



ACC Ad hoc Task Force

ACC Ad hoc Task Force Holds First Formal Meeting

In October 1991, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which ensures inter-agency coordination within the UN system, established an Ad hoc Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development. The Task Force includes the regional commissions and organizations of the United Nations system that carry out population activities on a regular basis.

Two meetings of the Task Force have already taken place. The first, convened in January 1992 following the Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and Development, was an informal consultation to exchange information and views on preparatory activities.

The first formal meeting of the Task Force was on 6 July 1992, with representation from ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, Habitat, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOV, WFP and WHO, along with UNFPA and the UN Population Division. The Task Force reviewed preparatory activities and arrangements and examined a proposed outline for the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, one of the principal documents of the 1994 Conference.

The members suggested that the proposed outline include more emphasis on the family and changes in family formation and structure. The Secretariat indicated that more specific guidelines were needed from the Preparatory Committee and the Economic and Social Council concerning the recommendations

that the 1994 Conference would adopt.

The preparatory work of the 1994 Conference, some members suggested, could be complemented by certain activities in their own organizations. These included the International Congress on Population Education and Development that will be held in 1993; ~e follow-up activities to meet the basic education needs of youth and adults, identified at the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, March 1990); and activities related to the 1994 International Year of the Family.

The next meeting of the Task Force will likely be held during the ECOSOC session in Geneva in July 1993.

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Calendar of Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 992

¥ 20-24 January Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and
Development; United Nations Headquarters, New York

¥ 27 January Informal Meeting of the ACC Ad hoc Task Force, International
Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations
Headquarters, New York

¥ 12- 16 April Expert Group Meeting on Population Policies and Programmes;
Cairo, Egypt

¥ 22-26 June Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women; Gaborone,
Botswana

¥ 29 June-31 July ECOSOC, regular session; United Nations Headquarters, New
York;

¥ 2 July and
20 July ECOSOC discussion on preparations for the International
Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United Nations
Headquarters, New York

¥ 6 July ACC Ad hoc Task Force Meeting, International Conference on
Population and Development, 1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York

¥ 30 July Adoption of ECOSOC resolution 1992/37 on site and dates of the
International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

¥ 19-27 August Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference; Denpasar,
Indonesia; jointly organized by ESCAP and UNFPA

¥ 28-29 September Consultative Meeting of Economists on Population Growth
and Economic Development; UNFPA Headquarters, New York

¥ 6-9 October Meeting of Government Experts in preparation for the Latin
America and the Caribbean Regional Population Conference; Saint Lucia

¥ 26-30 October Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family

Well-Being; Bangalore, India

¥ 3-4 November Ad hoc governmental preparatory meeting for 1993 European

Population Conference; Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg,

France; jointly organized by ECE, the Council of Europe and UNFPA

¥ 16-20 November Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic

Structure; Paris, France

¥ 7-12 December Third African Population Conference; Dakar, Senegal; jointly

organized by ECA, OAU and UNFPA, in cooperation with ADB and UAPS

1993

¥ 18-22 January Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and

Migration; Santa Cruz, Bolivia

¥ 23-26 March 1993 European Population Conference; Geneva, Switzerland;

jointly organized by ECE, the Council of Europe and UNFPA

¥ 4-8 April Regional Population Conference for the Arab World; Amman,

Jordan; jointly organized by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and UNFPA

¥ May/June (dates to be determined) - Regional Population Conference for

Latin America and the Caribbean; Mexico City, Mexico; jointly organized

by ECLAC and UNFPA

¥ 16-19 August Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the

International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; United

Nations Headquarters, New York

¥ 24 August-1 Sept. 22nd IUSSP General Conference; Montreal, Canada

1994

¥ February/March (dates to be determined) - Third meeting of the Preparatory

Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development,

1994; United Nations Headquarters, New York

¥ Spring (dates and venues to be determined) - Meetings of the Regional

Commissions to discuss the results of the regional population conferences

and the reports of the Preparatory Committee

¥ 5-13 September International Conference on Population and Development,
1994; Cairo, Egypt

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Dakar -- Site of 3rd African Population Conference

Dakar Site of Third African Population Conference

Dakar, Senegal will be the site of the Third African Population Conference, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and UNFPA, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS). It will take place from 7 to 12 December 1992.

The Conference's overall objective is to sensitize ECA Member States to the crucial role of population in the development process and to encourage the implementation of appropriate Population policies and programmes in line with the provisions of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action.

Background

The Conference follows earlier regional population conferences held in Ghana in 1971 and in Tanzania in 1984.

The first African Population Conference, held when African Governments still regarded population factors as exogenous rather than endogenous to the development process, highlighted the interrelationships between population trends and socio-economic development in Africa. The Conference not only underscored the need for trained personnel in demography at the national level, but also demonstrated the increased willingness of African Governments to confront pressing population problems .

The Second African Population Conference, held in Arusha in January 1984,

was an essential part of preparations for the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in August of the same year. The Arusha Conference culminated in the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action, which provided the framework for the design, planning and implementation of Population policies and programmes in Africa. Since its adoption, many Governments have begun to realize the importance of population issues in development planning and socioeconomic development.

The Dakar Conference

The Third African Population Conference will take place at a time when considerable progress has been made in population and development. But the steadfast resolve of Governments of the region to address population concerns has been thwarted by dwindling international and national resources for population programmes, the re-structuring of national economies, and the emergence of important new issues, such as the environment and AIDS.

The Third African Population Conference will offer a forum for Member States to express their views on population problems in their countries; review the progress made in population activities since the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action; harmonize their views to provide major input for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development; formulate recommendations for the next decade; and heighten regional and international awareness of the importance of population issues.

" Population, Family and Sustainable Development" is the theme of the Conference. It will focus on the implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action; the African family in the context of socioeconomic development; strategies for sustainable development; emerging population problems and new orientations and strategies; and population policies and programmes.

The ECA Conference of Ministers has established a preparatory committee comprising experts from ECA, IFORD, the Regional Institute of Population Studies (Ghana), CERPOD, UAPS, OAU, ADB, the UN Population Division and UNFPA to facilitate administrative and technical preparations.

The Secretariat of the African Population Conference, based at ECA, will provide guidelines for the preparation of the technical reports and substantive and organizational servicing of the Conference. The Conference report, proceedings and recommendations will be available in 1993, prior to the convening in August of the second session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee.

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Egypt to host 1994 Conference

Egypt to Host 1994 Conference

Egypt will host the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The Economic and Social Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Economic Committee, adopted a resolution on 30 July 1992 accepting Egypt's offer to host the 1994 event.

At a press conference on 3 August, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of the Conference, expressed her gratification for Egypt's offer. She noted that this would be the first international population conference to take place in Africa, a region that had the world's highest population growth rate, and one that was grappling very seriously with population issues. Egypt, she said, had made remarkable progress on the population front, and had reduced its population growth rate considerably.

Also present were Dr. Mohamed Noman Galal, Charge d'affaires of the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations, and Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference and Director of the Population Division in the Department of Economic and Social Development.

Dr. Galal reiterated his country's commitment to the success of the 1994 Conference, and said his Government was gratified that its offer had been accepted. Egypt, he said, was an important crossroads, not just geographically, but politically and socially. It was a link between the world's oldest civilizations and the newer, technologically-oriented ones.

As the host country, Egypt will be responsible for providing premises and facilities for the conference as well as funding the travel of United Nations staff and covering support costs.

Cairo's state-of-the-art International Conference Centre will be the venue for the nine-day meeting. The Centre, which can accommodate over 4,000 persons, is ideally located in Nasr City, 15 minutes from Cairo's International Airport and near a number of modern hotels. It is equipped with audio-visual systems, computers, voting systems, facilities for simultaneous translation, a business centre, press centre, exhibition area and banquet facilities.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/37

International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1989/91 of 26 July 1989 and 1991/93 of 26 July 1991,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary General of the International Conference on Population and Development on the preparations for the Conference; 1/
2. Accepts with gratitude the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the Conference;
3. Decides to convene the Conference in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994.

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Focal Points for Expert Group Meetings

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Population Division

UNFPA

Population, Environment
and Development

Mr. Serguey Ivanov

Mr. Mohammed Nizamuddin

New York,

20-24 January 1992

Population Policies
and Programmes

Ms. Ellen Brennan

Mr. Mohammed Nizamuddin

Cairo, Egypt,

12-16 April 1992

Population and Women

Ms. Mary Beth Weinberger

Ms. Catherine Pierce

Gaborone, Botswana,

22-26 June 1992

Family Planning, Health
and Family Well-Being

Mr. Aminur Rahman Khan Dr. Nicholas Dodd

Bangalore, India,

26-30 October 1992

Population Growth and
Demographic Structure

Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot Mr. Gerardo Gonzalez

Paris, France,

16-20 November 1992

Population Distribution
and Migration

Ms. Birgitta Bucht

Mr. Michael Vlassoff

Santa Cruz, Bolivia,

18-22 January 1993

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Plans finalized for Banalore

Plans finalized for Bangalore Meeting

Bangalore, in the Indian State of Karnataka, will host the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being from 26 to 30 October 1992. The meeting will discuss the linkages between family planning, family welfare and health, and will mark the fourth of six expert group meetings providing scientific input for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

Sixteen experts -- representing various disciplines and regions of the world -- along with representatives from the regional commissions, specialized agencies, and units and organizations of the United Nations system, will attend. Inter- and non-governmental organizations, many of whom pioneered the family planning movement, will also participate.

The papers will focus on operational issues reflecting the general objectives of the meeting: how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing family planning programmes and services; how to reach larger segments of the population; how to devise innovative approaches to new or existing problems; and how to obtain funding to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for family planning services. Currently, 300 million women in developing countries do not have ready access to safe and effective means of family planning.

Bilateral, regional and international cooperation in family planning will also be the subject of discussion. Special attention will be given to making

family planning affordable on both the macro and micro levels, and to proposals for cost-sharing by users. Estimates show that the annual amount spent on population programmes, about \$4.5 billion, will have to double to \$9 billion by the end of the decade if international targets in fertility and family planning are to be met.

The Group will adopt a set of recommendations geared towards improving the status of women, the health and well-being of the family, particularly mothers and children, and to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of family planning programmes. These, along with the report of the meeting, will be forwarded to the second session of the Conference Preparatory Committee in August 1993.

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Population Experts Converge

Population Experts Converge in Paris

The links between population growth and socioeconomic development have been subject of intense debate for more than two decades. The Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure, to be held in Paris from 16 to 20 November 1992, will provide a welcome opportunity to reexamine this issue.

The meeting, hosted by the French Government, will also provide policy guidance on how to accelerate demographic transition, sustain economic growth and achieve an equitable distribution of development benefits on the global and national levels.

Three elements have contributed to the current public debate about population growth and development. First, a growing number of developing countries now view high rates of population growth as an obstacle to their socio-economic development. Secondly, since the publication in 1987 of the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), there has been a growing awareness of possible environmental degradation and poverty in developing countries associated with rapid population growth. These linkages were reaffirmed most recently at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Thirdly, projections of the world population indicate that yearly increments will reach an historical high between the years 1995 and 2000. The extent and rapidity of fertility decline in developing countries will be critical

in shaping the ultimate size of the world's population.

The major patterns of demographic transition of developing countries over the past 30 years in relation to patterns of socio-economic development will also be assessed.

Six topics will be discussed: confronting poverty in developing countries--demographic, social and economic responses; demographic impacts of development patterns; demographic and health transitions; population growth, employment and education; social changes and the elderly in developing countries; and social development and ageing in developed countries.

Participants will adopt a set of action-oriented recommendations which will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the 1994 Conference at its second session in August 1993.

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Secretariat of ICPD

Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development,
1994

Secretary-General

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA

Deputy Secretary General

Mr. Shunchi Inoue Director,

Population Division DESD

Executive Coordinator

Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh Director,

Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA

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The Future is Urban

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One of the most dramatic demographic issues which will confront delegates to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 is the worldwide phenomenon of rapid urbanization. Between 1990 and 1995, 321 million additional persons will need to be accommodated within the world's urban areas.

In developing countries, most migrants head for towns and cities. Urban areas swell not only as a result of their own population increases, but from the overflow of people from rural areas.

Migration has accounted for much of population change. The United Nations estimated, on the basis of census data from the 1960s and 1970s, that about a third of the rural population increase in Africa and Asia, and 58 per cent in Latin America, was lost to migration or to reclassification of rural settlements as urban. Urban areas owed much of their growth to immigration and to the swallowing of rural areas.

Cities have traditionally been the heart of trade, science and culture. But wherever cities grew rapidly or passed a certain size threshold, there have been costs in crime, congestion and pollution. Modern towns and cities pose a challenge to environmental sustainability. They produce little or none of their own food, fuel or water, and use immense quantities of energy and raw materials for transport, communication, construction and production. They generate vast amounts of solid wastes and dangerous concentrations of air

and water pollutants. The sheer pace of urban growth in developing countries has often outrun all attempts to provide housing, water, sanitation and roads, and produced few of the expected benefits.

The growth rate of the urban population has been very high. In 1950, only 29 people in every 100 lived in cities. Urban areas in the world had a total of only 734 million inhabitants, and only two cities -- London and New York -- housed more than eight million people. By 1992, the world's urban population had more than trebled, to 2.4 billion, and 43 out of every 100 people lived in towns or cities.

Today, there are 20 mega-cities with more than eight million people each. Fourteen of these are in the developing world, where in 1950 there were none. Developing countries, which in 1950 had only 39 per cent of the world's urban population, by 1990 had nearly 61 per cent

The future looks even more urban. During the 1990s no less than 72 per cent of the world's population increase is expected to take place in towns in cities -- 68 million people every year, equivalent to over eight extra cities the size of Moscow, Delhi, Paris or Lagos. Annual additions to world population are expected to peak in the 1990s, but urban increments will keep on growing.

In many developing countries, national policy in areas such as job creation, education, wage subsidies, housing policy and tax incentives have unduly increased the attractiveness of urban areas to potential rural migrants. "Urban-biased" policies have also contributed to high rates of urbanization in much of the developing world.

Internal migration and urbanization will be the subject of the Expert Group

Meeting on Population Distribution and Migration, which will be held from 18 to 22 January 1993 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

The group will make recommendations regarding policies aimed at maximizing the positive effects of migration on development and reducing its detrimental effects. The Bolivia meeting will be the last in the series of expert group meetings convened as part of the preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

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UNFPA to Host Meeting of Economists

UNFPA to Host Meeting of Economists

How will slowing population growth help countries develop economically? To answer that question and discuss the effects of rapid population growth on economic progress in developing countries, UNFPA will convene a Consultative Meeting of Economists on Population Growth and Economic Development from 28 to 29 September 1992.

The meeting will re-focus attention on how population policies and programmes reap economic as well as social benefits. The meeting will thoroughly review recent research on the subject, and examine general as well as specific findings on the economic effects of family planning programmes and sound national population policies.

Prominent economists from around the world have been invited to participate in the two-day meeting, which will take place at UNFPA headquarters in New York.

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Women and Population

Women and Population Subject of Lively Debate in Botswana

Meeting in Gaborone from 22 to 26 June, 60 experts, representatives of United Nations agencies and non governmental organizations addressed the complex interrelationships between women's roles and status and population and development trends.

In opening the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women, the Honourable Festus Mogae, Botswana's Vice-President and Minister of Finance and Planning, underscored the importance accorded to population issues and women's education in Botswana.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the 1994 Conference and Executive Director of UNFPA, called on the group to identify the ways in which the linkages between women and population could be used to reconcile macro-level development goals with individual human and reproductive rights.

Mr. Shunichi Inoue, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference and Director of the UN Population Division, also addressed the opening session.

An overriding theme was the need for greater representation of women in planning, managing and executing population, development and environment programmes -- both for reasons of equity and as a precondition for success. All too often, participants noted, it was wrongly assumed that information or resources delivered to men would "trickle down" to women.

The Group voiced its support for reproductive choice as a basic right for

women. Although considerable progress had been made in extending family planning services to developing countries, unwanted fertility still accounted for one-quarter of childbearing in Africa and one-third in Asia and Latin America.

More attention, participants emphasized, must be devoted to the role of men in reproduction and in the family. Public policy and discourse should take a more realistic view of family life, where resources, power and benefits were often divided unequally along lines of age and gender, and where family composition was often fluid.

Focusing on women's economic roles, the group felt that Governments and employers had important roles in facilitating women's access to productive employment, improving conditions at the workplace, improving the ability of families to reconcile the demands of work with those of child care, and increasing the involvement of men in family responsibilities.

Participants identified a number of practical steps for Governments, donors, the private sector, and inter- and non-governmental organizations to promote women's status and development, and which would have beneficial effects on women's health, demographic behaviour and the family. These included removing remaining legal barriers to women's full equality; policies to improve the education of girls and women; the provision of quality family planning and health care services; and programmes to provide reliable information about reproductive rights and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS.

The Meeting elected Ms. Amy Grace Luhanga (Tanzania) as Chairman, and Ms. Els Postel (Netherlands) and the Hon. Billie Miller (Barbados) as Vice-Chairmen. Ms. Cynthia Lloyd (USA) was elected Rapporteur. The

Recommendations Committee included Ms. Miller as Chairman, Ms. Colette Dehlot (Congo), Mr. John Hobcraft (UK), Ms. Shireen Jejeebhoy (India), Mr. Shigemi Kono (Japan), Ms. Lloyd and Ms. Marcela Villarreal (Colombia). Ms. Mary Beth Weinberger of the UN Population Division served as Technical Secretary and Ms. Catherine Pierce served as UNFPA focal point.

This was the third in a series of six expert meetings convened as part of the 1994 Conference preparatory process. In addition to the experts, members of local and South African women's organizations participated as observers.

At the final session, the group adopted 32 recommendations based on the papers and discussions. The Hon. Patrick Balopi, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, closed the meeting.

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