sizeable portion of investment capital into non-productive sectors, concentrating development efforts on reducing the imbalance between the population and available food, and combating environmental degradation.

11. The objective of slowing down population growth under the DND is to bring down Africa's current population growth rate of 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent by the year 2000 and to 2 per cent by 2010. In order to achieve these regional objectives, African countries should formulate and pursue population policies and programmes which set quantified national goals to slow down population growth. Such objectives should be incorporated into development strategies and programmes.

12. Human resources development as the second component of a sustainable development strategy will enable the people to participate in development. It should also be a spin-off from the DND which recommended four main crucial areas of intervention for the African governments, namely: health, education, employment and rural development.

#### C. The purpose of this paper

13. In keeping with the theme of this Conference, this paper will attempt to review efforts made by member States in applying the Agenda 21 recommendations on population dynamics and sustainability and those of DND on population, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development. The purpose is to know to what extent member States have applied the specific DND and Agenda 21 recommendations on the need to take into account the interplay between population, environment and sustainable development and incorporate them in their development programmes and strategies.

14. In this connection, the paper first recalls some of the inter-relationships mentioned in section II. In section III, it reviews the content of the national development plans, and the population policies and programmes of some member States in a bid to determine their degree of compatibility with the objectives of sustainable development under the DND and Agenda 21. Section IV reviews likely difficulties in and prospects for implementing the DND while conclusions are drawn in Section V and some recommendations addressed to member States and the international community with a view to speeding up the implementation of the DND.

## **II. POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

15. There are so many types of inter-relationships between population, environment and development that it will be difficult to treat them separately. However, various studies conducted to identify the underlying causes of the socio-economic problems currently facing African countries have shown that the rapid growth in African population, combined with little scientific and technological progress, seem to have adverse effects on the development of Africa<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>14</sup>/ ECA Population Division, (1993): Development and rapid population growth, a paper presented at the seminar on Population and Development organized by OAU for the African Ambassadors resident in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, 29 September 1993.

16. The conclusions did not lay enough emphasis on environmental issues within the context of population and development. There were indeed two schools of thought, the one attributing global environmental degradation to rapid population growth especially in the third world, the other putting all the blame on industrialized countries with their economic model based on a life style and production patterns which cause pollution and continue excessive amounts of renewable and non-renewable resources.<sup>15</sup>

17. This paper presents a brief reminder of the consequences currently referred to in matters of population, environment and development. The distinction drawn between population and development on the one hand, and population and environment on the other, is more of a simplification exercise than a reflection of the degree to which population, environment and development are intertwined.

#### A. Population and development

18. In spite of the steps taken to boost economic growth, African Governments have hardly been able to satisfy the increasing needs of their rapidly-growing population. Agriculture, education, employment and health are the sectors most directly affected by population growth. Indeed, attaining the demographic investment level required to satisfy needs in these sectors has been seriously limited by the current dismal economic climate and the low budgetary resources of member States.

19. In the agricultural sector for instance, per capita food production has continuously declined in Sub-Saharan Africa owing to a population growth rate higher than that of food production<sup>16</sup>. Thus in the 1970s, while the population continued to increase at a rate of 2.7 per cent, food production was rising at only 1.3 per cent per annum. The food crisis deepened in the 1980s with a further reduction in food production while the population growth rate reached 2.8 per cent. The most affected areas were Southern Africa and the Sahel (United Nations, 1985). Food deficits not only reduced productivity in all economic activities, but also led to malnutrition and a rise in morbidity and mortality, the most affected groups being mothers and children<sup>17</sup>.

20. With regard to education, despite the significant progress made in terms of school enrolment especially at the primary level, results fallen well below expectations. For instance, the target of 100 per cent school enrolment has not been attained anywhere in Africa owing largely to the rapid population growth, especially that of the school-going population<sup>18</sup>. Moreover, since they were unable to significantly expand their educational facilities, most African countries have resorted to such palliatives as increasing the student/teacher ratio or operating two different shifts to accommodate an ever-growing number of students.

21. Such measures have nevertheless contributed to the low quality of education and the high school drop-out rate. Furthermore, the increasing number of young people who leave school with no professional qualification and the huge number of graduates coming to the job market with no prospects of being employed, constitute a real danger to the social stability of member States.

22. In terms of employment, rapid population growth has inevitably led to an increase in the working-age population, dependant population, under-employment, unemployment and reduced workers' productivity.

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<sup>15/</sup> E. Thiltges and D. Tabutin, 1992, op. cit.

<sup>16/</sup> Other significant factors including the inadequate policies implemented by governments in terms of agricultural methods, means of transport, price control and taxation also contributed to the food prices.

<sup>17/</sup> ECA Population Division, (1993), op. cit.

<sup>18/</sup> Inadequate provision by the African Governments for school graduates have no doubt aggravated the adverse effects of rapid population growth.

Unemployment ranks first among the problems of rapid population growth as the capacity of the African economies to generate new jobs and satisfy additional job demand by an increasing working-age population remains very limited. Indeed, job creation opportunities are rare; although the agricultural sector is labour-intensive and features prominently in member States, the sector is already characterized by under-employment and therefore requires substantial investments in order to create employment.

23. In the health sector, the quality of service and infrastructural facilities is deteriorating as African countries lack the resources to cater for the growing needs of the population. Another factor aggravating public health in Africa is the concentration of health facilities, medical and para-medical staff in urban areas to the detriment of the rural areas where most of the people live.

#### B. Population and environment

24. Three factors are often referred to as the underlying causes of environmental degradation in Africa: rapid population growth, poverty and low level of technology. According to the Brundtland report, nowhere is the relationship between environmental degradation and development failures more apparent than in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>19</sup>.

25. Urbanization has had dire consequences in Africa, causing rapidly-growing rural-urban migrations to the cities, often to the capital cities thus depriving the rural areas of the bulk of their work force. Urban migration, one of the consequences of failed rural development policies, has gone on uncontrolled, thus causing urban population growth rates much higher than the total population growth rates.

26. In terms of human settlements, the fact that the population growth aspect is not incorporated into development plans would seem to be the main cause of weak policies in this area. This has given rise to further environmental problems in most of the urban areas, including the emergence of shantytowns, increasing shortage of housing units, land speculation, mounting water and electricity supply shortages, clogged sewerage system, poor garbage collection and disposal, inadequate supply of social and health facilities for suburbia, worsening public hygiene, lack of transport and schools<sup>20</sup>.

27. Rapid population growth has also largely contributed to the degradation of natural resources including forest, land and water, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has equally increased requirements for firewood, farm land and pasture. Intensive limbering and land clearing, overcropping, increasing use of marginal land and over-grazing have become rampant and are believed to be the causes of soil degradation and the disappearance of plant cover.

28. Indeed, the loss of forest due to the felling of trees for timber and fuelwood encourages runoff and erosion, the lowering of the phreatic level of watersheds and of rainfall in the arid areas.<sup>21</sup> Land clearing for farming leads to the conversion of land suited for transhumant pastoralism or forest land into land of low agricultural productivity with a naturally limited capacity to regenerate itself<sup>22</sup>. The impact of this change

<sup>19/</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development, 1988, op. cit.

<sup>20/</sup> E. Thiltges and D. Tabutin, 1992, op. cit.

<sup>21/</sup> By FAO's accounts, deforestation must have increased in Africa by about 35 per cent from 1976 to 1990. There was a rapid increase in the annual deforestation rate in the second half of the 1980s.

<sup>22/</sup> According to the World Bank, the annual rate of land clearing in the Sahel was around 388,000 hectares of forest (1981-85), for farming, wood and coal. World Bank, 1985: Deforestation in the Sudano-Sahelian Areas of West Africa.

is amplified by the fact that the farming techniques used take little pains to maintain, let alone improve, the quality of soils known to be relatively infertile and structurally unstable <sup>23</sup>.

29. Although it is widely acknowledged that rapid population growth increases pressure on natural resources, care should be taken in considering population pressure as the direct cause of environmental problems. According to the recent report of the South Commission, population pressure is only one of the factors affecting the environment. Others include land tenure systems, agricultural development patterns, economic pressure from the North, the industrialization and growth imperatives, consumption patterns and rural exodus.<sup>24</sup>

### III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DND UNDER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POPULATION POLICIES

#### A. Incorporating the interrelationships between population, environment and development

30. Acknowledging that population issues formed part and parcel of socio-economic development, the DND recommended that African Governments should pay special attention to the inter-relationships between population policies and sectoral strategies on job creation, structural adjustment, poverty alleviation, family protection, empowerment of women, environmental protection and the control of the AIDS pandemic.

31. The national reports presented at the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development show that African countries are becoming increasingly aware of the interplay between population, environment and development.<sup>25</sup> Member States (50 in all) which presented reports to the Conference admitted that rapid population growth in their countries not only exerted high pressures on sectors such as health, education, housing, transport, agriculture, etc; but also largely contributed to the degradation of natural resources like forest, land and water. Table 1 below shows the type of inter-relationships most frequently referred to in the national reports.

32. It will be noted that member States often refer in their reports to the interrelationships between population growth and:

- (a) Economic development in general (88 per cent of the African States);
- (b) Social services (72 per cent);
- (c) Natural resources, environment and soil use (62 per cent); and
- (d) Employment (46 per cent).

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<sup>23/</sup> CERPOD, (1992): Environmental Degradation in Africa: Population, Women and Environment, ECA, third African Population Conference on, conference document, volume III, first part.

<sup>24/</sup> Report of the South Commission (1990): Challenges for the South, Paris, Economic, 1990.

<sup>25/</sup> UNFPA, (1994): National Perspectives on Population and Development. Synthesis of 168 national reports prepared for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

**Table 1: Percentages of countries which indicated relationships between population and development (50 African countries)**

Interrelationships between:	Percentages
<b>Population growth and:</b>	
- Socio-economic development	88
- Agriculture & food production	28
- Social services	72
- Infrastructure	6
- Employment	46
- Natural resources, environment and land use	62
<b>Population distribution and:</b>	
- Regional imbalances	
- Natural resources	30
- Urbanization	18
- Social cohesion	32
<b>Population age structure and:</b>	
- Productive capacities	18
- Delinquency and crime (youth)	12
- Unemployment (youth)	14
- Social welfare (the elderly)	22
<b>Macro-economic stabilization/structural adjustment programmes and:</b>	
- The people health and welfare	6
	14

Source: UNFPA, 1994, op. cit.

33. Of the 24 countries which indicated the interrelationships between population and environment, 88 per cent blamed environmental degradation on the production pattern while 76 per cent mentioned urban migration and population density, 52 per cent referred to population growth, 24 per cent to economic development in general and 16 per cent mentioned wars, especially civil wars.

34. African Governments should translate into reality their recognition of the interrelationships between population, environment and development by incorporating population policies and programmes in their national socio-economic development plans if they want to achieve the sustainable development outlined in those national development plans, the DND and Agenda 21. On-going or planned population and development activities in most African countries do reflect their readiness to apply this important recommendation. This is demonstrated by the examples of the following countries which are at various stages of formulating and adopting population policies.<sup>26</sup>

**B. Examples of countries which have adopted their own population policy statement**

35. Kenya's readiness to attain sustainable development at all levels (economic, social and environmental) is clearly reflected in its seventh National Development Plan (1994-1996). The Kenyan Government intends to tackle the adverse effects of structural adjustment by providing further assistance to the disadvantaged

<sup>26/</sup> These examples are mainly taken from the working papers presented by the three UNFPA regional technical support teams based in Addis Ababa, Dakar and Harare, and by CERPOD at the experts/NGOs Workshop on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action, organized by the ECA/OAU/ADB Joint Secretariat in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-9 June 1995.



classes of the population and the disabled. In a 1994 white paper on the social dimension of adjustment, the government affirmed its resolve to meet the challenges of social integration and promised to take steps to restore harmony between ethnic groups and increase job opportunities for women and young people.

36. The seventh plan also paved the way for family protection policies acknowledged the need to strengthen traditional methods and supplement them with facilities such as community and primary health centres, and cooperatives for parents. Such policies would also acknowledge the need to protect widows, divorcees and orphans.

37. In Sierra Leone, there has been, in recent years, an increasing amount of research work on the interplay between population policy and sectoral strategies. In formulating sectoral strategies, further consideration has been given to the effects of population growth and the impact of development on the various groups of the population. This is equally true of the environmental plan of action which addresses the issue of rapid population growth and migration while acknowledging their adverse effects on plant cover (deforestation) and the urban environment.

38. Moreover, the sectoral adjustment strategy is being reformulated to take into account the social dimension of adjustment. The on-going social programme of action and poverty alleviation are intended for the vulnerable groups in the society i.e. poor rural women and children. The Government has also set up a national association for social mobilization, a youth department to address teenage problems and a national rehabilitation committee in charge of refugees and displaced persons affected by the civil war in the country. Moreover, the Ministry of Works which recently published a paper on employment policy is initiating a plan of action for its implementation.

39. The DND recommendations occupy pride of place in the national population policy of Guinea which adopted a declaration in May 1994. In implementing the national population programme and policy, a number of steps have been taken through a public awareness campaign model designed to measure the impact of population growth on development and the launching by the late 1995 of a major project on population and the control of STD/AIDS.

40. Lesotho and Malawi adopted their national policy instruments in 1994. The fact that Lesotho's population policy is incorporated in its 1991-1996 five-year development plan and that of Malawi is contained in the 1987-1996 national development policy statement (the equivalent of the national development plan), demonstrates the importance both countries attach to such policies in their socio-economic development.

41. These policy strategies are predicated on the achievement of the following DND objective: slowing down population growth, reducing fertility, maternal and infant mortality, improving access to family planning and service quality, improving the status of women and enhancing their participation in development, reducing environmental degradation and increasing job opportunities for the youth.

42. In Uganda, where the population policy document was adopted in March 1995, several workshops have been organized for planners on the theme: incorporating population variables and programmes in development planning. Other activities undertaken in Uganda since 1994 included round tables on reproductive health and workshops on initiatives for the youth and priority programmes for women. All these activities should culminate in the formulation and pursuit of priority programmes with the full involvement of young people and women in order to find together the most appropriate solutions to their problems.

**B. Examples of countries currently formulating their national population policy statement**

43. There are eight Sub-Saharan African countries in this category: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. They all decided to adopt a clear population

policy as part of their development strategies and are using the DND as their reference document. Some of them have even gone a step further in the preparation for the formulation and adoption of their population policies by setting goals and working out strategies.

44. In Mauritius, efforts to institute population programmes were almost exclusively focused on the implementation of the national family planning programme whose main objectives were to reduce population growth and fertility rates. Mauritius has thus attained and even exceeded the DND goals in fertility, mortality and population growth. The government's current move, as reflected in the 1994 Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) report, is to build on its achievements and address population matters in a more general context of socio-economic development by formulating and implementing a more comprehensive national population policy.

45. The Government of Namibia intends to organize by the end of 1995 a national conference on the various aspects of national population policy. Several ministerial departments, NGOs, religious organizations and donor agencies will take part in this Conference to consider, among other things, the details of implementing the DND recommendations and the ICPD programme of action in formulating national population policies.

46. In Mozambique, the objectives and strategies of the national population programme, in line with the 1994 PRDS report, and on-going projects are all based on the DND recommendations and the ICPD programme of action whose major objectives the country is striving to achieve. Moreover, in furtherance of one of the DND recommendations on the need to share experiences in population policy and programme formulation, UNFPA intends to assist Mozambique in organizing, by the late 1995, a meeting for the officials of the population planning units from Southern Africa in order to consider ways and means of strengthening national and subregional institutions responsible for the implementation of population policies and programmes.

#### IV. CONSTRAINTS AND PROSPECTS

##### A. Constraints

47. Over three years after the adoption of the DND, several other member States have developed their national population policies thereby swelling the rank of those which, before the Dakar Conference, were already implementing such policies. However, in spite of the growing number of national population policies and programmes adopted in Africa, there are still some problems in planning their implementation. Implementing plans of action adopted at regional and international levels such as Agenda 21, the DND and the ICPD programme of action not always mindful of national specificities, may well prove more complex. The constraints most often cited are summarized below.

48. A primary constraint to the implementation of the programmes of action is the low degree of commitment by political and religious leaders to make the right mix of choices in population policies. Political leaders are more inclined to addressing immediate problems like the revamping of their economy and putting the production train back on track. Problems requiring long-term solutions especially population and environment issues such as high urbanization rates, soil degradation and deforestation are accorded lower priority.

49. The second constraint in implementing these programmes is that member States are applying various structural adjustment programmes which have significantly affected medium-term development planning as development programming has gradually been entrusted to sectoral and regional institutions by most African countries. This has been done to the detriment of medium-term planning, which however, is ideal for implementing the DND recommendations and Agenda 21. African Governments are currently taking steps

to incorporate population policies and programmes into their structural adjustment programmes but they first need to accommodate the shorter- and longer-term imperatives.<sup>27</sup>

50. Insufficient financial resources constitute the third constraint to the implementation of the programmes of action. Indeed, mobilizing domestic resources for population programmes as recommended by the DND has proved difficult since most African Governments are applying structural adjustment programmes; financial assistance from foreign partners is also limited.

51. Furthermore, depending on the countries, there are several other difficulties in implementing population programmes of action; the most frequently cited are:<sup>28</sup>

- (a) The low literacy rate (especially among women) in most African States;
- (b) The lack of skills for the promotion of population policies and public awareness campaigns;
- (c) The low degree of involvement of the local communities, the NGOs and the private sector in programme formulation, implementation and evaluation; inefficient coordination and communication systems; the weakness of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating implementation; and
- (d) Inadequate cooperation with international organizations and poor coordination of activities with foreign partners.

#### B. The Prospects

52. The problems encountered by member States in the implementation of the Kilimanjaro Plan of Action (KPA), mainly had to do with those mentioned earlier and debated at length at the Dakar Conference. The prospects today seem brighter for the implementation of the recommendations of the DND. Indeed, contrary to the KPA, the DND will be followed up regionally according to the recommendations of the follow-up committee established to that effect<sup>29</sup>. The Committee has accordingly requested ECA to prepare, every other year, an analytical report reviewing those factors which had militated against the DND and proposing solutions to those constraints and problems<sup>30</sup>.

53. Furthermore, as a follow-up to the deliberations of the Joint Expert and NGO Working Group on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD programme of action, ECA has been finalizing a framework

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<sup>27/</sup> UNFPA/EAT, Dakar, (1995): the experience of the Dakar/UNFPA technical support team in population policy, paper orally presented at the Experts/NGO Workshop on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action, Abidjan, 6-9 June 1995.

<sup>28/</sup> CERPOD, (1984): Draft report for the Seminar/Workshop on the preparation and implementation of population policies and programmes in Africa, Bamako, Mali, 18-24 November 1994.

<sup>29</sup> The DND follow-up committee officially established in 1993 at the 19th meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers is an open-ended committee made up of member States, mainly those countries which are members of the Bureau of the Third African Population Conference (Senegal, Rwanda, Egypt, Kenya and Namibia).

<sup>30</sup> ECA 1994: Report of the First Meeting of the follow-up Committee on the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa, 24-25 March 1994.

document for the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration<sup>31</sup>. The framework document will propose to member States practical modalities for speeding up the implementation of the DND and the ICPD programme of action, taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the KPA. The follow-up and evaluation approach proposed will specify, in each case, the role of countries and of their partners in the implementation of both programmes.

54. It is also encouraging to note that many countries are reviewing their population programmes to take into account the recommendations of the DND and the ICPD programme of action. Such reviews, conducted under the leadership of UNFPA in particular, will enable new concepts and expressions such as gender and reproductive health (as adopted in Cairo and which have a wider meaning than those of women-in-development and mother-and-child-health) to be incorporated. It would therefore be advisable for such a review, which will ultimately involve all member States, to provide an occasion for placing more emphasis on the implementation of the recommendations of the DND.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

55. In order to attain the longer term objectives of Agenda 21 and the DND regarding food security and sustainable development at the economic, social and environmental levels, member States should, along with the efforts being made to achieve sustained economic growth, take vigorous action to slow down population growth and develop their human resources with a view to enabling their people to benefit fully from the benefits of economic growth.

56. The DND recommendations provide an enabling environment for the implementation of the most important measures for human resources development. Among those measures are the formulation and pursuit of policies, programmes and strategies for slowing down population growth, maintaining the population in good health, popularising functional education and the education of young girls, developing alternative institutions to the formal adults, education system achieving a more suitable relationship between education and employment and the optimum distribution of population and infrastructural facilities in each country.

57. Despite the many population and development activities conducted by member States, the chances of implement the Agenda 21 recommendations on population dynamism and sustainability and the DND recommendations on population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development can be maximized only if governments accord priority to the following initiatives:

(a) Preparation of realistic strategies that incorporate long-term national objectives derived from Agenda 21 and the DND;

(b) Formulation and implementation of priority action and investment programmes for the people with a view to making the most profitable use of the limited resources available;

(c) Development of new approaches to the mobilization of domestic resources and making sure that the programmes implemented are cost-effective;

(d) Using multidisciplinary expertise in the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of the policies and programmes and making sure that all governmental institutions concerned and the people themselves are involved; and

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<sup>31</sup> One of the priority activities that the follow-up Committee requested ECA to undertake was to organize with the cooperation of OAU, ADB and UNFPA a workshop of experts and NGOs to advise member States on the implementation of modalities for achieving the objectives of the DND and the ICPD programme of action. That meeting was held from 6 to 9 June 1995 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

(e) Building of partnerships with NGOs, the private sector and regional and subregional organization for the follow-up of the implementation of the relevant recommendations of Agenda 21 and the DND.

58. The international community, bilateral and multilateral donors should, in accordance with the DND recommendations, complement the efforts of member States by responding more positively and in a more coordinated fashion to the technical and financial assistance requests submitted by the countries.

59. Finally, the international community should, in implementation of the ICPD programme recommendations, increase its assistance to regional organizations like ECA in order to help them to build regional capabilities for the coordination, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the programmes of action adopted by regional and international conferences, for organizing regional consultations and for promoting the sharing of experiences among member States.