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REPORT OF THE SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING
ON THE ECA POPULATION INFORMATION NETWORK
FOR AFRICA (POPIN-AFRICA)

New York, 1-3 November 1983

I. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. Following upon the first POPIN-AFRICA Consultative Meeting held in Addis Ababa from June 14th to 16th 1982, the ECA Population Division submitted to the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), proposals for the funding of a regional population information network for Africa. With financial support from the UNFPA a second Consultative Meeting was held in New York in order to discuss, clarify and make suggestions for the implementation of a Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-AFRICA).
2. The Consultative Meeting was organized by the ECA Population Division in close collaboration and with the assistance of the UN Regional Commission Liaison Office, POPIN, UN Population Division and UNFPA. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD); Johns Hopkins University; Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS); Sahel Institute; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); United Nations Population Division; United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, Population Branch; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); Columbia University, Center for Population and Family Health Library/Information Program; International Press Service (IPS); Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS); and Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC). The list of participants is shown in Annex I and the agenda in Annex II.

II. OPENING

3. Mr. Leon Tabah, Director of the United Nations Population Division and Chairman of the International Population Information Network (POPIN) Advisory Committee, was requested to chair the meeting. The ECA, POPIN and UNFPA jointly served as rapporteur.
4. In his opening address, the Chairman gave four principles to guide the work programme of POPIN-Africa. First, population information and documentation activities should be decentralized to the national capabilities to ensure better circulation and exchange of information. Second, one should seek better harmonization of activities not only among the sub-regions, but also among the networks thereby allowing technical co-operation among participants by using diversified methods. Third, one needs focal points to facilitate feedback of information from users to producers. Fourth, one should establish the most economical and effective network. Thus, the cost-benefit evaluation should be considered from the outset of the project. It follows from the above principles, that POPIN-Africa should be approved as soon as possible. Then one has to decide which institutions should participate, what responsibilities would be shared by them and what the output should be to satisfy users' needs.
5. Mr. Lamine N'Diaye, Chief, UNFPA Africa Branch, welcomed the participants and stated that their attendance indicated their interest in POPIN-Africa. He then developed the following points. First, information and its dissemination are considered by UNFPA to be among its most important activities. Referring to the experience of the Latin America Demographic Centre (CELADE), Mr. N'Diaye requested that the regional commission set up a

work programme leading as soon as possible to establishing and developing national institutions and sub-regional centres of which some have already good experience. All these activities need to be co-ordinated. Second, UNFPA has been supporting population information and documentation activities in the world. A few years ago funding of similar activities in Africa was not possible, but now UNFPA was strongly committed to POPIN-Africa and co-operation from other donors was being sought. Third, existing institutions should be capitalized on wherever possible by users. Therefore, the project should be a network of participating centres, a user-orientated project aimed at identifying users and disseminating information to these users, comprised of individuals, institutions and governments.

6. Mr. N'Diaye noted that POPIN-Africa should be for Africans and therefore donors should not overlook the interests of the region. UNFPA was committed to this project because the available data had to be analyzed and disseminated. The logical follow-up was to establish the network for the African region which had been neglected up until then.

7. Mr. Ahmed Bahri, Director of the ECA Population Division expressed his thanks to Mr. Leon Tabah for agreeing to chair the POPIN-Africa meeting. He also expressed thanks to UNFPA for funding the meeting and POPIN for handling certain aspects of the organization of the meeting.

8. Mr. Bahri then made the following remarks in connection with the role expected to be played by POPIN-Africa. First, population problems would be at their most serious by the end of this century and would therefore, seriously affect socio-economic development in the region. In this regard, population information dissemination would obviously be necessary and the basic idea should be user-orientation. Second, regional intervention would with time, play an increasingly lesser role in favour of national institutions. Third, POPIN-Africa should start with existing activities and all efforts should be directed at training, information dissemination and co-ordination of existing resources.

9. To summarize, the following dimensions might be of importance for the region: (i) training of staff at the national and regional levels; (ii) since the field was still underdeveloped, information needed to be collected and analyzed; (iii) user requirements need to be identified and relevant information disseminated; and (iv) co-ordination of activities should be dynamic and pragmatic.

III. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

A. Methodologies, coverage and sharing of responsibilities

10. Introducing this item of the background paper submitted by ECA Population Division, the representative of RIPS mentioned that IFORD would cover the French-speaking countries while the Sahel Institute would cover the Sahel countries (that is, members of CILSS-Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Cape Verde). RIPS would cover the

anglophone (including the Gambia) and Arabic countries. With regard to methodologies, documents would be selected and analyzed by the sub-regional centres which would send them to ECA to store information on the POPIN-Africa file in PADIS. Each sub-regional centre would be given a copy of the POPIN-Africa file; those centres with computers would be given magnetic tapes while those which were not computerized would be sent computerized print-outs.

11. In the discussion which followed, the representative of CjC informed the meeting that the CDC was strongly interested in this project (i.e. POPIN-Africa) and would assume its responsibilities after its Governing Council had decided about its participation in POPIN-Africa. Thus, all the inputs from the sub-regional centres would be merged into a data base. The question of whether one bibliography would be produced from the data base was raised. In answering this, the participants in the meeting considered two factors: (i) decentralization of activities to sub-regional centres, and (ii) the cost-benefit of these activities. Although the two factors were judged important, the latter was determinant in deciding to produce one bibliography.

12. The participants felt that they should agree on the objectives of POPIN-Africa before discussing the input and output methodologies. The objectives as set up during the last Consultative Meeting held on 14-16 June 1982 in Addis Ababa were accepted by the participants.

13. There was a lot of discussion on the type of information to collect and its users. It was agreed that the user clientele should be comprised of governments, professionals working in population and related fields, media, school teachers, planners and policy makers and programme and project managers and officers. As to the type of information, the participants stressed the need to standardize information to be collected among the centres and this implied determining the subject scope which would be one of the basic tools for the functioning of the POPIN-Africa network.

14. The participants agreed that all the sub-regional centres should cover the same subject scope with respect to their geographical areas and linguistic groups, except the Sahel Institute which would lay more emphasis on population and environment. In addition to the census data, research findings and any other available information in the field of population, it was agreed that the subject scope categories adopted by POPIN-International should also be adopted by POPIN-Africa (see POPIN subject categories in Annex III).

15. In discussing outputs, the USAID representative informed the meeting that dissemination was of real concern to USAID and suggested that the mass media should be used to provide information to the public and policy-makers.

16. After discussion of outputs, three alternatives were suggested. First, the activities of PIDSA at RIPS should be strengthened. Then IFORD, CDC and the Sahel Institute should develop similar activities. This alternative implied that the ECA would be responsible for (i) keeping a master file; (ii) computerizing the activities and

developing a common language; (iii) disseminating and publishing every two years materials produced by the sub-regional centres. Second, the sub-regional centres would collect, organize, and analyze documents, but not publish. Information in the form of worksheets would be forwarded to ECA to produce one index. Third, existing activities at RIPS and the Sahel Institute should continue as at present for two years. After this a decision will be taken whether to adopt the first or the second alternative suggested above.

17. Participants expressed great concern about duplication of efforts and frequency of publications. If all participating centres performed similar activities to produce bibliographies, there would be duplication of efforts and frequency of publications would not be guaranteed.

18. Different views were expressed regarding the alternatives. The representative of UNFPA stated that a decentralized approach would avoid overloading any one centre. The representative from IFORD accepted this approach in principle, but implementation would raise problems for IFORD as it is not sufficiently equipped yet to perform the required activities: documents, staff and computer facilities do not exist. The position of the Sahel Institute was described as being the same way as that of IFORD. The IDRC representative supported the second alternative of producing one POPIN-Africa Index for the following two reasons: (i) the whole objective was to establish a network for Africa having as one of its functions the co-ordination of activities in the population field; (ii) strengthening and co-ordinating the sub-regional centres to reach the national level should be conducted as quickly as possible. The IDRC representative went on to state that the meeting should recommend an efficient and effective methodology to build POPIN-Africa and that there was no need to support and fund separate projects.

19. The ECA representative observed that the function to be performed, which was to disseminate information to the users, should be examined. It followed that if each of the participating centres had its own users - efforts might be split or duplicated.

20. After long discussion on the above three alternatives, a fourth alternative was suggested that PIDSA at RIPS should continue to produce Pidsa Abstracts for two years and the other centres would only collect and analyze documents and worksheets would be sent to ECA. In the discussions which followed the representative from Johns Hopkins University, Population Information Program, suggested adopting decentralization of inputs to centres and centralization of outputs to the Co-ordinating Unit at ECA. This suggestion was supported by the USAID representative.

21. Conclusions reached on outputs were summarized as follows:

- (i) The four sub-regional centres (CDC, IFORD, RIPS, Sahel Institute) should collect and analyze documents according to responsibilities within their geographic areas and linguistic groups;
- (ii) The worksheets should be sent to the Co-ordinating Unit at ECA and one single bibliography be issued;

21. (iii) There could be computerization at the local level (i.e. sub-regional level), but data should be stored in one central data base;
- (iv) ECA should be responsible for training, dissemination, communication and co-ordination; and
- (v) The interface between Wang VS-80 and the Hewlett Packard 3000 should be developed and appropriate provisions should be made in the budget. It is estimated that 4 man-months is required for the interface development. For the mainframe of Wang, the software is available with Alliance Management System in ISO 2709 format tape.

B. Methods of evaluation of POPIN-Africa

22. The PADIS representative introduced the topic of evaluation as described in the background paper of the meeting (see pages 10-11). The IDRC representative drew the attention of the participants to the importance of evaluating such a system as POPIN-Africa. Therefore, other aspects of the network should be included as soon as possible: (i) type of information if identified; (ii) efficiency of the network's performance and of the sub-regional centres; and (iii) communication lines between the regional centre, sub-regional and national centres.

23. In evaluating the project, the participants emphasized their concern for the success of POPIN-Africa. They agreed that, in addition to the progress report required by UNFPA every six months, self-evaluation should be performed regularly by the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee. Moreover, POPIN-Africa should also be evaluated by outsiders.

C. Other institutions to be involved

24. This item was introduced by one of the representatives from ECA. The strategy set up for the implementation of POPIN-Africa was to start first with the sub-regional centres and then to move as soon as possible to get other institutions involved in the network. Some of these institutions are listed in the annex to the background paper. National and regional news agencies would be invited to work closely with POPIN-Africa in the dissemination of population information.

25. The representative from the International Press Service, accordingly briefed the meeting about its activities and suggested that POPIN-Africa should make efforts to invite relevant media agencies to assist the network.

26. The participants agreed that the attached list of other institutions was not exhaustive and that there would be a need to explore possible participants later.

D. Budget provisions

27. The budget was introduced by the Director of the ECA Population Division who made the following observations. First, ECA would have to report to the donors on the progress of the project. Since ECA was an executing agency for UN projects, e.g., IFORD and RIPS,

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Ms. Martha Stone
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	
Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD)	Mr. Henri Knoop
Johns Hopkins University	Ms. Margaret Parlato
Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS)	Prof. C. Okonjo, Director Ms. P. Amonoo, Population Information and Documentation System for Africa (PIDSA)
Sahel Institute	Mr. Babaly Thiam
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Mr. Marschal Rothe
<u>United Nations</u>	
<u>United Nations Secretariat</u>	
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs Population Division	Mr. Léon Tabah, Director Mr. Hunter H. T. Chiang, Co-ordinator Population Information Network (POPIN)
Department of Technical Co-operation for Development Population Branch	Mr. Stephen Baldwin (also representing the Cairo Demographic Centre CDC)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Population Division	Mr. Ahmed Bahri, Chief Mr. T. Mulunda, Population Affairs Officer

United Nations Secretariat (continued)

Pan African Documentation and
Information System (PADIS)

Mr. Dejen Abate

United Nations Fund for Population
Activities (UNFPA)

Mr. A. Lamine N'Diaye, Chief,
Africa Branch
Ms. Siri Melchior-Tellier, Deputy
Chief, Africa Branch
Mr. Roushdi El-Heneidi, Chief,
Middle East and the Mediterranean
Branch
Mr. James Chui, External Relations
Officer
Mr. T. Abrams, Chief, Multi-bi
Projects, Interregional and
Global Projects Division
Mr. J. B. Musoke, Africa Branch
Mr. O. J. Sikes, Technical Review,
Planning and Statistics Division
Mr. Avi Green, Chief, Library and
Clearinghouse Section, Administration
and Finance Division

Observers

Columbia University, Center for
Population and Family Health
Library/Information Program

Ms. Susan Pasquariella

International Press Service (IPS)

Mr. Marco Napoli

ANNEX II

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
 - 3.1 Methodologies, coverage and sharing of responsibilities
 - 3.2 Methods of evaluation of POPIN-Africa
 - 3.3 Other institutions to be involved in POPIN-Africa
 - 3.4 Budget provisions
4. Statements by donors
5. Conclusions and recommendations
6. Closing of the meeting

ANNEX III

POPIN SUBJECT CATEGORIES

1. POPULATION THEORY
 - a. Generalizations
 - b. Interrelations with other disciplines
2. METHODS OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
 - a. Estimation methods
 - b. Projection methods
 - c. Modelling
 - d. Other related methods for research and analyses
3. BASIC DATA COLLECTION
 - a. Census
 - b. Surveys
 - c. Registration systems and vital statistics
 - d. Other related statistics
4. POPULATION LEVELS AND TRENDS
 - a. Population size
 - b. Population growth
 - c. Population estimates and projections
 - d. Subnational population estimates and projections
5. AGE AND SEX
 - a. Determinants of age-sex structure
 - b. Demographic implication of age-sex structure and patterns
 - c. Economic-social implications of age-sex structure
 - d. Political implications of age-sex structure
 - e. Specific projects on children, youth and the aged

6. NUPTIALITY

- a. Marriage patterns: age at marriage, proportion married, types of unions, co-habitation, etc.
- b. Socio-economic conditions and programmes affecting marriage patterns.
- c. Divorce, separations, re-marriage and widowhood
- d. Policies affecting patterns of marriage and divorce

7. FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

- a. Size, structure and type of families and households
- b. Trends in the size and structure
- c. Factors affecting the number, size and structure of families and households.
- d. Patterns and differentials in headship
- e. The life cycle of the family.

8. FERTILITY

- a. Levels, patterns and trends of fertility
- b. Physiological factors affecting fertility
- c. Cultural and social factors affecting fertility; status of women, etc.
- d. Demographic factors affecting fertility
- e. Economic factors affecting fertility
- f. Fertility differentials
- g. Law, policies and measures affecting fertility

9. MORTALITY and MORBIDITY

- a. Levels and trends of mortality
- b. Sex and age pattern of mortality
- c. Foetal, infant and child mortality
- d. Causes of death
- e. Factors affecting mortality levels and trends
- f. Mortality differentials
- g. Law, policies and programmes affecting parental, child and community health.

10. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
 - a. Levels, trends and patterns of subnational population
 - b. Patterns of growth among cities
 - c. Socio-economic factors affecting subnational population, including urbanization
 - d. Population distribution policies
11. INTERNAL MIGRATION
 - a. Levels, trends, types and patterns of internal migration
 - b. Internal migration differentials: age, sex, status, etc.
 - c. Factors affecting internal migration
 - d. Socio-economic and demographic consequences of internal migration
 - e. Policies and measures affecting internal migration
12. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
 - a. Levels, trends and patterns of international migration
 - b. Factors affecting international migration
 - c. Socio-economic consequences of international migration
 - d. Illegal/"undocumented" migration
 - e. The migration of labour and skilled persons
 - f. Refugees
 - g. Policies and measures on international migration
 - h. Human rights issues in international migration
13. TRAINING, TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN DEMOGRAPHY
 - a. Training and teaching materials in formal demography
 - b. Training and teaching programmes
14. POPULATION LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES
 - a. Population and political factors
 - b. Population policies and its relation to other policies

- c. Law and policies on population quality
 - d. Law and policies on abortion and sterilization
 - e. Law and policies on minors and unmarried women
 - f. Law and policies on family planning availability
15. POPULATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT
- a. Population and mineral resources
 - b. Population and energy
 - c. Population and desertification
 - d. Population and deforestation
 - e. Population and arable land and land reform
 - f. Population and agricultural and industrial water supply
 - g. Population and water pollution
 - h. Population and air pollution
 - i. Population and the urban environment
16. POPULATION AND FOOD
- a. Population and food requirement
 - b. Food supplies and levels of nutrition
 - c. Agricultural land and productivity
 - d. Agricultural labour, mechanization and productivity
 - e. Projections of production, technology and food demand

17. THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION ON HOUSING

- a. Population and housing needs
- b. Population and housing conditions
- c. Population and water supplies
- d. Population and sewage systems

18. POPULATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- a. Levels and trends of the labour force
- b. Occupational structure
- c. Unemployment and underemployment
- d. Demographic factors in labour force size and growth
- e. Female labour
- f. Child labour
- g. Employment of the aged

19. DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

- a. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for awareness of population issues and for motivation of family planning
- b. Population education in schools
- c. Population effects on public education
- d. Out-of-school population education
- e. Sex and family life education

20. POPULATION AND OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTERRELATIONS
 - a. Ethnic characteristics
 - b. Religious beliefs and their influence on population matters
 - c. Value and cost of children
 - d. Population effects on other public utilities
 - e. Equitable income distribution
 - f. The disadvantaged: handicapped, poorest of poor, etc.
21. THE INTEGRATION OF POPULATION FACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
 - a. Population and development strategies and plans
 - b. Population and sectoral and regional development planning
22. FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMES, ORGANIZATION AND SERVICES
 - a. Administrative aspects of family planning programmes
 - b. Family planning and maternal and child health (MCH)
 - c. Community-based delivery programmes
 - d. Training of paramedical
 - e. Family planning integrated with other development programmes
 - f. Funding and international assistance and co-operation
23. CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AND RESEARCH IN CONTRACEPTION
 - a. General medical and surgical aspects of contraception
 - b. Diseases and disorders related to human reproduction and fecundity
 - c. Male contraception
 - d. Female contraception
 - e. Other methods and researches in contraception
 - f. Production and marketing of contraceptive devices

24. FAMILY PLANNING EVALUATION

- a. Sources of data - surveys (KAP, WFS, CPS) and service statistics
- b. Methodologies and demographic evaluation
- c. Administrative evaluation: programme experience and impact; teaching materials and service delivery

25. POPULATION INFORMATION

- a. Bibliographies and directories
- b. Information, documentation and library science standards, manuals and handbooks
- c. Information programmes and projects
- d. Information on international assistance and co-operation on population matters, excluding family planning.