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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

Recommendations of the regional commissions for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1981/87 of 25 November 1981, decided that the International Conference on Population should be devoted to the discussion of selected issues of the highest priority, giving full recognition to the relationships between population and social and economic development with the aim of contributing to the process of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action 1/ and to its further implementation. The Council also decided that the Conference should work within the framework of the existing World Population Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continued to be fully valid.
2. In resolution 1981/87, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to ensure the substantive contribution to the Conference of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as appropriate.
3. The Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 8 of its resolution 1982/42 of 27 July 1982, invited the regional commissions to consider, at their annual sessions in 1984, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population, 1984, with a view to formulating suggestions and recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of

* E/CONF.76/1.

Action at the regional level, and to transmit them to the Conference for its consideration. A similar request was made by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of its resolution 38/148 of 19 December 1983.

4. As part of the preparatory activities for the Conference, the regional commissions have contributed to, inter alia, the Secretary-General's report on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CONF.76/PC/10) and the four expert group meetings held to deal with selected issues of the highest priority, namely, fertility and family (New Delhi, 5-11 January 1983), population distribution, migration and development (Hammamet, Tunisia, 21-25 March 1983), population, resources, environment and development (Geneva, 25-29 April 1983) and mortality and health policy (Rome, 30 May-3 June 1983). 2/

5. Also as part of the preparatory activities for the Conference, the following regional population meetings were convened by the regional commissions to consider the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action:

(a) Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 20-29 September 1982), convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and organized in co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (see E/ESCAP/301);

(b) Meeting on Population (Sofia, Bulgaria, 6-12 October 1983), convened by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and organized in co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (see E/ECE/AC.9/2);

(c) Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and held within the framework of the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (Havana, Cuba, 16-19 November 1983) (see E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19);

(d) Second African Population Conference (Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 9-13 January 1984), convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and organized in co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (see E/ECA/CM.10/14);

(e) Third Regional Population Conference (Amman, Jordan, 25-29 March 1984), convened by the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States in co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (see E/ECWA/POP/CONF.5/15).

6. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/42 and General Assembly resolution 38/148, the regional commissions considered, at their annual sessions in 1984, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (E/1984/28 and Add.1), 3/ which contained recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.

7. The regional commissions also endorsed the suggestions and recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level made by the respective regional population meetings (see para. 5 above) and decided to transmit them to the Conference for its consideration.

8. In addition, the Economic Commission for Latin America adopted a resolution on the strengthening of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, with specific reference to recommendation 80 of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (E/1984/28/Add.1, annex I, para. 34).

9. The suggestions and recommendations endorsed by the regional commissions and the resolution adopted by ECLA, which are submitted for consideration by the Conference under item 5 of its provisional agenda, are set forth in the annexes to the present note.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

2/ The findings of the expert groups are summarized in documents E/CONF.76/PC/6, 7, 8 and Corr.1 and E/CONF.76/PC/9, respectively.

3/ The Preparatory Committee met at United Nations Headquarters, from 23 to 27 January 1984 and held a resumed session, also at Headquarters, from 12 to 17 March 1984.

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Annex I

ASIA-PACIFIC CALL FOR ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT*

PREAMBLE

The Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference,

Reviewing the progress made by Governments of the Asian and Pacific region in achieving the goals and implementing the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, Bucharest, 1974,

Addressing itself to the theme of the Conference, namely, "An integrated approach to population and related development issues",

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by countries of the Asian and Pacific region in social and economic development and the leadership they have exhibited in the formulation and implementation of national programmes dealing with population problems,

Recognizing the extensive efforts made at regional and global levels since Bucharest to ensure continued and sustained interest, especially amongst policy makers, planners, administrators and researchers in the area of population and development,

Noting in particular the objectives and goals of the Colombo and Beijing Declarations of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Declaration of Alma-Ata (on primary health care) and the Rome Declaration on Population and Urban Future,

Further recognizing the invaluable contributions of donor countries, United Nations organizations, particularly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the World Bank and non-governmental organizations in providing both financial and technical support for population programmes in the Asian and Pacific region,

Mindful that, despite the diversities in their socio-economic, political, religious and cultural conditions, the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific share certain common concerns in regard to population and development,

Noting the need for peace in achieving economic and social development,

* E/ESCAP/301, annex, adopted by the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference and endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fortieth session (Tokyo, 17-27 April 1984).

Reaffirming the need for closer co-operation and collaboration amongst countries of the Asian and Pacific region in their efforts to solve the problems of population, poverty, health and nutrition, and to accelerate the social and economic well-being of their people,

Adopts the following Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development:

I. BACKGROUND

1. The members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) met for the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 20 to 29 September 1982. The Conference reviewed the progress made by countries of the region in implementing the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, adopted at Bucharest in 1974, and considered actions to be taken in the future.

2. In doing so, the Conference considered, inter alia, the demographic situation and outlook of the region; the formulation and implementation of integrated population and development policies; urbanization; internal and international migration; strategies for meeting basic socio-economic needs in the context of achieving population goals; evaluation of integrated family planning, health and welfare programmes; and policies and programmes influencing women's involvement in the development process.

3. The Conference summarized its findings and conclusions in its report. It also issued an Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development addressed to all countries of the region, to other countries and to international organizations.

4. The discussions were held in the context of the demographic situation in the Asian and Pacific region. Demographically, the region is the largest and the most diverse of the world's regions. The 39 members and associate members of ESCAP situated in the region range in population from a mere 3,000 persons to over one billion. They live on atolls, archipelagos and great land masses. Since the combined population of all the 39 members constitutes 56 per cent of the total world population and the rate of growth of the population of the region is amongst the highest in the world, the demographic trends and development in the region will have an important bearing on global trends and prospects.

5. Over 90 per cent of the region's population lives in countries classified as less developed or developing. The immediate problem for the vast majority of the people in these countries is grinding poverty, inadequate housing and poor sanitation, malnutrition, infectious diseases and premature death, unemployment or underemployment, and there is little prospect of any substantial improvement in their lives.

6. Accelerated social and economic development and declining rates of population growth are imperatives for the years ahead. The formulation of policies to achieve these goals is affected by certain demographic features typical of this region.

7. The first is the progressive increase in the proportionate share of the urban population. The explosive growth of cities demands that serious attention be given to the development of the urban sector. Nevertheless, the rural sector still contains the dominant share of the total population and this situation will continue in the near future. This implies that the socio-economic transformation of the developing ESCAP members will largely depend on the development of their rural sector and that demographic policies and targets should form a crucial element of an integrated rural development strategy.

8. An important demographic consequence of rapid population growth is the heavy concentration of young persons. In most countries experiencing rapid rates of population growth, more than 50 per cent of the population is below 20 years of age and this concentration of the very young and dependent has significant social, economic and demographic implications.

9. Because of their size, the small island countries are economically, socially, environmentally and even demographically vulnerable. Thus, particular attention is required to protect their demographic and cultural viability. This is especially true for those small island countries subject to emigration.

10. The majority of the people in the Asian and Pacific region live in countries where population problems are recognized, population policies have been adopted and family planning programmes are in operation. Although considerable progress has been made in the matter of implementing family planning programmes, there exists a wide gap between current fertility levels and fertility goals. Efforts should therefore be oriented towards transitions in family size and fertility, and family planning services should be extended and strengthened to assist families in achieving the number and spacing of the children that they desire.

11. The experience of several countries has clearly indicated that changes in fertility behaviour are more likely to occur as an integral part of an overall process of social and economic change. Population policies should therefore be integrated with overall plans for socio-economic development which aim at eliminating starvation and malnutrition, at providing more jobs, better housing and more educational facilities, and at reducing inequalities in the distribution of resources and incomes. The facts of today's populations and the dynamics of growth make it imperative for the developing countries of the region to adopt an integrated approach to population and related development issues and to implement it vigorously through the remaining years of this century in accordance with the specific conditions of each country.

II. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

A. Principles

12. The Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development is based on the following principles:

(a) Population and development are interrelated; population variables influence development variables and are also influenced by them;

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(b) Population and development problems vary from country to country and solutions to these problems must be found within the context of the specific needs and requirements of each country,

(c) The population policy of each country has to be shaped by the country's perception of its population problems and of the role of population activities and programmes in the context of its national development,

(d) The formulation and implementation of population and related development policies, plans and programmes are the sovereign rights of each nation and must remain firmly within the area of national decision,

(e) Population programmes and development activities to be effective and successful must be sensitive to local values and needs, must involve those directly affected in the decision-making process at all levels and must ensure full participation of the community and concerned non-governmental organizations,

(f) Efforts to solve population and related development problems are the prime responsibility of each country; however, external assistance, both financial and technical, will help to stimulate and enhance such efforts.

B. Objectives

13. The Call for Action is directed towards the achievement of the following objectives:

(a) To improve further the quality of life of the people of the Asia-Pacific region by encouraging Governments to adopt an integrated and balanced approach to population, resources and development,

(b) To promote and reinforce the understanding and appreciation of current and future population dynamics and the interrelationship between population and development,

(c) To promote the development of the infrastructure for the collection, collation, analysis, dissemination and utilization of data and information and for building up an adequate cadre of trained personnel needed for the formulation, implementation and assessment of integrated population and development policies, plans and programmes,

(d) To promote co-operation and collaboration amongst ESCAP members and associate members through greater and continuing interchange of experience and knowledge in population and development,

(e) To promote further mobilization of internal resources and ensure an increasing and continuous flow of external financial and technical assistance to support and sustain the activities and programmes in the field of population and development in the region,

(f) To ensure implementation of a comprehensive population programme which would, inter alia, bring about rapid reductions in fertility and mortality.

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III. RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION,
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS

A. Governments of the Asian and Pacific region

1. Population and development policy

14. An integrated approach should be evolved and followed in regard to population and related programmes of economic and social development.

15. Efforts should be made to increase the awareness of the need to formulate policies to cope with the socio-economic consequences of the changing numbers of persons in particular age groups and the overall growth in numbers in such fields as education, employment, food and nutrition, housing, and health and welfare services.

16. High-level population units should be established within development planning organizations with responsibilities for integrating population policies and programmes with related social and economic development policies and programmes.

17. Governments are urged to ensure that the organizational set-up for the implementation of population programmes receives visible and priority attention at all levels of government by according it an appropriate place in the political and administrative structure of the Government.

18. Efforts should be intensified to inform and involve policy makers, parliamentarians and community leaders in population activities.

19. An effective monitoring system should be established to undertake systematic and periodic evaluation of the integrated population policies and programmes.

20. National plans should give priority to those programmes which would result in diminishing demand for large families with a view to creating the economic and social environment conducive to reduction in the rate of population growth.

21. The small island States, particularly those subject to emigration, are urged to formulate social, economic and population policies which would maintain their demographic and cultural viability.

2. Population growth targets and goals

22. Countries are urged to review and modify existing targets and goals in the implementation of population and development programmes for reducing birth and death rates so as to attain low levels as early as possible and to attain a replacement level of fertility by the year 2000.

23. Towards this end, countries should ensure the availability and accessibility to all couples and individuals who so desire, by 1985 if possible, the necessary information, education and means to practise family planning effectively and in accordance with their cultural values and religious beliefs.

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3. Fertility and family planning

24. Family planning services should be strengthened through:

(a) Involvement of local population and local institutions in planning, funding and implementation of family planning information and services;

(b) Reorientation of programme personnel to make family planning programmes more sensitive and responsive to local values and individuals' needs;

(c) Easy availability and accessibility of family planning services, information on a continuing basis to potential users.

25. Depending on local conditions, family planning programmes should be linked with programmes related to health and nutrition, education, rural development, women and youth.

26. Family planning programmes should make available a variety of methods to ensure free choice by couples.

27. Emphasis should be given, especially in the low literacy countries, to educating and motivating the population at the grass-roots level on the values of family planning and its crucial bearing on the quality of life.

28. Support for research to improve existing contraceptive methods and to develop and test new technologies must be substantially increased.

29. Where appropriate, facilities for the treatment of infertility should be incorporated into national family planning programmes.

30. Efforts should be made to raise the mean age at marriage of females to levels above 20 years in countries where this mean age at marriage is still quite low.

4. Mortality and morbidity

31. Countries where mortality continues to be high should try to attain a minimum of 55 years of life expectancy at birth and an infant mortality rate of less than 100 per thousand live births by the end of the 1980s.

32. Countries where the decline has slowed down should examine the factors responsible for this slowing down in order to formulate and implement appropriate measures for further reduction.

33. Countries are encouraged to take into account results of analyses based on better mortality data for the subgroups of population in the formulation and implementation of population and health policies so as to ensure a more equitable distribution of, and access to, health care delivery services.

5. Urbanization

34. Countries should formulate and implement a comprehensive national urbanization policy which includes, inter alia, reducing the pull factors of primate city or metropolitan centres, the development of medium-sized cities and small towns, and rural development.

35. Attempts should be made to direct urbanization trends and patterns to conform with overall development goals and to achieve an equitable distribution of development to different regions.

6. Migration

(a) Internal migration

36. Countries should encourage research on the interrelationships between population mobility and development factors and the impact of migration upon the welfare levels of areas of origin and destination.

37. Efforts should be made to develop adequate employment opportunities, strengthen educational facilities, health and other infrastructure services to meet the needs of the people and thereby to minimize undesirable migration.

(b) International migration

38. Countries are urged to formulate national and international policies to avoid or to substitute for the drain of professional and skilled workers; incentive programmes should be created to channel capital transfers through remittances into productive investment.

39. Countries should ensure equal opportunities in the labour market and adequate access to social and welfare services to migrants in the receiving countries and to guarantee human rights in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations.

7. Status and role of women

40. Countries should expedite the implementation of comprehensive programmes of education and training for women, especially in the rural areas, and to give them equal opportunities for active participation at all levels in the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of development and also to support and enhance their role in the family.

41. Governments are urged to adopt national policies and programmes to ensure equal opportunities for education, training, employment and career advancement opportunities for women.

42. Measures should be taken to enable women to protect themselves from the risk of unwanted pregnancies.

43. In countries where there is some possibility of differential treatment between the sexes with regard to nutrition, health treatment, and in other ways, the situation should be investigated and steps taken to find appropriate remedies.

44. Steps should be taken to investigate the sex imbalance in contraceptive and sterilization practice to determine its causes and the desirability of moving towards a more even balance.

8. Children and youth

45. Vigorous efforts should be made to extend opportunities for education with a view to eliminating abuses of child labour in countries where such practices exist.

46. Special programmes should be implemented to improve the nutritional status of children with a view to reducing childhood mortality.

47. Countries are urged to promote and develop basic and vocational education and training for youth, and to provide facilities for the continuing education of youth.

48. Population and family life education should be integrated with formal and non-formal systems of education at all levels in order to help young people to become responsible parents and citizens of the future.

49. Efforts should be made to provide employment opportunities for the new entrants to the labour market.

9. The aged

50. Countries are urged to investigate the implications of the increasing numbers and proportions of the aged for the social and economic welfare of individuals, the family and community and to explore alternative approaches, with a view not only to alleviating problems but also to contributing positively to the welfare of the aged, family and community.

10. Population data, research and information

51. Countries are urged to develop an appropriate data base and undertake the evaluation and improved analysis of existing data needed for formulating population policies and integrating them with related social and economic development plans, to improve the vital registration systems, and to accord priority to research in the relationship of population and development and also to the development of national and regional population information systems, including computer-assisted information-handling facilities.

52. Small island countries are urged to improve conventional and non-conventional demographic data collection and, within the narrow limits of their small reservoirs of skilled labour, to integrate demographic data analysis and population planning with overall analysis and development planning.

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53. Small island countries are also encouraged, within the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries, to increase the exchange of skills and experience within the small island countries, such an exchange to be implemented not only by conventional means but also through satellite communications networks.

11. Training and manpower development

54. An adequate cadre of trained persons should be built up for the effective formulation and implementation of integrated population and development policies, plans and programmes at all levels.

55. Human resource development should be enhanced so as to promote a better utilization of manpower and labour force participation in development.

56. Small island countries are urged to continue training personnel in the analytical and programme management skills, but to adapt such training to their special needs by in situ training.

12. Community involvement

57. Community participation and involvement in population and development programmes should be stimulated and sustained through the efficient use of interpersonal communication, as well as through effective mobilization and utilization of community resources.

58. Countries are urged to facilitate individual and community involvement through decentralization in planning, implementing and monitoring their population programmes.

13. Role of the private sector and non-governmental organizations

59. Governments are urged to recognize the contribution of the private sector and non-governmental organizations; to promote and strengthen their participation in population and development programmes; to encourage their innovative and independent pursuit of solutions to problems in these areas; and to find ways to draw their expertise, experience and resources into national programmes.

14. Resources for population programmes

60. Efforts should be made to mobilize the national financial resources required for the implementation of effective population and related development programmes.

61. Recipient countries should continue to increase their contributions to population programmes as a measure of their commitment to stabilizing population growth.

62. Greater efforts should be made in times of economic stringency to maximize the use of available resources; this will require greater attention to management and performance of population programmes.

63. Projects related to technical co-operation among developing countries should be encouraged and expanded not as a substitute for, but to complement, external assistance; United Nations organizations such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific should be facilitating organizations.

B. International organizations

1. Regional and subregional organizations

64. Regional and subregional organizations in the Asian and Pacific region are called upon to support strongly the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development.

2. ESCAP secretariat

65. The ESCAP secretariat is called upon to provide support to members and associate members of ESCAP in the implementation of the recommendations of the present Call for Action and to undertake periodic reviews and appraisals of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Call for Action.

3. Other United Nations organizations and the specialized agencies

66. United Nations organizations and the specialized agencies are urged to enhance their financial and technical support to Governments desiring such support in order to implement national population and development programmes.

C. Donor Governments

67. Donor Governments are urged to continue and increase, in real terms, their support for population programmes through bilateral programmes, through multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and through non-governmental organizations.

68. Donor Governments are requested to be more flexible in the management of their external assistance in order to maximize the use of such aid.

Annex II

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL
MEETING ON POPULATION IN THE ECE REGION*

PREAMBLE

The First Intergovernmental Meeting on Population in the ECE Region,

Considering that, as part of the preparations for the International Conference on Population in 1984, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1982/42 of 27 July 1982, invited the regional commissions to formulate suggestions and recommendations for further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level,

Considering also that, in response to Council resolution 1982/42, the Economic Commission for Europe, at its thirty-eighth session, by decision C (XXXVIII) decided to convene a regional Meeting on Population in Sofia, and requested the Executive Secretary to report to it at its thirty-ninth session on the findings of the meeting with regard to the suggestions and recommendations mentioned above,

Mindful that, despite the diversities of their socio-economic, political, cultural and demographic conditions, the countries of the region of the Economic Commission for Europe share important common concerns in regard to population,

Aware that the demographic situation in the region has to be seen against the background of global perspectives and, particularly, the population problems of the developing world,

Stressing that the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action adopted in 1974 remain fully valid,

Noting in particular that:

- (a) The formulation and implementation of population policies is the sovereign right of each nation;
- (b) This right is to be exercised in accordance with national objectives and needs and without external interference;
- (c) Universal solidarity is needed to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world;

* ECE/AC.9/2, annex, endorsed by the Economic Commission for Europe at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 3-14 April 1984).

(d) In dealing with population problems, international co-operation should play an important role in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(e) Population policies should be consistent with and respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and similar international instruments;

Conscious that peace and security are indispensable for the achievement of the goals of humane population policies and for economic, social and demographic development,

Conscious also that population and development are closely interrelated,

Aware also of the complex relations between population, resources and environment and of the importance of the protection of the ecosystem for humanity,

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable role organizations, including United Nations organizations, particularly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, have played and can play in promoting greater awareness of the nature of population problems and the need for effective action,

Reviewing recent demographic trends and future prospects of demographic development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Adopts the suggestions and recommendations set forth below.

I. RECENT DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECE REGION

1. The period since 1974 has been one of substantial demographic change in most of the member States of the Economic Commission for Europe and in the region as a whole. In the case of some demographic variables new trends seem to be emerging; for others, changes which were only incipient at the time have acquired a more definitive character, and for still others past trends have become more widespread or gained further momentum. In many aspects these developments imply a degree of uncertainty regarding the interpretation of the recent demographic evolution and its medium- and long-term prospects.

2. The long-term decline of population growth, characteristic of the region as a whole, continued in most countries and there were signs of the onset of such a decline in those where growth has traditionally been high. As a result, in an increasing number of countries population growth has fallen to low levels and in some has even become negative. There are, however, also indications of a destabilization of growth rates particularly where rapid declines occurred in the past. In spite of the current slow increase or even decline of population, few Governments in the region, according to the Fourth Population Inquiry Among Governments and provisional results of the Fifth Inquiry, expressed serious concern with these trends and only in isolated cases have policies been considered to stimulate growth.

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3. Although in a number of developed countries a slow-down, and in some age groups, a stagnation of the decline in mortality occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s, mortality declines have regained momentum in most of the countries affected. Further declines in mortality were observed also in countries with the lowest mortality and, in some, life expectancy at birth is now higher than ever. Even at these high levels of life expectancy it is still possible to reduce mortality in most of the age groups, including infant mortality.

4. In some countries, however, average expectation of life increased only marginally or even declined somewhat and mortality rates even rose amongst men, and possibly women, in certain age groups. Irrespective of mortality levels achieved, the persistence of mortality differentials between socio-economic groups as well as other segments of the population continues to be a concern. In health policy, increasing priority is being assigned to health education and preventive programmes that stress the association of individual life-styles and environmental conditions with certain diseases.

5. It is estimated that since 1974 the number of countries where fertility has dropped below the long-term level needed to ensure replacement has almost doubled, from nearly one third to about two thirds of the ECE member States. The available evidence suggests that fertility is also declining quite rapidly in the few countries in the region where it is still high. These broad trends, however, conceal a considerable diversity of fertility behaviour, also within countries. In the low fertility countries the decline since the early 1970s was moderate in some, but very large in others; and amongst countries with still moderate levels a decade ago, fertility declined in some, but remained relatively stable in others. Moreover, within the period considered different patterns of change can be found. From the late 1970s several countries have had fertility varying around replacement level or somewhat below. Indications exist of a stabilization of fertility in recent years in a number of countries where the levels were already low. As far as developments over time in the countries with still moderate fertility are concerned at the beginning of the period, several experienced a temporary increase, possibly as a result of policy measures, in the first half of the decade, followed by a decline in the latter part of the period. As a result of this heterogeneity, much uncertainty exists as regards future fertility. Nevertheless, few Governments have shown serious concern about the current low levels of fertility, although there is growing awareness of the potential long-term implications of persistent low fertility. Those countries which did consider their present or expected fertility levels too low formulated and implemented policies and measures aimed at maintaining or raising them, but with mixed and mostly short-term effects.

6. Changes in family formation and the evolution of the institution of the family since the early 1970s have been profound and wide-ranging. The trend towards postponement of marriage continued through the 1970s and no turnabout in this phenomenon, often thought to be a temporary one, has as yet been observed. Related developments are the growing importance of unions without legal marriage and the fact that where marriage does take place it is often only after a period of cohabitation. In addition, in many countries a marked increase in child bearing outside marriage has occurred in recent years, although very high proportions of extra-marital births in the total are still an exception. Apart from changes in

family formation, family dissolution as a result of divorce has recently risen sharply in the region. Although higher divorce rates in some cases have been partly the result of more liberal legislation, they reflect to a considerable extent, as in the case of the new patterns of family formation, changes in individual attitudes and social norms. These factors, together with the greatly expanded number of women in the labour force, have been associated with a substantial increase in one-parent and, particularly, female-headed households.

7. As regards population distribution and internal migration, the slow-down in the growth of urban population since the early 1970s is an almost universal feature of the ECE region. In the highly urbanized countries this process has been accompanied in many instances by a decline of population in the large urban cores and cities; and in some, the population of urban regions as a whole is stagnant or has even been declining in absolute terms. These developments may be attributed in part to the decline in population growth and the reduced potential for rural-urban migration due to the small rural population remaining. However, they probably also reflect an underlying tendency towards urban deconcentration on the part of individuals. It is, however, still not clear to what extent low population growth, changes in the age distribution and the trends in the growth of urban population herald a new phase in internal migration and population distribution.

8. Trends in international migration already started changing in some respects in the early 1970s, but the major change has occurred since the mid-1970s. A growing number of countries of immigration have resorted to restrictive measures, for economic and other reasons, particularly with respect to foreign workers. These shifts in migration patterns and in particular the repatriation of migrant workers have caused problems, involving re-absorption in the countries of origin at a time of economic slow-down and stagnation. However, immigration of migrants' dependants admitted for family reunification continued and has even increased. At the same time more stringent policies and measures have probably contributed to growing numbers of undocumented or illegal immigrants. It seems unlikely that international migration will return to the levels it attained in the preceding decades. The decline in population growth in most of the countries which supplied migrant workers in the late 1960s may substantially reduce their migration potential in the long term. It is even less clear what impact the low or negative population increase in traditional countries of immigration will have on their migration policies. Furthermore, future migration trends will possibly be conditioned by economic recovery and long-term development in the receiving countries.

9. While changes in population structure and particularly the aging of populations have been occurring in the region for a long time, it is only in recent years that the wide-ranging implications of this process have been fully recognized. As a result of low and declining fertility, the aging of populations is one of the most commonly shared characteristics of the countries of the region. Apart from the long-term trends, distortions in the age structure due to past fluctuations in fertility, mortality and migration will necessitate continuing adjustments in policies and programmes which are affected directly or indirectly by the age composition.

II. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Population goals and policies

10. The suggestions and recommendations set out below relate to recommendation C.1 of the World Population Plan of Action, entitled "Population goals and policies".

1. Population change

11. Governments and regional organizations should continue, and whenever necessary develop further, the assessment and monitoring of population change. Increased efforts should be made to determine the direct and indirect causes of population change, as well as their consequences for future development.

12. Governments which consider their present or expected future population growth too low and which wish to raise it should consider adopting appropriate population policies based on long-term planning rather than short-term exigencies. In adopting programmes and measures, Governments should be aware that some of these many have only a temporary effect. Programmes and measures to be adopted have to be rather fundamental, of as broad a scope as possible and in accordance with societal developments in order to be effective.

2. Mortality and morbidity

13. Governments, even in countries where the life expectation is highest, should continue to pursue policies conducive to further reducing mortality and morbidity and aim at the extension of healthy life. Countries which have experienced a stagnation or even an increase in mortality in general or in certain age groups (e.g., middle-aged and older males) should take effective measures for improvement in the group or groups most affected. Despite the generally low infant mortality rates in most countries of the region, measures should be taken and programmes launched to achieve rates equal to the lowest attained in the region.

14. It is suggested that in pursuing policies conducive to reducing mortality and morbidity, special attention should be given to the reduction of differentials between various socio-economic groups, as well as between males and females, and to the identification of the causes of these differentials.

15. As preventive measures aimed at certain causes of death have, in recent years, contributed to reducing their incidence to low levels, health services should be encouraged to work towards prevention in other areas, such as environmental and working conditions.

16. Through programmes based on education and mass media campaigns, efforts should be made to influence various life-style characteristics: unhealthy consumption habits such as the use of tobacco and alcohol, poor diet and lack of exercise which have a detrimental effect upon life expectancy.

3. Fertility and the family

17. Governments should strengthen assistance to families as far as possible to enable them to fulfil their role in society.

18. Considering that responsibilities for partner relations are shifting more and more from societal towards personal control, educational efforts should be increased to help individuals to cope with the challenge of forming and maintaining psychologically and socially satisfactory partner relations.

19. In view of the fact that children benefit, for their growth and development, from long-term affectionate and stable relationships, particularly within the family, Governments and non-governmental organizations should give every support to parents in the care and upbringing of children.

20. Governments should incorporate into population policies the principle that it is a fundamental right of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children by formulating measures and regulations, including those concerning fertility control, consistent with this right. Couples and individuals should be assured of the means, information and education to plan their families in accordance with this principle.

21. It should be recognized that child bearing and the education of children draw heavily upon the economic resources and time of the parents, despite the role of government in these areas.

22. Governments should consider measures which would at least partly compensate the parents for the economic disadvantages of child bearing and the education of children, including, inter alia:

(a) Financial and/or other support to families in the periods preceding or following the birth of a child as well as during the time parents assume the major responsibility for the care and education of children;

(b) Strengthening of child welfare services and child care provisions;

(c) Maternity and paternity leave for a sufficient length of time to enable either parent to care for the child, with adequate remunerative compensation, and without detriment to subsequent career prospects;

(d) Assistance to young couples and parents in acquiring suitable housing.

23. The desire of parents to devote a substantial part of their time to caring for their families, particularly when the children are young, should be recognized. Governments should increase the opportunities open in this respect through measures aimed at reconciling the upbringing of children with labour force requirements, the creation of appropriate employment conditions (part-time jobs, flexible working hours, work-sharing), as well as the establishment of a coherent system of specific medical and child-care services. In this context, the special problems of one-parent families should be taken into account.

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24. The increasing participation in the labour force of women and of their employment outside the home require a new division of labour within the family based upon the need to reduce the double burden for women of combining child bearing and household work with employment outside the home. It requires appropriate government programmes and measures, educational efforts and structural changes in society, aimed at improving opportunities and conditions for combining work outside the home with child bearing and household work and at stressing the equal rights and obligations of mothers and fathers.

25. Education, medical and legal provisions should be made to assist couples and individuals to avoid unwanted pregnancies. The necessary measures should be taken, including those governing the availability of safe and effective methods of birth control together with medical consultations, counselling and sex education, particularly among those segments of the population which are most vulnerable and difficult to reach. In view of the increased incidence of sexual relationships amongst adolescents and the lower age at which sexual experience begins, special attention, notably in the form of family life and sex education and of medical services for young people, should be given to avoid unplanned and unwanted pregnancies of adolescents for health as well as socio-economic reasons.

26. Medical, health and psycho-social services as well as family planning programmes should provide for the reduction of involuntary infertility and sub-fecundity in order to assist couples in having the number of children they desire.

27. Given the variety of situations prevailing in both fertility levels and trends, certain countries might wish to influence reproduction behaviour in order to balance the interests of society and those of present and future parents. None the less, each State must respect the fundamental principle which allows each couple and individual the free, informed and responsible choice of the number and spacing of their children. Government action is proper only in so far as it restricts itself to changing, without prejudice to the interests of other members of society, the economic, social and cultural environment in which couples exercise their free, informed and responsible choice.

28. In countries where fertility is high but declining, Governments should assess the economic, social and other implications of those trends and their alternatives and consider, in the light of those trends, the desirability of policies aimed at influencing the direction and/or pace of fertility change.

4. Internal migration and urbanization

29. In planning regional and urban development, Governments should take into consideration the fact that the growth and age structure of the population may be an important factor in its mobility. In particular, low population growth and the consequent aging of the population may substantially reduce mobility. These factors, together with the reduced out-migration potential from rural areas, due to their declining population, should be considered in planning urban development.

30. When formulating regional and urban development policies, Governments should allow for the fact that the quality of life, changes in life-styles, and the social and physical environment assume increasing importance in the individual's decision to migrate.

31. In rural areas the effect of the exodus from the countryside linked with that of a drop in fertility might lead to demographic trends which are hard to reverse. Governments should be aware that a minimum density is necessary for a viable society, in terms of both maintaining an adequate infrastructure and preserving settlements.

32. Governments should develop strategies for dealing with the consequences of emerging patterns of urbanization. These consequences include the economic, social and fiscal implications of population decline in large metropolitan areas and of interregional shifts of population that simultaneously create pressures in some areas and excess capacity in others.

5. International migration

33. Both countries of origin and of destination are urged to supply adequate information, in order to prepare migrants for the working and living conditions that await them and to increase awareness of their legal position and rights. Measures have to be taken to promote mutual adaptation of both the population of the receiving country and of immigrant groups, to prevent discrimination against immigrant groups and to avoid xenophobia.

34. Countries admitting foreign workers should respect fundamental human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the covenants flowing from it, as well as basic economic and social rights as enunciated in the conventions of the International Labour Organisation. In particular, Governments should respect the right to family reunification and should act to prevent discrimination against foreign workers in the labour market, in the form of lower wages or salaries or other unequal working and employment conditions, and in society, by offering adequate living conditions and social security protection. Where immigration has proved to be of a long-term nature, the possibilities of extending national civil rights and responsibilities to immigrants should be explored.

6. Population structure

35. Recognizing that the process of population aging is the outcome of other demographic processes, particularly fertility decline, Governments should consider the economic and social implications of aging, particularly the increase in the number of the very old. They are further urged to develop timely socio-economic policies to take account of the changes in requirements arising from shifts in the demographic structure.

36. The aged population constitutes a valuable and important component of society's human resources and thus provision should be made for the creation and expansion of opportunities for the elderly adapted to their potential and capacity in the society and the economy.

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B. Socio-economic policies

37. The suggestions and recommendations set out below relate to recommendation C.2 of the World Population Plan of Action, entitled "Socio-economic policies".

38. In planning for economic and social development and, in particular, the programming and provision of public or state services, Governments and non-governmental organizations should give appropriate attention to relevant population variables and their implications, including:

- (a) Trends in population growth and the levels of provisions required;
- (b) Changes in mortality and fertility and the need for different health, medical and family planning programmes;
- (c) Shifts in the age distribution and the household structure, and their implications for requirements in different sectors (education, health, care of the aged, social security, housing);
- (d) Trends in population distribution, concentration and deconcentration and regional, urban and local planning;
- (e) Levels and patterns of international migration and the development of specific services and provisions for migrants.

39. Governments should adopt a co-ordinated approach in planning for changes in the size and composition of the labour force, resulting from demographic and labour force participation trends, and for the qualitative aspects of the supply of labour, both of which require investments in education, vocational training and health, which at the same time constitute investments in higher productivity.

40. Policies for productive employment should take into account the growth of the working age population and the supply of labour. In particular, consideration should be given to the position of the most vulnerable groups in the labour market, among others, the young, women and the elderly. In order to increase employment or reduce unemployment in these groups, Governments might wish to consider, in addition to general measures for raising employment, other policy options such as reductions in working time, work sharing, part-time work, flexibility in retirement age, education and training of the young etc. While so doing they should, however, fully consider the long-term implications of such measures.

41. Increased attention should be given to short- and medium-term developments in the growth, composition and distribution of population when considering the implications of demographic variables for planning purposes. In particular, to ensure the optimal use of resources, appropriate short- or medium-term economic and social policies should be envisaged for dealing with population problems which are of a temporary nature (e.g., distortions in the age distribution caused by past fluctuations in fertility, mortality or international migration; variations in internal migration flows; non-permanent international migration).

C. Promotion of knowledge and policies

42. The suggestions and recommendations set out below relate to recommendation C.3 of the World Population Plan of Action, entitled "Promotion of knowledge and policies".

1. Data collection and analysis

43. Governments should develop and improve the range of demographic and related, socio-economic statistics obtained from various sources so that accurate, timely and more relevant information on population changes and trends needed for policy purposes is available, with adequate measures taken to protect the privacy of the individual and confidentiality of personal data.

44. Governments should analyse the data collected in the censuses they conducted as part of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the demographic and related data collected from other sources with a view to determining the need for the formulation, modification, updating and implementation of national population policies.

45. Governments should take a population and housing census as part of the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme, giving due consideration to the international recommendations adopted by the United Nations for use in the ECE region in the 1990 round of censuses. In addition, strategies should be developed to make use of registration data, mini-censuses, labour force sample surveys, housing surveys and other socio-demographic sample surveys as supplementary sources of information on the characteristics of the population.

46. The member countries of the region are urged, through the Economic Commission for Europe, to co-ordinate and co-operate in the work of monitoring population trends in the region and in assessing future prospects and their implications, and to do so on a regular basis.

2. Research

47. Governments and regional organizations should give high priority to research on population problems, especially in those areas relevant to population policies and to demographic aspects of economic and social planning.

48. Areas in which further research in support of policy formulation and implementation is needed should include:

(a) The economic, social and related implications of current and projected demographic trends in a long-term perspective, with a view to integrating population variables into national development planning and to assessing the desirability of or need for population policies;

(b) The investigation of the factors and conditions, including the development of new data collection strategies and analytical methods, in order to determine causes of the lack of progress in reducing mortality in certain age groups and of the continued mortality differentials between socio-economic groups and other population segments;

(c) The economic and social determinants of family formation, family planning patterns, fertility and mortality at the national, regional and intercountry levels on the basis of existing data as well as new periodic surveys;

(d) The assessment and review of trends in population distribution, internal migration and urbanization at the country and intercountry levels, with special attention given to the newly emerging trends in urban development, their causes and consequences;

(e) The demographic impact of international migration and its economic and social correlates, with special reference to different types of migrants (workers, family members) and their impact on countries of origin and destination;

(f) The implications for economic and social development of changes in population structure and age composition at the national level and their comparative analysis for the region with special consideration being given to the consequences of such changes for the public or state sector;

(g) The attitude of the population to, and the effectiveness of, population policy measures;

(h) Bio-medical research in human reproduction in order to speed the development of safer, more effective and more acceptable methods of family planning; research is also needed into non-medical methods ("natural family planning"). Additional research is required to resolve problems of infertility which trouble many families in the modern world;

(i) The interrelationship between demographic change and employment trends, including the assessment of sociological, technical and other social costs of unemployment.

49. In order to provide a basis for policies which respond to long-term as well as short-term changes in population, more research on the consequences of short-, medium- and long-term variations and fluctuations in population trends should be undertaken.

3. Information and training

50. In order that Governments may benefit from and utilize the experience accumulated in other countries, the exchange of information on population trends, problems and policies within the region should be promoted, inter alia, through the Economic Commission for Europe. In particular, whenever unusual demographic developments occur in a particular country, or when important population policy

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measures are adopted, it is important that the results obtained and the experience gained be disseminated widely so that others may benefit from them.

51. Recognizing the importance of training in different population areas, including the training of personnel required for planning and implementation of population programmes, Governments, international and non-governmental organizations are urged to initiate and develop training programmes to meet the needs, including the developing countries' needs, for such training, taking into account the possibilities and facilities of international and national demographic centres and other appropriate institutions in the ECE region and to promote further co-operation between them.

4. Development and evaluation of population policies

52. Special importance should be assigned to the review and assessment of population policies, their immediate and longer term effects at the national level and, for comparative purposes, at the regional level, with a view to improving the formulation, implementation and effectiveness of such policies.

5. Role of international co-operation with developing countries in the population field

53. Population policies are a constituent element of socio-economic development policies. The international community at large and the countries of the ECE region in particular should strengthen their support for population activities in the developing countries. These activities should be supplemented by, and integrated in, the overall assistance for implementation of development strategies.

54. The rate of population growth in many developing countries is still very high and continues to be an important obstacle to the improvement of the quality of life and to the achievement of the goals of economic and social development. Accordingly, members of the ECE region, sharing the concerns expressed in resolutions of several recent meetings of international bodies and in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, are urged to maintain and wherever possible to increase, in real terms, the value of the different forms of their assistance in the field of population. The programmes of UNFPA, as well as those of other governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of population, merit strong continued support.

6. Action by the Economic Commission for Europe

55. The member Governments of the Economic Commission for Europe should, in transmitting their recommendations and suggestions to the International Conference on Population, give careful consideration to the adaptation within existing resources of the ECE work programme to permit their implementation.

Annex III

LATIN AMERICAN PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION*

The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the framework of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts,

Considering the basic principles and aims of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974 and specifically its paragraph 108, which suggests measures for the periodic review and appraisal of progress made towards achieving the goals and recommendations of the Plan and states that the Economic and Social Council should consider the findings of such evaluations with the object of making, when necessary, appropriate changes in the goals and recommendations of the Plan,

Bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population (Mexico City, 3-7 March 1975), which reflect the consensus of the region concerning the application in it of the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, and also taking into account the recommendations made to Governments and international bodies so that they may comply with the demographic goals and policies established by Governments,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/87 of 25 November 1981, in which, among other things, it was decided to convene an International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico in 1984 to consider selected issues of the highest priority with a view to contributing to the process of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continue to be fully valid,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 35/56, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and in which it stated, inter alia, that the implementation of the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action should be strengthened in the 1980s and that the international community should support the Plan of Action by increasing assistance in the field of population,

Further recalling that the Committee of High-Level Government Experts, at its first meeting held at Quito in 1979, approved the general objectives of the population programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and recommended that priority should be given to the execution of activities in the fields of research, technical assistance, education and training,

* E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19, sect. III, endorsed by the Economic Commission for Latin America at its twentieth session (Lima, 29 March-6 April 1984).

Bearing in mind that the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America, at its sixteenth session held in New York on 2 and 3 December 1982, decided that the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, to be held within the framework of the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts, should include in its agenda consideration of the experience acquired in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, and should propose recommendations reflecting the consensus of the Latin American countries on the items to be discussed at the forthcoming International Conference on Population,

1. Reiterates that man should be regarded as the subject and the object of development and that the basic aim of development should be to improve the quality of life, to satisfy the material and non-material needs of the entire population, particularly those of the least privileged groups, and to allow the whole population to participate in the wealth generated by society;
2. Reaffirms that the family is the basic unit of society and that Governments should protect it through appropriate laws and policies so that it can assume its rights and duties in society;
3. Considers it indispensable that the International Conference on Population, to be held in Mexico City in August 1984, should endorse the importance of national independence and sovereignty and of the struggle against foreign and colonial domination, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, political and economic coercion, racial discrimination and apartheid and neo-colonialism in all its forms, since these continue to be among the main obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of the developing countries and of all the human beings affected by them;
4. Affirms that the growing pressures brought to bear by the world situation militate against the progress of nations and severely jeopardize world peace and security, with all the consequences which this may have for the preservation of the human race, and that the increasingly close links between peace and development should inspire the world community to work ceaselessly to preserve peace while at the same time promoting development, in conformity with the principles of sovereign equality of States, international co-operation, and other standards and principles of international law and good relations;
5. Notes that the effects of the present international economic crisis have been deeply felt in the developing countries, which have experienced as a result external indebtedness, deterioration in their terms of trade, monetary and financial imbalances, a reduction in real terms in transfer of resources to the developing countries, decapitalization and other consequences. These have not only reduced the capacity of the developing countries to execute integrated plans and programmes for rapid economic and social development, including population policies, but have also resulted in additional social pressures which have affected the population of these countries and in particular the most deprived sectors of them. In this context, the recommendations of the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico must take account of these basic elements for the formulation of development and population policies, since the steady deterioration of the economic and social situation of the developing countries has a decisive

effect on the accomplishment of the economic and social changes on which, according to the World Population Plan of Action, the effective solution of demographic problems depends;

6. Reaffirms that the essence of the principles, objectives and guidelines set forth in the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the Bucharest Conference in August 1974 are, in general, still valid, although they should be adapted to the new problems confronting the world as a result of the economic and social situation and of the changes which have occurred in the countries in this domain;

7. Recommends:

(a) That the final report of the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico in 1984 should contain a core of background material, principles and objectives and a section devoted to universally valid recommendations, presented in order of priority and in summary form, on demographic and socio-economic policies, the promotion of knowledge, and the role of Governments and of international co-operation;

(b) That it should be reaffirmed that the formulation and application of population policies is a sovereign right of every nation; consequently the criteria and priorities adopted as guides to economic, financial and technical co-operation in this and other fields should neither affect nor condition the exercise of that sovereign right;

(c) That in order for the population policies adopted by the countries to be effective, they must form an integral part of their economic and social development policies and not be presented as alternatives to those policies or as independent of them;

(d) That national population policies should not be regarded as merely another kind of sectoral policies, nor as the sum of the demographic impact produced by sectoral policies formulated in isolation but that, on the contrary, they should constitute a specific expression of the basic components of the economic and social development policy and of sectoral policies such as those relating to employment, education, health, housing, culture etc.;

(e) That in the formulation of population policies and of other measures designed to change the course of demographic variables, specific precautions should be taken to see that they are effectively and correctly integrated in the development plans and strategies through economic and social planning activities and in other ways sovereignly decided upon by the States. This kind of integration can be fostered by the creation or strengthening of governmental mechanisms at the appropriate level, responsible for formulating population policies, conducting research and training qualified staff for these tasks;

(f) That regional action should be initiated in the field of population, in accordance with the basic principles of the World Population Plan of Action and the interests and decisions of the countries of each region. This action should take

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into account the different situations prevailing in the region and should be based on the rights and duties of the States in their reciprocal relations: national sovereignty and universal solidarity;

(g) That, in order to give effect to the basic right of couples and persons to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, the States, in so far as is possible, should ensure that all social groups in the community have access to the necessary information and facilities, including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of involuntary sterility. The exercise of this right should be shielded against all open or indirect pressures, so as to prevent a situation where people may have a different level of fertility from that which they themselves desire. If the Governments deem it necessary to change the population's patterns of reproduction to bring them into line with national objectives, they should respect the social and cultural values of people in different social strata and adopt the necessary economic, social and cultural measures to ensure that people may freely decide on the number and spacing of their children. Governments should also ensure the exercise of proper supervision to prevent unethical birth-control activities;

(h) That within the context of the economic and social development plans and goals which are adopted, Governments should lay particular stress on the solution of basic nutritional problems, the reduction and subsequent elimination of avoidable diseases, the lowering of the levels of general mortality and the minimization of differences in levels of nutrition, morbidity and mortality between different areas and social strata within the countries;

(i) That the promotion and preservation of health and of the quality of life should be given the highest priority in national and international strategies and that, to that end, Governments should adopt the political commitments needed to reach the national targets in this area; in addition, governments should accelerate or strengthen their efforts to reduce the differences in mortality rates as well as to bring down mortality itself - especially infant mortality - by making it easier to gain access to effective, moderately priced technology, such as that used in connection with oral rehydration, monitoring of growth, breast feeding and immunization;

(j) That the International Conference on Population should reiterate and develop the main elements regarding internal migration and physical planning contained in the World Population Plan of Action; these elements should serve to guide the policies relating to population redistribution, with special emphasis on planned and equitable regional development, the search for a more equitable way of distributing wealth among all the social groups and regions, the incorporation of alternatives to the existing modes of urban and rural life by strengthening small and medium-sized towns, the socio-economic enhancement of the rural environment through integral development, and the provision of basic social services in both urban and rural environments, so as to give the entire population access to them;

(k) That in order to integrate population policies in development strategies and plans effectively and concretely, there should be increased training of specialized manpower in the study of and research into the way in which population dynamics relate to economic, social and cultural development, and also in information relating to population;

(l) That an effort should be made to ensure that human, material and technological resources are put to better and more effective use through the exchange of experience of professionals and experts, particularly among Latin American countries, regarding strategies relating to spatial distribution of the population, migration, nutrition, health, education, rural development, industrial development and other components of economic and social development, in accordance with the capabilities and requirements of the countries of the region. At the request of these countries the organizations of the United Nations system and other international bodies will lend them their full support so that this kind of action can be put into practice;

(m) That within the United Nations system, the regional bodies, in particular those directly involved with population, should strengthen the work being done in this field, especially with regard to the inputs needed to formulate population policies, namely, information, research and training, so as to secure the actual integration of population policies into the global framework of development policies and also to assist in the review and appraisal of population plans of action;

(n) That consideration should be given to ways of strengthening research and studies aimed at putting into practice the principles which emerge from international meetings, such as the principle of incorporating demographic variables into economic and social planning.

Annex IV

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION

(Lima, 29 March-6 April 1984)

Resolution 463 (XX). Strengthening of the United Nations Fund for
Population Activities

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population, 1984 regarding the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/1984/28/Add.1, annex I), especially recommendation 80,

Reiterating the need to strengthen the United Nations Fund for Population Activities so that it can give more effective financial and technical assistance to the countries of the region,

1. Recognizes the very important collaboration of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in supporting the efforts of the countries of the region in the field of population;

2. Urges Governments and donor agencies, in view of the fact that the demand for greater financial assistance in the field of population exceeds the existing resources of the Fund, to increase their contributions to the Fund so that it can respond more adequately to the growing assistance needs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to give this recommendation prompt and fitting consideration.

Annex V

KILIMANJARO PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN POPULATION AND
SELF-RELIANT DEVELOPMENT*

PREAMBLE

The Second African Population Conference,

Reviewing the demographic situation in African countries since the first Conference in Accra in 1971,

Reviewing progress made by African Governments in improving knowledge of the populations of the African continent,

Reviewing progress made individually and collectively by African Governments in attaining the goals and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, adopted in Bucharest in 1974,

Recognizing the tremendous efforts made by Governments of the region to respond to the development needs of the African people,

Addressing itself to population problems currently affecting development in the African region,

Noting with gratification the individual and collective will and commitment of African Governments to the strategy of self-reliant development as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos and reiterated in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 1983,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment of African Governments to the objectives and goals of the Alma-Ata Declaration (on primary health care) as demonstrated in national health policies and programmes,

Recognizing the extensive efforts being made since Bucharest to encourage policy makers, planners and researchers in the integration of population and development,

Noting with appreciation international, regional, interregional and national efforts to promote demographic training and research in the region,

Noting with satisfaction the growing interest of African Governments in establishing national institutional frameworks for more effective integration of population in national development planning,

* E/ECA/CM.10/14, annex II, adopted by the Second African Population Conference and endorsed by the Economic Commission for Africa at its nineteenth session (Conakry, Guinea, 26-30 April 1984).

Emphasizing that all African population problems will not be completely solved until apartheid is abolished from South Africa and Namibia is liberated,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in enhancing the status of women and integrating them in the process of national development,

Recognizing the very significant contributions in financial, material and human resources of Governments, donor agencies and particularly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and governmental and non-governmental organizations providing support for population programmes in African countries,

Mindful of the cultural, religious, political, ethnic, demographic, geographical and socio-economic diversities of African countries, member States of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Mindful that, despite current diversities in national perception of population problems, member and associate member States of the Commission share certain common concerns about population and development in the region,

Stressing that disarmament, the maintenance of peace and international co-operation and commitment to peace are fundamental conditions for achieving economic and social development,

Committed to the ideal of more equitable distribution of resources at the national and international levels,

Advocating closer co-operation and collaboration among Governments in their efforts to find lasting and appropriate solutions to population problems of high mortality and fertility, uneven population distribution, poverty, disease, malnutrition and refugees,

Reaffirming its collective commitment to accelerate self-reliant, social and economic development for the well-being of African peoples,

Noting with great concern the rapid rate of population growth in recent years and the stresses and strains which this increasingly imposes on the development efforts of African Governments and on the meagre resources at their disposal,

Noting that all couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so,

Noting further with concern the serious and worsening food situation as well as the devastating effects of natural and man-made disasters,

Adopts the following Programme of Action for African Population and Self-reliant Development:

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Second African Population Conference, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and financially supported by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), was convened at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 9 to 13 January 1984. The Conference reviewed progress so far achieved in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted in Bucharest in 1974 and the recommendations of the Regional Post-World Population Conference Consultation held at Lusaka, in April 1975 and identified actions to be taken in the future.
2. The Conference reviewed conclusions and recommendations of previous population meetings organized in the region and their impact on the development of population work in Africa and the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.
3. In conducting those reviews the Conference assessed, inter alia, the demographic situation in Africa and future trends, progress achieved in conducting population censuses and surveys in African countries, the formulation of national population policies in the context of national development plans and strategies, the formulation and implementation of national population programmes for integrated rural development, reduction in mortality and fertility levels and enhancing women's status in development.
4. In its assessment of the demographic situation of the African region and future trends, the Conference observed that the African population of about 439 million was likely to double by 2010. Although the continent's population remained a small percentage of world population, the current high levels of fertility and mortality give rise to great concern about the region's ability to maintain even the living standards already attained since independence.
5. The Conference noted the great variation in population and distribution patterns both within each country and between countries, and expressed concern about the rapid rate of urbanization which contributes to rising urban problems in the region.
6. The rapid increase in urban populations demands careful and balanced socio-economic planning which will attain the goals set out in the Lagos Plan of Action for an integrated and self-reliant development strategy for both the rural and urban economies.
7. High population growth rates in African countries in the last quarter of a century have resulted in a relatively young population. Thus over half the population of Africa is less than 20 years old. This fact has far-reaching social, economic and demographic implications for the future development of the continent.
8. The drought and refugee problems which have plagued many countries in the region have exacerbated the recurrent food problems, and imposed obstacles in national efforts to improve living conditions and reduce mortality.

9. Improved knowledge of the demographic situation in the region during the 1970s, thanks to the African Census and the World Fertility Survey programmes, as well as other demographic surveys, has shown that the current population will increase considerably by the end of the century. Recognition of this trend has spurred many Governments to address themselves to policy and programme issues related to family planning in the context of maternal and child health programmes, population settlement projects and the greater integration of population variables in development planning.
10. Experience among most countries in the region has demonstrated that reductions in fertility and mortality are likely to be achieved when relevant programmes are formulated and implemented as an integral part of an overall process of social and economic development. The implementation of such programmes should give due consideration to the specific cultural, ethnic and religious values of each country.
11. Africa is a region with the most diversified demographic situation in the world. Africa as a whole presents very distinct characteristics and patterns relative to other regions of the world.
12. In the light of this analysis, the Conference adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-reliant Development.

II. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

A. Principles

13. The Kilimanjaro Programme of Action is based on the following principles:
- (a) Population should be considered as a central issue in development strategies and plans;
 - (b) Population and development are interrelated;
 - (c) The right and responsibility of every country to tackle its population problems should be recognized;
 - (d) The formulation and implementation of population programmes should exploit the commitment of African Governments to self-reliant development and regional, interregional and intercountry collaboration;
 - (e) National population programmes should aim at responding to nationally perceived problems as identified by empirical research findings;
 - (f) International co-operation in the field of population should respect socio-cultural values.

B. Objectives

14. The Programme of Action is directed towards achieving the following objectives:

(a) Improvement in the quality of life in the region requires effective programmes to reduce current high levels of fertility and mortality and alleviate the uneven distribution of population;

(b) Provision of programmes that will respond to the needs of sterile and sub-fecund couples;

(c) Achievement of population growth rates that are compatible with the desired economic growth and social development goals;

(d) Improvement of living conditions in the rural areas to enhance integrated rural and self-reliant development aimed at stemming current rural to urban migration;

(e) To evolve urbanization policies and programmes aimed at developing medium-sized cities and improving living conditions of the metropolitan areas and capital cities;

(f) To improve and increase national expertise in the population field, especially training, research and programme management and implementation capabilities;

(g) To sustain and develop ongoing efforts in demographic data collection and analysis for economic and social development planning and use of data;

(h) To improve population information exchange for enhancing national interest and international co-operation;

(i) To promote population policies and programmes which enhance the status of women in development;

(j) To promote population policies and programmes which respond to the needs of special groups;

(k) To promote the formulation and implementation of comprehensive population policies which provide lasting solutions to the major problems of high mortality and fertility, uneven population distribution, growing unemployment, stagnation of living standards and unequal income distribution;

(l) To promote policies which enhance and protect the rights and welfare of children.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF ECA,
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND
AGENCIES

A. Governments of member States of ECA

1. Population and development strategy and policy

15. Population should be seen as a central component in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for accelerated socio-economic development plans.
16. National efforts to enhance the use of demographic data in development planning should recognize the interrelated nature of population and development.
17. Greater efforts should be made to create increased awareness of the importance of population in the development process and highlight the need for more education and information on the social and economic consequences of demographic changes on national development strategies in health, education, housing, employment and nutrition.
18. In order to integrate population in the development planning process, Governments are urged to create or strengthen high-level population units which ensure adequate integration of population and development policies and programmes, especially in rural areas.
19. National plans should aim at maximizing the productivity of work by men and women and creating the atmosphere suitable for ensuring balance between population and economic growth.
20. Efforts to integrate population and development should aim at producing a healthier, less dependent and more productive population.
21. National efforts to create greater awareness of the interrelationships between population and development should include the provision of greater information to politicians and policy makers and the public on the dynamics of population change and the impact of such change on current and future development.
22. Greater use should be made of existing information channels and mechanisms for population education and information.
23. Governments should establish effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating strategies for integrating population and development.
24. Population and development policies should seek to develop the cultural values of each country.
25. Population and development policies should in each country seek to attain targets set out in the World Population Plan of Action.

26. The integration of population in development planning should be extended to subregional and district level in each country.
27. Intercountry collaboration in population and development planning should be encouraged in the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action.
28. Countries are requested to introduce legislation on population matters which seek to protect the fundamental individual human rights and which facilitate the achievement of individual and national welfare objectives.
29. Governments are requested to enact appropriate legislation and introduce suitable programmes for protecting the well-being of the aged.
30. Governments should intensify technical co-operation among developing countries to enable them to share expertise and experiences in population activities.

2. Fertility and family planning

31. Governments should take appropriate measures to protect and support the family which is the basic unit of society.
32. Countries should recognize that a substantial decline in infant and childhood mortality is a prerequisite for fertility decline.
33. Countries should recognize the usefulness of family planning and child spacing on the stability and well-being of the family.
34. Countries are urged to incorporate family planning services into maternal and child health services.
35. Special attention should be paid to educating and motivating the population at grass-roots level on the health, social and demographic values of family planning.
36. Wherever possible family planning education should be incorporated in training programmes for women, men and young persons.
37. Governments should ensure the availability and accessibility of family planning services to all couples or individuals seeking such services, free of charge or at subsidized prices.
38. Family planning services should include services to sterile or sub-fecund couples or individuals who want to have children.
39. Governments should allocate adequate resources and appropriate training to family planning personnel to make family planning programmes more responsive to local cultural values and individual couple preferences.
40. National family planning programmes should make available a variety of methods to ensure free and conscious choice by all couples.

41. Governments should consider setting up family planning outlets which include the utilization of existing health facilities and community-based delivery systems in order to reach those communities, couples and individuals who are currently not being served by the conventional delivery systems.

42. Governments should make necessary efforts to improve planning, funding and management for more effective implementation of maternal and child health/family planning programmes through budget and plan linkages, balancing and consolidating existing service capacity, mobilizing additional domestic and external resources, improving cost effectiveness and co-ordinating manpower planning and training strategies for existing services.

43. In view of current low mean ages at first marriage for females, national programmes, especially in education, should aim at raising the age at marriage.

44. Governments should enact legislation which protects the family and the institution of marriage.

3. Morbidity and mortality

45. African countries should intensify national programmes to reduce current high levels of infant, childhood, and maternal morbidity and mortality, especially for mothers and children in the rural areas.

46. Countries should review existing health delivery systems and intensify national health services systems which seek to attain the objectives of the Declaration of Alma-Ata and which ensure maximum community participation in the formulation, organization, delivery and evaluation of such services.

47. Countries should adopt health services systems which respond effectively to the major morbidity causal problems.

48. Countries should take appropriate and prompt action to reduce to the barest minimum the current overdependence on imported technology for the provision of health services. In this light, research in traditional medicine should be intensified.

49. Governments should consider the provision of safe drinking water and improved nutrition as a principal means of reducing current high levels of morbidity and mortality.

50. Governments should ensure equitable distribution and easy accessibility to health care delivery services to all regions of the country.

51. Health policies and programmes should be integrated in other developing sectors such as education, employment and urban, rural and regional planning.

52. Countries should encourage multidisciplinary research in mortality and morbidity and should use the results of such research in policy and programme evaluation and reorientation.

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53. Governments should promote research in infectious, parasitic and respiratory diseases which contributes so much to morbidity and mortality in countries of the region. Such research should focus among other things on the environmental and social conditions that sustain high prevalence of these diseases.

Urbanization and migration

54. Countries should seek to integrate into the overall development planning process a comprehensive urbanization policy which aims, inter alia, at reducing the current high migration to capital cities and other large urban centres, developing regional medium-size towns and ensuring an effective economic interdependence between rural communities and urban centres.

55. Countries should review their development strategies and incorporate into these strategies programmes which will stem the current flow of young people from the rural areas to the urban centres and ensure better living conditions in the rural areas. Measures should also be taken to upgrade living conditions in slum areas of cities.

56. Governments should revitalize rural economies and provide in rural areas socio-economic services which stimulate and sustain balanced and self-reliant development, particularly for handicraft and small-scale agro-industries.

57. Governments should take appropriate measures to protect and assist international migrants and refugees and safeguard their property and respect their culture.

58. Governments should consult each other to find solutions to the refugee problem through the elimination of all forms of foreign, racial and colonial domination.

59. Governments should mount an international information campaign to alert the world on the refugee problem and mobilize additional financial resources for refugee programmes.

60. Countries affected by natural disasters, such as drought and cyclones and acute problems of food shortage, should assess seriously these problems and institute appropriate strategies and policies to combat them.

4. Changing role of women in the development process

61. Countries should recognize the role of women as mothers and workers in all sectors of the economy and provide day-care centres for mothers.

62. Governments should ensure that rural populations have easy access to modern agricultural technology and equal opportunities to use credit and other resource-generating facilities.

63. Governments should recognize the importance and changing role of women as mothers and workers in all sectors of the economy.

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64. Governments should pursue more aggressively action programmes aimed at improving and protecting the legal rights and status of women.
65. Governments should introduce programmes designed to reduce the heavy burden of rural women. Such programmes should include the introduction of labour-saving technology in agriculture, industry and domestic work.
66. Countries which have not done so should introduce programmes that will guarantee equal opportunity between the sexes in education, employment, housing and business.
67. Governments should strengthen national research institutions which study problems related to the integration of women in the process of development and enact appropriate legislation.
68. Governments should promote education for women especially and provide special population education and information programmes in the areas of fertility, mortality and high-risk pregnancies.
69. Special studies should be undertaken to rid African societies of traditional practices which are detrimental to women's economic, social and cultural advancement.
70. Governments which have not so far signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women are urged to do so.
71. Governments should strengthen programmes designed to foster women's economic independence. Such programmes should facilitate access to credit for women, especially those in rural areas.
72. Governments should take measures to improve information on women which will reflect their real contribution to economic development.

5. Children and youth

73. Governments should expand educational and vocational training facilities which will provide for the youth of both sexes better preparation for an economically more active life.
74. Governments should develop special programmes for the high number of school drop-outs who contribute to high unemployment and rising delinquency and crimes in urban and rural areas. Continuing programmes for these groups should focus on practical and technical training that provide ample opportunities for gainful employment.
75. Governments should institute viable programmes to reduce infant and childhood mortality and improve the conditions of children and youth, especially in rural areas.

76. Governments are urged to celebrate International Youth Year in order to highlight problems of youth and seek solutions for them in compliance with the designation by the United Nations of 1985 as International Youth Year.

77. Population and family life education should be incorporated into formal and vocational training to assist young people to prepare themselves for responsible parenthood.

78. Governments are urged to introduce appropriate legislation to help improve the rights of children and thereby help to control all forms of child exploitation, neglect and abuse.

79. Programmes developed to meet the needs of the youth should take cognizance of the dominance of this group in the total population and provide adequate resources to provide opportunities to the majority of this group.

6. Population data collection, analysis, training and research

80. African Governments should conduct population census programmes regularly, at least once every 10 years.

81. Governments are requested to give priority attention to all preparatory census activities so as to avoid problems of controversy over census results.

82. Governments should devote greater effort to achieving fuller and more timely analysis and interpretation of census and survey data for economic and social development planning.

83. Governments should consider as an area of priority the improvement of vital registration systems and the introduction of innovations in the collection systems which ensure total coverage of the population in the shortest possible time. Measures should be taken to ensure timely processing and analysis of those data.

84. Governments are urged to intensify their efforts to process, analyse and utilize health statistics for planning and programme implementation.

85. Particular efforts should be made at the national level to improve the compilation, processing, analysis and utilization of statistics from the service delivery systems and other population programmes.

86. Governments should encourage, support and utilize research on population and development and should seek to strengthen national capabilities in those areas by utilizing available training facilities in the region and elsewhere for manpower development.

87. Governments are invited to give sufficient financial, material and moral support to the regional and interregional demographic training institutes to enable them to carry out their duties efficiently.

88. Governments should conduct periodic training workshops in the use of demographic data on specific aspects of population for planners, policy makers, research experts and population programme officers.

89. Governments should promote and encourage all demographic research work to reflect areas of national concern.

90. Particular efforts should be made to intensify social and action-oriented research in countries of the region.

91. Governments should ensure the integration of national experts on population in national agencies responsible for formulating, implementing and evaluating population and development policies, programmes and projects.

7. Population information

92. Countries should develop appropriate mechanisms for disseminating available demographic data to researchers, policy makers, project officers and the general public. Countries should ensure that available demographic data are summarized and presented in forms that are easily understood by all sections of the population. Countries should strive to set up population information networks which provide an empirical base for project formulation, implementation and evaluation.

93. Countries should give priority attention to training experts in population information and dissemination. Population information dissemination activities should use all channels of communication available to reach a majority of the population effectively.

94. Countries should ensure adequate and prompt dissemination of the results of population research undertaken in each country.

95. Governments are urged to establish appropriate machinery for sex education and information dissemination programme.

8. Community involvement and role of private and non-governmental organizations

96. Governments are urged to give due recognition and support to the contribution of private and non-governmental organizations participating in population activities in their respective countries.

97. Governments should provide guidance to such bodies to ensure that the latter's activities respond to the priority problems of the community.

98. Countries should encourage greater community participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population programmes.

B. International organizations

Regional and subregional organizations

99. Organizations of the United Nations system, especially UNFPA which plays an important role in supporting population programme in Africa, as well as other international, regional and subregional organizations concerned with population questions, are urged to assist Governments, at their request, in the implementation of this African Programme of Action.

100. The Conference urges that the responsibilities of UNFPA regarding promotion, implementation and co-ordination of population programmes be strengthened further, so as to ensure a more effective and efficient delivery of population assistance in Africa.

101. The ECA secretariat, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies are called upon to continue the programme of assisting African Governments in the collection, processing and analysis of population data. They should also provide assistance to member States in the formulation of population policies and programmes, population information activities and the integration of population variables in development as outlined in the present Programme of Action.

102. The ECA secretariat and UNFPA should expand their services of middle-level training to African countries especially where demographic expertise is particularly lacking.

103. Regional and subregional organizations within the United Nations family should collaborate more closely with ECA in the implementation of the present Programme of Action in a manner that reduces duplication of efforts.

C. Donor Governments and agencies

104. Governments and donor agencies are urged to provide more resources to UNFPA to enable it to provide increased support to national Governments and to organizations of the United Nations system working in the field of population in Africa.

105. Donor Governments and agencies are urged to continue to provide increased financial and technical support to African countries in their population programmes in the context of their material needs and priorities.

106. Donor Governments and agencies are requested to be more flexible and timely in the allocation and management of bilateral and multilateral assistance in population.

107. Donor countries and agencies should increase their collaboration with each other in countries of the region.

Annex VI

AMMAN DECLARATION ON POPULATION IN THE ARAB WORLD*

INTRODUCTION

Like the countries of the third world, the Arab countries were subjected to exploitation and suffered from various manifestations of backwardness as a result of foreign domination. Since attaining independence, the countries of the Arab world have diligently attempted to remedy the adverse effects of the colonial era on their socio-economic structure and to bring about a cultural revival with a view to meeting the basic requirements of socio-economic development, enabling the Arab people to take part in shaping the present and future destiny of their countries, and contributing to the endeavour made by the international community in its quest for peace, progress and prosperity.

In its efforts to achieve this goal, the Arab world is experiencing socio-economic changes and facing challenges and danger which make it necessary to mobilize the endeavours, capabilities and potential of society and to satisfy the basic needs of the population.

In this context, the population question constitutes a primary factor the dimensions of which are determined by those challenges and dangers. During the past three decades, the Arab region has undergone tremendous demographic changes manifested in various forms including remarkable population growth. The population of the Arab world increased from about 132 million in 1974 to about 180 million in 1984 and this figure is expected to rise to over 250 million by the end of the century.

As a result of this rapid and continuous increase in the population, it was imperative to formulate appropriate plans and policies to meet their basic human needs in regard to employment opportunities, education, health, food and public utilities. The region has also witnessed a huge wave of manpower migration among its various countries and also to countries outside the region. Consequently, the population question is closely linked to the economic and social aspects of development issues and requirements in their global context.

With a view to approaching the population question within the framework of interrelated national development implications, the Arab Governments welcomed the convening of the World Population Conference, to be held in Mexico in August 1984 and, in preparation therefor, sent delegations to the Regional Population Conference in the Arab World at Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 25 to 29 March 1984.

* E/ECWA/POP/CONF.5/15; endorsed by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its eleventh session (Baghdad, 22-26 April 1984).

On the basis of the principles, objectives and guidelines formulated at the Regional Population Conference in the Arab World in connection with the population question, the delegations of the participating Arab States hereby issue the following declaration:

PREAMBLE

The Regional Population Conference in the Arab World,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of Arab Economic Action promulgated at the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference, held at Amman in 1980, by the Arab Kings and Heads of State who expressed therein their conviction that the Arab people were both the instrument and the objective of development,

Committed to the Charter of the League of Arab States and the statutes of its specialized organizations and councils, as well as by the principles, objectives and policies set forth in Arab conventions and sectoral strategies,

Mindful of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of its specialized agencies and regional commissions aimed at promoting humanitarian causes, guaranteeing human freedoms and needs, and fulfilling the basic requirements and conditions for a better life for mankind as a whole,

Affirming the Arab responsibility for the achievement of overall Arab development, collective self-reliance, the enhancement of productivity and the satisfaction of the social, material and spiritual needs of the Arab people,

Aware of the effects of international economic relations on overall development in the Arab countries, of the importance of population size in freeing those relations from dependence, and of the consequent emphatic need for socio-economic integration in the Arab world,

Recognizing the magnitude of the challenges and dangers facing the Arab nation as a result of fragmentation, dependence, and the ruthless colonial attacks, expansion ambitions and forced migrations in which the Zionist entity is engaged,

Confident of the ability of the Arab people to overcome those challenges and dangers once the appropriate requirements are fulfilled for their active and effective participation in development endeavours,

Emphasizing that efforts to fulfil those requirements necessitate a comprehensive review of development strategies and past achievements and, in particular, an appraisal of the human development endeavours and population situations and policies in the countries of the Arab world,

Considering that, in spite of the efforts made, the achievements of the past decade with regard to population policies and human development in the Arab world have fallen short of the aspirations expressed in the objectives established by the World Population Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974,

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Convinced that the many new circumstances and changes observed in the countries of the Arab world during the past 10 years make it necessary to consider the formulation of an Arab plan of action for population policies in the coming decade,

Conscious of the fact that, notwithstanding the disparities between population policy priorities in the countries of the Arab world, there is an imperative need for the formulation of a clearly defined Arab population policy to ensure the optimum utilization and distribution of human resources within the context of a comprehensive and integrated development strategy,

Taking into account the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974, and the achievements made in the Arab world,

1. Establishes general principles for population policies;
2. Defines future objectives for action in the light thereof;
3. Submits recommendations conducive to the achievement of those objectives and to the fulfilment of their requirement as regards programmes, projects and means.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The improvement of the human condition is the starting point for development endeavours aimed at the achievement of a high standard of social well-being in the Arab world.
2. Since the family is the basic nuclear unit of society, all appropriate measures should be taken to preserve its integrity, to protect its values and cohesion, to ensure the proper upbringing of its children and to provide its members with opportunities for a decent life.
3. An integrated approach to the population question requires consideration of its various dimensions such as size, growth rates, geographical distribution and population characteristics. This approach must take full cognizance of the fact that those four population dimensions are interdependent and, consequently, should not be treated separately as isolated aspects in any population policy since they are all influenced by the processes of reproduction, mortality and internal and external migration.
4. The population question is closely interrelated to socio-economic issues, the cultural milieu and development endeavours. Population variables are determined in response to a broader social environment. The prevailing socio-economic and cultural circumstances condition the manner in which individuals view the principal demographic processes and, consequently, determine population dimensions. Population variables in turn influence the social environment at the country, national and global levels.

5. As a result of the diversity of demographic features and the varying relationship between population and the socio-economic situation in the Arab world, the population problem is regarded in a different light in each Arab country. This accounts for the variety of population policies in the countries of the Arab world at the present stage, although it is hoped to reconcile these policies within the framework of a comprehensive Arab concept of population policy.

6. In view of the differing circumstances in the Arab countries, emphasis should not be placed on family planning programmes as the sole means to reduce population growth throughout the Arab world, nor should such programmes be regarded as the corner-stone for the formulation of a population policy to be implemented in conjunction with policies required for socio-economic development.

7. Arab countries which adopt a policy of reducing population growth rates as a means to alleviate constraints on development may formulate socio-economic policies designed to reduce reproduction rates by, inter alia, encouraging family planning. However, the optimum degree of success achievable by family planning programmes in the reduction of reproduction rates will be determined by the relevant socio-economic circumstances which condition the reproductive behaviour of couples. The creation of circumstances favourable to the reduction of birth rates to the levels desired in some Arab countries will remain subject to the progress of development efforts in enhanced forms and at higher levels than those currently prevailing and in a manner that transcends their mere linear extension into the future.

8. The practice of birth control by couples is a human right guaranteed by international covenants. Family planning also has a clearly beneficial effect on the health of the mother and family life. The Arab countries should endeavour to safeguard this right by providing facilities for the dissemination of knowledge and effective means for the practice of family planning on the basis of free choice. However, the extent to which this right may be exercised will remain dependent, as in the case of other human rights, on the type of the desired development and the extent of accomplishments achieved in the countries of the Arab world.

9. The acute population problems in the countries of the Arab world may be mitigated or completely eliminated if they are tackled from a pan-Arab standpoint through the formulation of an Arab population policy based on current circumstances and aimed at solving the population problems of individual countries within general development in a pan-Arab context. Such a policy would constitute a pan-Arab framework for the population policies of individual Arab countries.

10. Comprehensive Arab development depends on the attainment of appropriate levels of economic growth and social progress, including a steady and sustained increase in production and productive capabilities through optimum utilization of material and human resources, in a manner consistent with country and pan-Arab objectives, with a view to the achievement of equitable distribution, the provision of employment opportunities and the satisfaction of the basic needs of the Arab people.

11. The effective tackling of current population problems in the Arab world through sustained development requires an effort to achieve liberation from

dependence on the industrialized countries and from the burden of exploitation to which the region is subjected by international monopolistic forces. Consequently, the Arab world needs to adopt a strategy of collective self-reliance and to co-operate closely with the countries of the third world in order to resist the proclivity towards dependence on transnational corporations and international financial cartels.

12. The industrialized countries should adopt policies aimed at the achievement of better formulae for the improvement of equilibrium between the size of the population and the resources of this planet by reducing their enormous expenditure on armaments and curtailing their excessive and wasteful consumption of the resources of the entire world. Such measures would be of greater efficacy with regard to the conservation of resources, the preservation of the environment and the achievement of a higher standard of well-being for all of mankind than a call for the reduction of population growth in the third world.

II. OBJECTIVES

13. The formulation of an integrated Arab population policy to serve as a framework for country population policies, and the establishment of measures for its implementation in order to:

(a) Counteract the methods used by the Zionist entity to force Arabs to emigrate from the occupied territories;

(b) Regulate the movement of manpower among the Arab countries in such a way as to increase the development benefit for both the Arab country of origin and the Arab host country and to give priority to Arab labour in the Arab labour-receiving countries;

(c) Achieve a better long-term distribution of population among the Arab countries in order to maximize development potential in the Arab world through the integration of human and natural resources in a manner conducive to the achievement of Arab security.

14. The formulation and implementation of integrated population policies in the countries of the Arab world within the context of development and of the Arab population policy with a view to:

(a) The achievement of appropriate population growth rates, which implies birth rates consistent with the desired growth rates, in conjunction with the maximum possible reduction of mortality rates, particularly with regard to infants and children;

(b) The achievement of a geographical distribution of population in keeping with development requirements through the curtailment of urban growth, particularly in the poverty belts surrounding cities, the reduction of migration from rural and small urban areas to the major urban agglomerations, and the development of human settlements in uninhabited areas, and in new residential localities possessing economic production centres and social service institutions;

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(c) The regulation of migration for permanent settlement in the countries of the Arab world in a manner consistent with the Arab population policy.

15. The assignment of special priority to the improvement of population characteristics within the general framework of population policy and development imperatives, and the adoption of measures to ensure the enjoyment by the population of the basic level of food security, particularly as regards strategic food supplies, to achieve a better distribution of incomes and to provide the commodities and public services needed to improve the standard of living of the productive and underprivileged population.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

16. In the light of the principles contained in the present Declaration, and with a view to the achievement of the objectives set forth in it, Arab Governments are invited to act in accordance with the guidelines set out below.

A. Development strategies and population policies

17. Adoption of the principle of comprehensive planning based on a clear conception of population policy and of the manner in which socio-economic conditions and cultural factors might affect the course of a given population system and in which that system might affect the structure of those conditions.

18. Planning designed to meet the basic needs in respect of employment, education, health, food, housing, clothing and social security by the year 2000 and the pursuit, in each of these sectors, of a demographic course of action conducive to the achievement of the objectives of an integrated population policy and the provision of an appropriate minimum level of family income.

19. Fulfilment of the basic requirements needed to enable the Arab people to manifest their productivity and creativity by ensuring opportunities for popular participation in development endeavours, promoting individual and public freedoms and the interlinking of rights and obligations.

20. The creation of conditions and possibilities conducive to the advancement of women and the promotion of their effective participation in development endeavours by, inter alia:

(a) Increasing the contribution of women with regard to work in societal activities at all administrative levels and in all technical fields in order to promote equality between men and women and, at the same time, secure the conditions and services needed to enhance this contribution;

(b) Furthering the economic potential of women by according them special consideration with regard to education, training, eradication of illiteracy, and employment opportunities in the formal and non-formal sectors of the economy;

(c) Encouraging participation by women in all aspects of public life, including their participation at decision-making and executive levels.

21. Adoption of the principle of efficiency manifested in maximizing production, and the principle of social justice when formulating and implementing development plans in such a way as to improve productivity and give priority to the distribution of the benefits of development among all social categories, ensuring a greater share thereof for the less privileged groups.

22. Assignment of priority to integrated development, including the improvement of methods of production, the improvement of basic services, stabilization of the rural population in their areas of residence, equitable distribution of national income, the linking of industrialization strategies to agricultural development and the adoption of appropriate forms of manpower utilization in application of the principle of full employment of the labour force.

23. Rational utilization of natural resources and allocation of their proceeds to the development process with a view to ensuring appropriate standards of living for future generations and safeguarding their rights to the benefits accruing from those resources.

24. Adoption of measures to regulate the movement of manpower and capital among the countries of the Arab world in such a way as to increase the benefits resulting from Arab development endeavours.

25. Promotion of co-operation with the countries of the third world and continuation of the dialogue with the industrialized countries in all fields of development, including the population field in its broad sense, with a view to establishing a new international division of labour and an equitable international economic order.

B. The components of population policy

1. Reproduction

26. Creation of a favourable socio-economic environment for the achievement of birth rates consistent with the desired population growth rates through development endeavours and the pursuit of general policies designed to guide the reproductive behaviour of couples.

27. The formulation, by Arab Governments wishing to reduce fertility rates, of population guidelines for their development plans with a view to encouraging couples to have a small number of children by expanding education, enhancing the status of women, increasing the participation of women in organized economic activity, reducing infant mortality rates, providing social security and making family planning services accessible to couples wishing to avail themselves of them.

2. Mortality

28. Provision of health services for all citizens in keeping with the principle of health for all by the year 2000, with emphasis on preventive as well as curative health services, supply of suitable food and potable water, and creation of a favourable environment for healthy human development, with a view to ensuring that citizens enjoy a longer life expectancy at birth.

29. The granting of special priority to the provision of primary health care services in remote areas and for poorer social groups lacking such services.

30. Provision of food and health care for pregnant women, and encouraging mothers to adopt the natural method of breast feeding due to its beneficial effect on the health of both mother and child.

31. Dissemination of education and health awareness among the various groups of the population, particularly in rural areas and poorer urban districts, as an important contribution towards primary health care, using all educational and information facilities to that end.

32. Devotion of a special effort to the eradication of contagious and endemic diseases and to the promotion of theoretical and applied research in this connection.

3. Internal migration and geographical distribution

33. Diffusion of production locations in areas far removed from present centres of human agglomeration, within the framework of regional provincial planning and with a view in the long run to a better distribution of the population throughout the geographical territory of the Arab countries.

34. Furtherance of integrated rural development with a view to achieving population stability.

35. Improvement of the production and human settlement potential of small and medium-sized urban centres in order to endow them with the socio-economic vitality needed to retain and expand their population.

36. Establishment of new, carefully planned centres of human settlement with a view to integrating productive and social activities and setting up new projects in currently unpopulated areas in order to reduce population density.

4. External migration

37. Seeking measures to safeguard the rights and welfare of Arab migrant workers in the industrialized countries, especially the second generation of such workers, and to facilitate the integration of returning workers into their home countries or in the other parts of the Arab world.

38. Submission of claims for appropriate compensation from the industrialized countries in respect of the migration of skilled Arab manpower to work in those countries, and arresting this brain-drain by providing such manpower with genuine opportunities for integration and participation in development in the Arab world.

39. Creation of conditions under which Arab migrant workers would be given preference over their foreign counterparts with regard to employment in the Arab countries and would be integrated into the socio-economic activity of those countries, thereby increasing their contribution to development in the host countries.

C. Data, research, the exchange of information and training

40. Collection, classification, analysis and dissemination of the statistical data needed for the planning and evaluation of population policies and programmes at specified periodic intervals.

41. Consolidation and strengthening of public census and civil registration systems, organization of sample surveys, and conduct of in-depth studies which are beyond the capabilities of the traditional sources of population data.

42. Compilation of statistics on migration and their dissemination among the Arab countries in order to facilitate human exchanges.

43. Standardization of statistical terminology in the Arabic language and of the timing of census operations and endeavours to introduce uniform statistical classifications.

44. Strengthening the role of the Arab Employment Agency in its endeavours to establish a network for the supply of information on Arab labour markets to help in the study of the factors of supply and demand with a view to facilitating and regulating manpower movements in the Arab region.

45. Ensuring the availability of all the technical resources and skills needed for the analysis of demographic data and the conduct of statistical surveys.

46. Intensification of efforts to train specialists at all levels in the collection and analysis of demographic data, and strengthening the role of Arab institutions and organizations in this respect.

47. Promotion of research work in the social sciences linking demography with other fields of scientific knowledge in order to ensure a better understanding of the function of the population factor within the totality of the socio-economic context and to derive the optimum benefit therefrom for the formulation of population policies within the framework of development plans.

48. Encouragement of scientific institutions specialized in population studies to disseminate their research and survey work through the issue of special publications and periodic bulletins and the provision of the necessary facilities for the exchange of such research and survey work.

49. Promotion of the exchange of expertise and visits among persons responsible for research, training and programmes related to population activities in the Arab countries.

50. Inclusion of population education in the curricula of schools, teacher-training institutions and programmes for the eradication of illiteracy, and utilization of the information media to disseminate the requisite population knowledge in order to increase levels of awareness by making use of the results of research and studies.

51. Emphasis should be placed on the role of the Arab funds in financing country and regional projects relating to population studies and activities within the framework of development plans and joint Arab action, and in supporting institutions engaged in research and training in statistics and population planning.

52. An Arab labour compensatory fund should be established in the manpower-exporting countries for the purpose of promoting Arab co-operation in the use of resources and as a first step towards the establishment of a similar international fund. Its functions would include payment of the cost of manpower substitution, study of the social consequences and effects of migration on migrants and their families and the proposal of methods to facilitate their reintegration on returning to their home countries. The Arab countries should be urged to submit a proposal concerning the establishment of the international fund to the International Conference on Population at Mexico City.

53. Arab regional organizations should be requested to collect data and publish statistics and surveys appraising the demographic situation in the sectors falling within their fields of technical specialization in order to help in the formulation of policies, the selection of regional projects, the dissemination of knowledge of population statistics and the provision of the information needed by research workers.

D. International co-operation

54. It is hoped that international co-operation, within the framework of the United Nations, will continue to provide technical and financial assistance for population activities which further the development endeavours of Member States, and that such co-operation will also continue to promote the exchange of expertise and information among developing countries.

55. Support should be given to the important role played by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in order to enable it to effectively discharge its task of providing assistance in the broad field of population policies, programmes and projects. In the light of the needs resulting from the manifold nature of the dimensions, development requirements and causes of the population question, there is an imperative need to expand the functions and responsibilities of UNFPA to enable it to meet the increasing number of requests from Governments and organizations for assistance in their population policies and programmes and in improving the level of awareness and understanding of population

issues in the development context. Accordingly, the United Nations is called upon to take appropriate measures and early follow-up action to this end. States Members of the United Nations are invited to contribute financially to UNFPA in a manner commensurate with the increasing needs of population projects.

56. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities is called upon:

(a) To co-operate further with the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the secretariat of the League of Arab States in support of their ongoing endeavours to implement regional programmes and projects in the field of population activities;

(b) To expand and develop programmes of technical co-operation with the Arab countries, especially with the least developed among them, in order to help them to tackle their population problems, control the causes of those problems and implement their programmes and projects in this respect.

57. Countries providing Israel with support and assistance are called upon to halt such assistance forthwith in view of its highly detrimental effects on the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories since it is enabling the Israeli authorities to further expropriate Arab lands, establish Israeli settlement thereon and exert constant pressure on the Arab population with the intention of rendering their lives more difficult, of reducing their employment opportunities and forcing them to emigrate, thereby altering the demographic character of the occupied Arab territories, including the city of Jerusalem.

58. The industrialized countries are urged to reduce their enormous expenditure on armaments and to reach early agreement on issues relating to disarmament. They are also urged to avert the spread of international conflicts to the Arab region and to provide increased aid to meet the requirements of development and population programmes in the developing countries.
