

As written

Tuvalu Summary Statement

Response to the implementation of the international Conference on population and development

Distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen, firstly, I wish to extend on behalf of the Tuvalu delegation/our sincere thanks to the UNFPA for extending an invitation to my government so we could be present at this meeting to deliberate on population issues. Also my thanks goes to the Netherlands Government for hosting this meeting in their very beautiful and cold country.

May I also take this opportunity/to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to UNFPA for the support and assistance it has provide Tuvalu/ in the area of reproductive health and also to all other organizations which have also extended their support and assistance to Tuvalu in this area.

Tuvalu through our own means/has achieved some of the goals as highlighted in the ICPD POA. The Government of Tuvalu would not have reach this stage/had not been the cooperative, strong and active participation from the non-governmental organizations and island communities 'in implementing the ICPD POA. After the Cairo Meeting in 1994, a National Population Policy was developed and is still in draft form. Despite the delay in finalizing the National Population Policy, the Ministry in charge of Health, Women & Community Affairs went ahead and developed sectoral policies, which has greatly enhanced the implementation of the ICPD POA.

2. Reproductive Health / Reproductive Rights / Family Planning /Sexual Health

Reproductive health, family ~~health~~^{planning} and sexual health programs have been an integral part of our primary health care services. The leading Reproductive Health /Family Planning & Sexual Health concerns in the country are as follows; Cervical & Breast Cancer, Adolescent reproductive Health problems including Teenage pregnancy, Sexual Transmitted Disease, HIV/AIDS, smoking and alcohol consumption, relatively low family planning usage, high infant mortality rate, shortage of Reproductive Health /Family Plan ing/Sexual Health Staff, weakness in the Reproductive Health /Family Planning₃Sexual Health information system and inadequacy of appropriate equipment, supplies and facilities.

The Governmkt of Tuvalu is facing a lot of challenges to meet the demands on its RH/FP&SH programs within its very limited resources. The government has plans to improve the working skills and knowledge of the existing (RH/FP) staff through specific training courses. At the same time, the essential supplies equipment and facilities to be provided.

Despite of the constraints faced by Tuvalu, dramatic improvement in the health status of safe motherhood and care of children. The maternal mortality rate is significantly very low or almost nil for 5 years of now. Also as indicated in the decline in infant mortality rate from 78.6 to 26.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997. We are targeting to further improve this rate of 19 deaths per 1,000 live births by the year 2000 or less.

Gender Equality, Equity & Empowerment of Women

Again, Tuvalu is proud to share with you that Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women have been ratified in 1997 and is in preparation of depositing its instrument of Accession to the United Nation. In enforcing the CEDAW. Tuvalu has also established and ~~the~~ adopted the Tuvalu National Women's Policy, which aims at empowering women to be more active and equal participates in social and economic development in Tuvalu.

Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action

The Government of Tuvalu in partnership with other non-governmental organizations is seeking alternate ways of mobilizing resources, which promotes populations programs. For a small country like Tuvalu, there is need for further assistance in addressing constraints such as inadequate advocacy materials and to some extent shortage in manpower.

Tuvalu with other Pacific island countries recognizes UNFPA as the leading multilateral agency in the population arena and humbly called on richer nations or bilateral and multilateral donors to assist in supplement funding on Population activities in the region. Tuvalu also acknowledge assistance from the Secretariat of the South Pacific, UNAIDS and World Health Organization.

In conclusion, may I kindly ask this conference to acknowledge Tuvalu's response as further detailed in the "Pacific Response to ICPD POA"?

Fakafetai lasilasi/ Thank you again.