



THE COUNSELOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed material, outlining the strategy for United States population policy and our renewed commitment to international leadership.

Thank you again for your interest and help, and I hope you will send along your comments and suggestions.

With best wishes - again my thanks

Sincerely,

Jim Wuth



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PRESS RELEASE

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USUN Press Release #63-(93)
May 11, 1993

Statement by The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth, United States Representative to the Second Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, at the Preparatory Meeting, May 11, 1993

Mr. Chairman, Madame Secretary-General, and distinguished delegates, it is an honor for me to be here today to represent the United States at this second preparatory meeting for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

First, I want to congratulate Dr. Fred Sai on his election to the chairmanship. We look forward to his able leadership. I also want to congratulate the UN organizers for the groundwork that has now been laid for productive deliberations at this meeting and the remaining meetings before Cairo. We have much work to do in the next 15 months, but important progress has been made. It is a special pleasure for us to work with Dr. Nafis Sadik and the able Secretariat, and I hope my comments today are as comprehensive and compelling as her speech opening the Prepcom yesterday.

I also would like to recognize the critical role of non-governmental organizations and experts in preparations for Cairo. NGOs made outstanding contributions during the Earth Summit process, and we must encourage that kind of participation on the road to Cairo. Their ideas, energy, experience, and connections to real people in every corner of the world have helped us come this far. They will give life to our deliberations in Cairo and beyond.

Today, I would like to share with you the new policy developments in the United States since President Clinton took office. These developments reflect our determination to help lead and be a part of a renewed global effort to address population problems. Even more important, we are committed to help promote international consensus around the goal of stabilizing world population growth through a comprehensive approach to the rights and needs of women, to the environment and to development. These elements are the underpinnings of a new partnership among nations, men and women, and the natural world. Only as innovative and engaged partners can we rise to this urgent global challenge.

A Broader Perspective in U.S. Policy

President Clinton is deeply committed to moving population to the forefront of America's international priorities. He understands the cost of excessive population growth to the health of women, to the natural environment and to our hopes for alleviating poverty. He believes that America cannot stand aside as the world confronts one of the largest challenges of this century and the next.

Since taking office, President Clinton has taken steps to revitalize U.S. efforts. The President has reversed the so-called Mexico City Policy, lifting restrictions that prohibited some family planning organizations from receiving U.S. funding because of abortion-related activities. He has mandated a reorganization of the State Department to reflect the greater priority we are giving to population as a major global issue. He has called for a restructuring of our foreign aid programs to promote development more effectively. And, he has requested a \$100 million increase in population assistance for Fiscal Year 1994.

These actions have clearly established the importance that the U.S. gives to the issues of international population. An additional step will be taken by the U.S. government. I am pleased today to reconfirm the Clinton Administration's intention to contribute to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. We are close to a final decision on conditions for our contribution and the level of funding.

Finally, under the direction of President Clinton, the United States is developing a comprehensive and far-reaching new approach to international population issues. It will expand the scope of our activities and harmonize them better with collective international efforts. The key elements of our approach are:

- o ensuring that couples and individuals have the ability to exercise their right to determine freely and responsibly the size of their families;
- o promoting access to the full range of quality reproductive health care, including women-centered, women-managed services;
- o stressing the need for governments and public and private organizations to commit themselves to quality of care in family planning services;
- o supporting the empowerment of women so that all societies may move toward full gender equality in all aspects of decision-making concerning economic and social development;
- o ensuring access to primary health care, with an emphasis on child survival;
- o preserving the endangered natural environment of our globe; and
- o ensuring that our population policy supports the world's priority for sustainable development.

Although many of these commitments are being treated more directly in other fora, their linkage to the population issues of this conference reinforces their discussion here.

I now turn to three major concerns which I believe provide the context for this conference: women's health and status, population and the environment, and migration.

Women's Health and Status

As we prepare for Cairo, we must recognize that women are taking leadership around the world on their own behalf and for the benefit of their families, their communities, and their countries. They know what they need and they must be equal partners in programs and policies.

Women are all too often victims of poverty, discrimination, and actual physical violence. Without nutrition, without health, without control over childbearing, women cannot empower themselves to achieve their full potential and contribute to sustainable development. Unacceptably high levels of maternal and child mortality persist in many countries. Inadequate access to maternal health care, contraception, and safe abortion leaves more than 500,000 women dead from preventable, pregnancy-related causes each year. The global pandemic of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases is also affecting more and more women as well as men.

The unmet need for safe, effective methods of fertility regulation is now well documented in most countries. Many women still have no access to any method, much less their preferred method or the counselling and follow-up care that could assure its proper use.

Overall, we must take a broader approach to sexual and reproductive health. We must recognize that advancing women's rights and health and promoting family planning are mutually reinforcing objectives. Even more fundamentally, all barriers which deprive women of equal opportunity must be removed. Universal educational opportunities, especially for girls and women, are an essential precondition for economic empowerment.

Population and Environment

Second, the world, and U.S. policy, have moved past the misconception that population growth is a "neutral phenomenon." Its effect on economic development is not neutral. Neither is its linkage with the environment neutral. Nor is the connection between population and consumption of resources neutral.

Citizens of developed nations must recognize that our current population size, technology and consumption patterns give our nations a major and disproportionate impact on the global environment. Representing less than one quarter of the world's population, developed nations consume 75 percent of all raw materials and create a similar percentage of all solid waste.

Under President Clinton, America is now addressing these issues more actively. For example, the U.S. will sign the Biodiversity Treaty and is committed to reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases to their 1990 level by the year 2000. The long-term budget strategy presented by the President includes investments in pollution prevention, energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental restoration and water treatment. The U.S. takes the points raised in Agenda 21 very seriously and is actively formulating a sustainable development plan for implementing it. And we will act on the Agenda 21 objectives calling for further research on population/environment relationships and for integration of demographic considerations into environmental planning at all levels.

Migration

A third major issue in the population equation is international migration. Uncontrolled migration is fueled by demographic pressures, those same pressures which are challenging our ability to live in peace with our environment. The Cairo process should reaffirm the priority we place on improving the conditions which force people to move -- impoverishment, persecution, and conflict.

All people should have the right to remain in their homes in safety and dignity. In those cases where individuals have resettled permanently, governments should make every effort to bring them fully into the social and political life of their new homes.

New Opportunities: The Cairo Conference

The Cairo conference, and the process leading up to it, will provide new opportunities to agree on actionable recommendations for the issues I have just discussed. The secretariat for the conference has provided us with a well thought out conceptual framework, built around the central theme of "choices and responsibilities." We must consider carefully the responsibilities that men and women have to one another, the responsibilities that governments have to people within their borders, and the responsibilities of all to the world community. By doing so, we can ensure that individuals do have choices.

In addition, the U.S. looks forward to working with the international community to develop consensus around priority, long-term, and quantitative goals for stabilizing world population, just as we work to preserve the global environment, improve health, and meet other development objectives.

We also encourage the development of regional fertility and population growth goals, as agreed at the Bali and Dakar regional conferences. At the same time, these goals should not be confused with targets and quotas which apply penalties to failure; this is a self-defeating approach. The adoption of reasonable goals can help us to estimate resources required and evaluate what we have achieved.

Between now and the Cairo conference, the U.S. government supports the need to develop new estimates of the resources required for population and reproductive health programs. Resource estimates should also be made for improving child health, providing universal access to basic education and reducing infant and maternal mortality.

As a world community we need to speak with one voice in respecting all peoples' rights and standing up to those who engage in coercive activities. A key question for the international community to consider is how governments should be held accountable. A government which is violating basic human rights should not hide behind the defense of sovereignty.

Difficult as it is, we must also discuss thoroughly the issue of abortion. Recent international meetings have drawn attention to the human tragedy of illegal and unsafe abortion. It is estimated that as many as a quarter of maternal deaths, ranging from 50,000 to 200,000 annually, are due to this cause, almost all in developing countries.

International consensus has yet to be developed on the proper and feasible role of governments and public policy in this area. The abortion issue should be addressed directly with tolerance and compassion rather than officially ignored while women, especially poor women, and their families suffer. The U.S. government believes the Cairo conference would be remiss if it did not develop recommendations and guidance with regard to abortion. Our position is to support reproductive choice, including access to safe abortion.

Mr. Chairman, Madame Secretary-General and fellow delegates, many of you have heard me talk about the profound effect the Earth Summit in Rio had on people in the United States, and on me personally. It gave us -- politicians, NGOs and every day citizens -- a new energy and dedication to meet complicated and urgent problems head on, to make the necessary changes in our own country -- both in policies and individual behavior -- to be better partners in the struggle to save our global environment. The Cairo conference can be the same kind of turning point for all of us. No issue will leave a greater mark on future generations than the population issue. I pledge the fullest measure of American effort to meet this challenge in a way that safeguards the rights, the welfare and the future of human beings the world over.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Statement by The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth United States Representative
to the Second Session Preparatory Committee for the International
Conference on Population and Development, Closing Statement, May 21, 1993

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to make a few concluding remarks. On behalf of my delegation, I must start by saying how privileged we feel to have been able to participate in this preparatory meeting. We would like to express our particular thanks to the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros-Ghali, for providing such a welcoming framework for the conference. We must also express our appreciation to you, Dr. Sai, to Secretary-General Nafis Sadik, to the chairman of the working groups, Mr. Biegman and Mr. Kaaria, and to all who have worked to make this a successful PrepCom.

I want to congratulate the Chairman on the excellent draft summary he has prepared of our proceedings. It reveals that much has been accomplished over the past two weeks by all delegations and by the assemblage of NGO representatives who have so enriched our deliberations. We have clearly recognized the importance of providing family planning services in the context of reproductive health and rights. Together, I believe we have developed a new appreciation for the close and complex interrelationships of population, the environment, consumption, development, and migration.

We have also been reminded of the need to consider these broad societal issues from the standpoint of individuals -- especially women -- as the particular group most affected. In addition, participants have affirmed the need to better understand families, in all their diversity, and to find ways to strengthen them as they face new pressures. They have recognized:

That men and women must be responsible to one another and give each other mutual support;

The basic human right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children to have access to the necessary education, information, and quality family planning and reproductive health services;

And that all of us must share responsibility for nurturing the next generation and caring for the ageing -- those who gave birth to us.

Since the first international population conference in Bucharest 20 years ago, we have achieved significant and remarkable changes. Even before then, many in this room had already emerged as leaders on these issues. We salute your efforts and your example. Family planning and other reproductive health services are now much more widely available around the world, and both birth and death rates have come down in most regions. We who are assembled here are now ready to take the next steps, and to demonstrate again that by working together we can make a difference. And we must.

Twenty years from now, another generation will take our seats in this hall to prepare for the Fifth World Conference on Population. Delegates to that PrepCom will be asking what we did and how well we met the goals established in Cairo.

They will be asking whether we have undertaken the hard work and careful planning required to translate our good intentions into real changes in programs. They will be asking whether all of us -- developed and developing country governments, international agencies, and NGOs -- have made the long-term commitment of resources necessary to increase the reproductive choices and quality of life for people around the world -- and whether we did so in time to make a difference.

The United States believes that the Cairo Conference will be a milestone. The key will be to engage people -- both women and men -- from all walks of life, within our countries and across the globe. To help maintain momentum and participation, we strongly support recommendations for a systematic program of intersessional consultations. For its part, the United States intends to continue the momentum from here.

During this time, to support our words with deeds, we will accelerate work with our legislative branch to fulfill President Clinton's commitment to broaden our support for reproductive health, family planning and other population programs in our foreign assistance budget. The United States is proud to contribute to meeting this challenge as a global partner, as a willing student, and with a sense of urgency. Together we have much to learn and much to do if we are to successfully translate our vision into concrete programmatic strategies.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate my thanks and appreciation to you and to all participants in this constructive dialogue. Together, we will write a new history for our world. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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U.S. SET TO CHANGE ABORTION POLICIES

State Dept. Official Declares Clinton Is Ready to Back Global Birth Controls

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, May 11 — Declaring that it wanted to help lead a new global effort to address the issue of overpopulation, the Clinton Administration said today that efforts to stabilize world population growth must concentrate on providing more opportunities and rights for women, including abortions.

In a speech to a United Nations committee that is planning a major conference on population in Cairo next year, Timothy E. Wirth, the State Department Counselor, said the Administration intended to reverse policies on population growth that had been adopted under Presidents Reagan and Bush.

Under the two Republican Presidents the United States refused to finance international population programs that provided women with counseling on abortion. In addition, in Mr. Reagan's term, the United States took the position that population growth was a "neutral phenomenon" — neither harmful nor beneficial to the environment — and that the important issue was economic development.

A Question of Choice

In a previous United Nations population conference held in 1974 in Bucharest, Romania, and in 1984 in Mexico City, the issue of abortion was played down. Some population experts say that out of deference to Catholic countries and some Muslim nations, they do not expect next year's gathering to approve a strongly worded statement asserting a woman's right to an abortion. Still Mr. Wirth said the United States would push for it.

"The U.S. Government would be remiss if it did not develop recommendations and guidance with regard to abortion," Mr. Wirth said. "Our position is to support reproductive choice, including access to safe abortion."

Population experts say about 125,000 women die each year — about one-fourth of all maternal deaths — as a result of improperly performed abortions. Almost all of these deaths occur in developing countries.

In outlining Administration policy for the first time in a forum devoted to population issues, Mr. Wirth made clear how dramatic a change the Clinton Administration was making in the area of population stabilization.

President 'Deeply Committed'

"President Clinton is deeply committed to moving population to the forefront of America's international priorities," Mr. Wirth said. "He understands the cost of excessive population growth to the health of women, to the natural environment and to our hopes for alleviating poverty. He believes that America cannot stand aside as the world confronts one of the largest challenges of this century and the next."

Mr. Wirth also put the Clinton Administration on record endorsing other ideas in the population and development field that were anathema to the Reagan and Bush Administrations, like agreeing with developing countries that that Western nations should limit their consumption.

For the first time, Mr. Wirth officially confirmed that the Administration would resume financing for the United Nations Population Fund. Congress cut off funds to the organization after reports that it financed family planning efforts in China that entailed coercive abortions and forced sterilization.

The American official did not say how much the Administration would seek for the United Nations Population Fund, though he did mention that the Administration has asked for a \$100 million increase for population programs in the Federal budget for the year ending Sept. 30, 1994.

A Tumultuous Response

Mr. Wirth's speech received a tumultuous response from some of the delegations, and from many of the representatives of non-governmental organizations — women's groups, and environmental and population specialists — who listened from the gallery as he addressed the delegations to the Preparatory Committee. "As one of those who had to struggle within the old U.S. policy it is like a breath of fresh air," Fred Sai of Ghana, chairman of the Preparatory Committee, said.

But anti-abortion groups, denounced the Administration's reversal of American policy. "It's outrageous, in a word," said Representative Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican who heads the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. "The U.N. Population Plan of Action of 1984 that was adopted in Mexico City made it very clear that abortion was not to be construed as a method of family planning."

Public Financing Weighed

Published reports have said Mr. Clinton is considering public financing of abortions as part of his health care package. The Administration has overturned the Reagan Administration's policy that barred United States funds from international population groups involved in providing women with information on abortions.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino, the head of the delegation from the Vatican, declined to comment on the American delegate's speech.

The representatives of the nongovernmental organizations who generally occupy the liberal end of the political spectrum and who opposed the Reagan-Bush policies, erupted into applause at the end of Mr. Wirth's address, a marked contrast to the polite silence that often greeted the remarks by delegates from other countries.

After the speech some women in the gallery punched their fists into the air, and some wept.

What the World's Women Want

The staple image of overpopulation is a ravaged landscape: rivers thick with pollutants, land on which there is no topsoil, forests denuded of trees, and sad migrations of people looking for more space, more food, more chances.

What you won't see — unless she's starving, and thus a cynosure for cameras — is a woman whose life consists of bearing child after child to live, or die, in this wasted landscape. During the years of debate over whether unbridled population growth is a boon or a disaster, nobody's talked much about her. And, tragically, she cannot speak for herself.

Last week, however, at a United Nations meeting planning the once-a-decade International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo next year, voices from all over the world spoke on her behalf. Perhaps the strongest was that of Timothy Wirth, the State Department Counselor. "As we prepare for Cairo," he said, "we must recognize that women know . . . what they need, and they must be equal partners in programs and policies."

Therefore, he continued, the Clinton Administration intends to reverse the family-planning poli-

cies announced at the Mexico City conference in 1984 by President Reagan and embraced by President Bush. In banning Federal aid to international family-planning agencies that condoned abortion in any way, they held women in poor countries hostage to the messy abortion politics of this rich one.

For these women, pregnancy can be a killer: at least 500,000 die of pregnancy-related causes every year — 25 percent of them because of an illegal, botched abortion. Furthermore, they'll go on dying if they can't get contraceptives and safe abortions. The Clinton Administration, Mr. Wirth said, is committed to supporting their access to both.

A woman who cannot control her reproductive life has little control over much else in her life. She will be poor — and powerless. Population control, then, will not only ease pressures on an endangered environment, it will enhance the lives of women who in all too many cruel instances are treated as second class.

As the 21st century approaches, the earth's nations must pay more profound attention to the earth's health. They can start by paying profound attention to women's health.

Playing Politics with Population

On one issue, at least, the Clinton administration is succeeding in turning U.S. policy around. No longer will population policy be held hostage by a noisy domestic constituency. One of President Clinton's earliest moves was his announcement that the United States would resume a leadership role in international family planning efforts. Last week, when State Department Counselor Timothy E. Wirth spelled out the administration's views to a United Nations committee, the audience cheered.

The Reagan-Bush policy of using U.S. population assistance as an extension of this country's divisive abortion debate was truly over.

The change is overdue. The most recent figures from the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C. show that world population is increasing by 90 million people each year, a number equivalent to the entire population of Mexico. Third World countries account for 95 percent of that increase.

But those countries are straining to feed, house, educate and employ the people they already have. A glance at their circumstances indicates why an enlightened population policy is important to Americans. Burgeoning population growth in poor countries creates political and economic strains that eventually spill over into the developed world. Terrorism, ethnic fighting, uncontrolled immigration — rapid, unsustainable population growth contributes to all these ills.

But statistics gloss over a painful contradiction: Excessive population growth kills people. About 40

million people die each year in developing countries; 9.6 million of them are infants who never reach their first birthday. Another nine or 10 million children die before the age of 5. Their mothers' lives are equally precarious. Maternal mortality rates in these countries are 15 times higher than in the industrialized world.

Family planning programs provide the only health care many women have. They also save lives by enabling families to space their children, thus increasing their odds of survival and saving a mother's strength from depletion by yearly childbearing. As the industrialized world demonstrates, population rates stabilize when people are given a fighting chance to climb out of poverty. Family planning helps them do that.

The Reagan-Bush attack on family planning in effect depicted these efforts as vehicles for promoting abortion. Citing reports of coercive abortions in China, the Reagan administration denied U.S. funding to the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the world's two largest international family planning agencies. The move glossed over the inconvenient fact that the abortion problem in most countries is the high death rate from illegal abortions sought out by desperate women.

It suited previous administrations to play politics with population programs. But those policies took an awful toll on real lives. No wonder Mr. Wirth's speech last week met such a joyous response.

Clinton Administration Can Put U.S. Back in Forefront of Population Control

WASHINGTON INSIGHT

By TIM CARRINGTON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Amid the horrors of Bosnia and the numbing problems of the Russian economy, one of the best chances for the Clinton administration to score a success on the global stage may be in helping stabilize the world's population.

Reclaiming leadership in population control won't bring immediate results — or get even all that much notice. But long after Bill Clinton settles into retirement, people around the world might thank him for taking steps that improved the quality of their lives.

In contrast to many of the world's economic and ethnic problems, there's nothing mysterious about population programs, which essentially amount to giving people the wherewithal to control their reproduction. The payoff is simple. Dozens of studies show that children in smaller families are healthier and more secure economically. People in rich countries know this and plan accordingly. Increasingly, people in poor countries know it, too, but don't have the same access to birth control. A World Bank study found that as many as 40% of married women in the developing world want to avoid further childbearing but don't have contraceptives.

Timothy Wirth, the State Department's top official on population matters, officially closed a sour, divisive decade for Washington on population matters when he told the United Nations last week that the administration would resume support for the U.N. Population Fund. He also said abortion is a necessary part of any global population effort.

Snagged in the abortion question, the Reagan and Bush administrations stopped funding the U.N. Population Fund and International Planned Parenthood Federation — two of the main players in population programs. In general, the U.S. became a surly bystander in international efforts to give more families around the world a measure of control over their fertility. Ironically, experts say abortions actually may have increased during the period because the loss of funds left family-planning services less able to help women avoid unwanted pregnancies.

At the outset, the Clinton team must free global population programs from the ideological furor that enflames the domestic debate over abortion rights. "Family planning is simply a basic element in a poverty-reduction program," argues Rodolfo Bulatao, a senior demographic specialist at the World Bank. That doesn't mean the U.S. should fund coercive, state-run abortion policies like those reported in China. Indeed, the U.N. Population Fund

may pull out of China because of these practices.

Joseph Speidel, president of Population Action International, estimates that top-quality family-planning services cost an average of \$16 a couple a year. The payoff should have appeal to big-picture economists and grass-roots activists alike. Right now, 77% of the world's population lives in developing countries; at current growth rates, that would rise to 83% by 2025, and 86% in 2050. Associated problems of migration, environmental damage and economic hardship are massive.

One problem lies in what experts call "population momentum." In many poor countries, the population is concentrated in childbearing ages. These demographics, together with lower mortality, mean the population would grow for a while even if women had only two children apiece.

There has been some good news on the population front. Despite the U.S. funding cutoffs, the 1980s saw lower fertility in parts of the world where population planners had been frustrated, such as Bangladesh and sub-Saharan Africa. And overall, average fertility in developing countries has fallen from six children per mother in the 1960s to four children today.

Moreover, experts say family-planning catches on much faster than was assumed, even in countries where large families are preferred. The World Bank reports that with well-designed family-planning programs, it takes only 20 years to move from a situation where the average mother bears eight children to one where she bears only two.

These successes don't eliminate the problem, but they do mean that international family-planning efforts have an effect, and that if the U.S. and others summon the political will to support them, they will show further results.

Today, \$4.6 billion is spent on population planning in developing countries, but only \$1 billion of that comes from the rich donor countries.

Mr. Wirth's biggest problem may be the Clintonesque tendency to overload the agenda. In early talks, administration officials have proposed combining family-planning programs with a variety of other health projects. "Certainly everything they're calling for is desirable," says Mr. Speidel, "but with limited resources, you've got to pick and choose."

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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Second session

10-21 May 1993

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

SUMMARY

This note presents the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference for the major document which the International Conference on Population and Development is to adopt as a new plan of action on population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Debate on the nature and substance of that document is expected to be a major feature of the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Decisions taken on the conceptual framework will then direct and guide the secretariat of the Conference in the preparation of that Conference document during the period between the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee. For this reason, the Secretary-General of the Conference attaches considerable importance to the holding of a substantive debate on the concept and structure of the proposed document for the Conference and to the agreement during the second session of the Preparatory Committee on its content and method of preparation.

* E/CONF.84/PC/3/Rev.1

E/CONF.84/PC/11
English
Page 3

INTRODUCTION

1. The International Conference on Population and Development, with its overall theme of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, is linked in many ways to previous United Nations-sponsored intergovernmental activities. It is the third United Nations intergovernmental conference on population, following on the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population. Its mandate of addressing the interrelationship of population, economic growth and sustainability also clearly links it to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Each of these different but related perspectives is expected to have an important influence on the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development.

2. The Economic and Social Council, endorsing the proposals of the Preparatory Committee at its first session, decided that the third session of the Preparatory Committee should be devoted to reviewing the documentation for the Conference. If the two-week (11-22 April 1994) third session is to prove adequate for this purpose, it will be important that all participants in the preparatory process for the Conference have a clear understanding of the issues to be addressed, their interrelationship and the manner in which they will be reflected in the final Conference document. The purpose of this note is to outline the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the content and structure of the document which will then be the basis for negotiations at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

I. THE APPROACH

3. The International Conference on Population and Development is expected to have before it two major documents:

(a) A new plan of action addressing the key objectives of the

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E/CONF.84/PC/11

English

Page 4

Conference, giving particular consideration to the ways and means of treating population issues in their proper development perspective; and

(b) A review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action.

The Secretary-General of the Conference proposes that the Conference adopt as its final document a new plan of action on population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. While the primary thrust of such a document would be the ensuing decade, as decided by the Council, the recommendations could also take a longer perspective where appropriate.

4. The relevance of the final document adopted by the Conference will depend in large part on the extent to which its recommendations are viewed as relevant to the many and diverse participants in the preparatory process for the Conference. The Secretary-General of the Conference places considerable importance on the elaboration of a document which is both comprehensive and operational, while remaining succinct. The document should reflect the new perspectives of the international community on population issues and as such should represent a new international consensus on the full integration of population concerns into economic and social activities and sustainable development.

May 7, 1993

U.S. Delegation to New York ICPD PrepCom, May 10-21, 1993

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