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POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

## INTRODUCTION

1. Existing knowledge on the effects of rapid population increase on economic growth stresses the dependency burden which a young population associated with high fertility puts on development budgets. Beyond reducing the proportion of workers in the population, high dependency and rapid population growth bring difficulties in increasing provision of such social services as education, health and housing and in overcoming unequal income distribution. Against these disadvantages are weighed the beneficial effects of a rapid renewal of the work-force, investments and innovations stimulated by population pressure, and the expansion of internal markets. But these advantages depend as much on the quality of the population as on numerical increase.
2. The various estimates of the population of Africa indicate that prior to 1900, the annual growth rate of the population was less than 0.1 per cent; it was 1.2 per cent during the 1900-1950 period; 2.5 per cent during the 1950-1970 period; and 3.0 per cent by 1980-1985. Thus recent demographic trends in Africa are characterized by unprecedented growth rates and associated youthful age compositions that imply continuing rapid growth for at least several decades. And yet up to the mid-1970s these rapid population growth rates were viewed as a problem to be solved by government action in only very few African States. Ironically, that situation is reversed today. For the first time in history, African Governments view their populations as growing too fast. At the second African Population Conference held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania and the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984, these governments contended that population growth rates should be compatible with desired economic growth and social development goals.
3. It will be recalled that at the time of the first African Population Conference in 1971, the annual rate of population growth of Africa then estimated as 2.8 per cent was at par with that of South-East Asia and Latin America.<sup>1/</sup> With the anticipated decline in mortality which was not being accompanied by any significant decline in fertility, the African population growth rate was expected to increase slowly; the rate was expected to reach 3.0 per cent at the end of the 1970-1980 decade. The view at the time was that only in the decade of the 1990s would the anticipated fertility decline be larger than the mortality decline and the annual growth rate would gradually fall back to a value of 2.8 per cent by the end of the century. The inference was then made that if the assumptions of the projections turned out to be true, Africa would within a few years have the highest rate of population growth among all the major areas of the world and would remain in that position from about 1980 onwards, perhaps well into the twenty-first century.
4. This paper is addressed to the growing concern about the future of the African region as depicted by disturbing projections of African population trends during the period 1984-2025. The paper attempts to integrate this longer-term concern with, and provide greater support for, immediate development priorities, including the priority of spelling out more viable population policies than are currently applied in the various countries of the region. The current demographic situation in the region is reviewed as a prelude to examining the implications of future trends in the

the regional population in the light of two sets of assumptions -- one in which the present trends in the growth components continue and a second in which measures are taken to influence future trends in these growth components. The policies for effecting such measures are then reviewed within the framework of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action

## I. THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION AS AT MID-1984

5. The estimated total population of independent Africa was about 500 million as at mid-1984; that was approximately 10 per cent of the world's estimated population at the time. About a decade ago, the corresponding estimate was about 336 million or about 9 per cent of the world's population. Thus since the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, the size of African population has increased by about 134 million or about 14 million every year. The associated growth components for the region as well as subregional variations are summarized in table 1. The annual growth rate of 3.0 per cent for the 1980-1985 period implies a doubling potential of the regional population of about 23 years.

6. By mid-1984, the total urban population in the ECA member States was estimated at about 32 per cent of the total population of all the member States while about 19 per cent of estimated total population of these member States lived in concentrations of at least 100,000 population. 2/ When both of these proportions are compared to the corresponding estimates for 1974 (24 and 16 per cent respectively), then the fact can be appreciated that rapid changes in the size and proportion of urban population in the region took place during the 1970-1980 decade. Admittedly, there were marked subregional and national variations in both of these estimates. Given the changes in the size and proportion of urban population in the various countries of the region as observed around 1984, available statistics indicate that the region still exhibits an extremely uneven population distribution exemplified by large areas of low population density and small areas of high population density. 3/ By far, the most important of the population distribution problems in these States is the disproportionate concentration of the total urban population in one single metropolitan centre which is usually the capital city. 4/ This problem underlines not only the enclave nature of development and prosperity in the continent but also the pauperization of large areas of the countryside.

7. Between 1970-1975 and 1980-1985, the average family size in the region fell by less than 1 per cent from 6.49 to 6.43 children while the crude death rate fell from an annual average of 19.7 per 1000 population in 1950-1955 to 10.6 in 1980-1985. From the few studies conducted to determine whether natural increase or net migration is the dominant component of urban growth observed in the region, birthplace statistics for African cities tend to support the dominance of natural increase. Overall, high fertility and moderate declines in mortality, particularly infant mortality, are the major factors accounting for the rapid population growth in the region.

## II. FUTURE PROSPECTS

8. If the level of fertility, mortality and net migration used in estimating the demographic indicators for mid-1984 presented in table 1 are allowed to operate on the age-sex structure of the mid-1984 total population without any

Table 1: Estimates of demographic indicators for the ECA region, mid-1984

Demographic indicators	All ECA member States	Subregions				
		Northern	Western	Central	Eastern	Southern <sup>a/</sup>
Total population (millions)	503	121	163	61	155	3
Annual growth rate 1980-1985 (%)	3.0	2.8	3.2	2.7	3.1	2.8
Percentage total, 0-14	44.0	43.0	45.0	42.0	45.0	45.0
Percentage total, 65+	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Dependency burden (%)	89	85	92	85	92	92
Urban population (millions)	165	57	41	23	28	16
Total fertility (per women)	6.2	6.4	6.3	5.7	6.3	6.1
Life expectancy at birth (years)						
- Male	49.0	55.6	46.1	44.8	40.4	49.2
- Female	52.3	58	49.5	48.2	52.8	52.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	112	105	119	125	106	103

Source: Second African Population Conference Papers, vol. 2. (UNECA, Addis Ababa, 1984), pp. 13-37; 1984 Population World Chart (United Nations, New York, 1984)

<sup>a/</sup> Refers to Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

interruption up to the year 2025 (i.e., the constant variant projection assumptions), then the regional demographic indicators estimated for the years 2000 and 2025 would be as follows:

Period	Demographic indicators				
	Total population (millions)	Percentage aged 0-14	Percentage aged 65+	Dependency burden (%)	Urban population (millions)
Mid-2000	888	46.1	3.0	89	377
Mid-2025	2,170	46.1	3.0	89	1,271

The total estimated population of 888 million and 2,170 million for the years 2000 and 2025 respectively would imply an annual growth rate of 3.6 per cent for each of the periods: 1984-2000, 1984-2025 and 2000-2025. At such a growth rate, the mid-1984 total population estimate for the region would virtually double around the end of the century (actually by 2003). Besides the growth rate, the proportions of children aged under 15 years and over 65 as well as the dependency burden for the years 2000 and 2025 will still remain at the high levels observed around mid-1984. Due to an increase in the total population, the urban population for the region will reach 377 million and 1,271 million levels for the years 2000 and 2025 respectively.

9. On the other hand, if measures are taken by each of the African Governments to reduce the 1984 observed levels of fertility, mortality and migration in the course of socio-economic development (i.e., the medium variant projection assumptions), then it is estimated <sup>5/</sup> that the total population will be 827 million and 1,651 million for the years 2000 and 2025 respectively. These and other related demographic indicators are summarized as follows:

Period	Total population (millions)	Percentage aged 0-14	Percentage aged 65+	Dependency burden (%)	Urban population (millions)
Mid-2000	827	45.2	3.0	93	349
Mid-2025	1,651	35.5	3.8	65	910

10. The estimated population under the medium variant projection assumptions for the year 2000 is 7 per cent lower than that of the constant variant projection assumptions; the corresponding estimate for 2025 is about 24 per cent lower. These lower total population estimates imply that the regional population would grow annually at rates of 3.1 per cent, 2.8 per cent and 2.5 per cent during the 1984-2000, 1984-2025 and 2000-2025 periods respectively. In addition, the population proportion aged 0-14 in 2025 will be lower by about eight percentage points relative to the estimate for mid-1984; the aged proportion (65+) will slightly increase; and the dependency burden will reduce considerably from about 89 dependents per 100 active persons in 1984 to 65 dependents per 100 active persons by the

year 2025. The corresponding urban population will be numerically smaller than that expected if present trends in the population growth components were to continue. In other words, if African Governments implement measures that will reduce their present levels of fertility, mortality and migration, then the region as a whole could probably ensure better welfare of its people especially if the economic performance can be put into a much higher growth geared as discussed in an earlier ECA study. 6/

11. The differences in magnitude between the medium and constant variants estimates regarding the total population, the proportion 0-14, the dependency burden and the urban population for the years 2000 and 2025 testify to the desirability of African Governments pursuing policies aimed at effecting declines in their population growth components in the years ahead. It is to be noted, however, that the measures to be discussed in the next section will not necessarily lead to a realization of the projected lower growth rate of the regional population unless and if all things are equal the lower growth rate is likely to materialize if all the medium variant projection assumptions are realized.

12. In this regard it is pertinent to bear in mind that the costs of rapid population growth are cumulative: more births now make the task of slowing population growth later difficult as today's children become tomorrow's parents. On the whole, food supplies and agricultural production are normally greatly increased to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population; this limits the allocation of resources to other economic and social sectors. Since the majority of the in-migrants into the African cities are largely young people, the number of young adults in these cities entering the labour market tends to increase markedly while employment opportunities continue to lag behind the growth of the population. Because the number of people seeking employment is larger than the number of available jobs, unemployment and underemployment are increasingly a menacing problem in these cities.

13. To the extent that an ever-growing number of workers cannot be absorbed in the modern economic sectors of these States, they are forced either into unproductive service occupations or back into the traditional sector with its low productivity and low subsistence wage levels. This large supply of cheap labour tends to hold back technological change, and industrialization is slowed by mass poverty which in turn reduces the demand for manufactured goods. The end results are low saving rates and low labour skills, both of which inhibit the full development and utilization of natural resources in some of the countries. In other countries, the growing population would outrun the levels at which renewable resources could be sustained, and the resource base would deteriorate. Thus widespread poverty, low productivity of labour, the growing demand for food and slow industrialization distort and degrade the international trade of African States with their rapidly growing populations.

14. Political and social conflicts among different ethnic, religious, linguistic and social groups are also likely to be worsened by the rapid population growth in these States. Political and administrative stresses might be increased by the rural-urban migration which is partly caused by this growth, and by increasing demands for governmental services in health, education, welfare and other

functions. Although there is no evidence that rapid population growth is by itself the cause of or even the major contributing factor in violence and aggression, the large proportions of young people, particularly those who will be unemployed or have little hope for a satisfactory future, might form a disruptive and potentially explosive political force. The cost, adequacy and nature of health and welfare services might be affected by rapid population growth in much the same way as are those of educational services. In the individual family, maternal death and illness might be increased by high fertility, early and frequent pregnancies, and the necessity of caring for excessive numbers of children. It should also be noted that the physical and mental development of children are often retarded in large families because of inadequate nutrition and the diseases associated with poverty, and also because the children are deprived of sufficient adult contact. The resulting poor and crowded housing in the urban slums of the rapidly growing cities could also produce further illness and retardation.

15. The point to stress here is that the foregoing consequences of a rapidly growing population are likely to be realized in the African region regardless of whether measures are taken to influence the future trends in the growth components of the regional population. This will be the case because even the lower annual growth rate of 2.8 per cent (1984-2025) is still high. The issue is one of relativity. Under the lower growth rate, however, the severity of these consequences will be less than with the higher growth rate of 3.6. The good news is that Africa's population growth is now worrying many of its governments - a concern reflected in the second African Population Conference held in January 1984 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The Conference called for effective programmes to reduce the future trends of these growth components. The suggested policies for such a reduction are described in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action.<sup>7/</sup>

### III. SUGGESTIONS FOR INFLUENCING THE REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS

16. The second African Population Conference reviewed the 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 Consultation held in Lusaka, Zambia in 1975 and identified actions to be taken in the future in terms of managing the regional population. Such actions which constitute the recommendations adopted by the Conference as the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA), provided the African input to the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and covered (a) population and development strategy and policy; (b) fertility and family planning; (c) morbidity and mortality; (d) urbanization and migration; (e) changing role of women in the development process; (f) children and youth; (g) population data collection, analysis, training and research; (h) population information; and (i) community involvement and role of private and non-governmental organizations.

17. The specific recommendations under each of these areas are contained in the KPA. Regarding population and development strategy, it is suggested that in order to reduce the prevailing rapid growth rate of the regional population, population should be seen by African Governments as a central component in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for accelerated socio-economic

development plans. Greater efforts should be made to create increased awareness of the importance of population in the development process. Equally, greater information should be provided to politicians/policy-makers on the dynamics of population change and its impact on current/future development. Population units should be created in the ministries of planning to ensure adequate integration of population and development policies especially in the rural areas. The current demographic situation could be altered if all African Governments include population programmes as part of their development planning and if they set specific targets for population that will help alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life. In this regard, the KPA stipulates that population and development policies in each of the African States should seek to attain the targets set out in the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA).

18. It will be recalled that the WPPA proposed that (a) by 1985, the African Population annual growth rate should be reduced to about 2.0 per cent, life expectancy at birth should be raised to at least 50 years, infant mortality rate should be lowered to at the most 120 infant deaths per 1000 live births; (b) undesirable consequences of excessive rural-urban migration should be eliminated; (c) voluntary international movements should be facilitated; and (d) when formulating development policies, the implications of changing numbers/proportions of youths, working age groups and the aged, should be taken into account.

19. On the specific issue of African Governments designing policies aimed at reducing existing levels in their critical population growth components, a key consideration should be the goal specification: what rate of change in the population growth rate is anticipated during the plan period; and what are the expected levels in the growth components consistent with overall desired growth rate? Having specified the goal, the cost of such means must then be estimated in both human and material terms. Such policies should have built-in mechanisms for evaluation of performance and should utilize the findings of all available demographic research of national interest, particularly in ascertaining the correlates of fertility and mortality declines. Such analysis should be undertaken regularly as better data become available.

20. Regarding fertility and family planning, the KPA suggests that African Governments should motivate and educate their populations to recognize (a) the health, social and demographic values of family planning; and, (b) that a substantial decline in infant and childhood mortality is a prerequisite for fertility decline. Family planning services should be (a) available and accessible to all desiring couples/individuals at subsidized prices; and (b) incorporated into the maternal and child health services. In order to reduce their levels of fertility, the KPA further stresses that African Governments should ensure reduced infant mortality, increased female education and labour force participation, a more equitable distribution of income and availability of family planning services. It will be recalled that ECOSOC in preparing for the International Conference of Population observed that the experience of countries where family planning is integrated with development planning shows that improvements in the status of women, better health care and availability of and accessibility to



family planning services, reduced infant mortality, improved equity of resource distribution, and population education converge to produce a decline in fertility.<sup>8/</sup>

21. On morbidity and mortality, it is suggested in the KPA that African Governments 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. To effect such reductions, these Governments should implement policies to (a) reduce infant mortality; (b) increase literacy levels and per capita gross national product; (c) ensure equitable distribution and easy accessibility to health care delivery services to all regions of the country; and, (d) promote research in the environmental/social conditions that sustain infectious, parasitic and respiratory diseases.

22. Rural-urban migration, while imposing pressures on already strained urban resources, does not necessarily provide relief for the rural areas of African States many of which are facing severe food shortages requiring the allocation of scarce foreign exchange for imports. It is therefore suggested by the KPA that African States should seek to integrate into the overall development planning process a comprehensive urbanization policy which aims, inter alia, at (a) reducing the current high migration rate to the capital cities and other large urban centres; (b) developing regional medium-sized towns; and, (c) ensuring an effective economic interdependence between rural communities and urban cities. In this context, African Governments should as well mount an international information campaign to alert the world on the refugee problem and mobilize additional financial resources for refugee programmes.

23. The role of women in the development process is an increasingly important phenomenon. The KPA suggests that African Governments should (a) strengthen national research institutions which study problems related to the integration of women in the process of development and enact appropriate legislation; and (b) promote education for women especially and provide special population education and information programmes in the areas of fertility, mortality and high risk pregnancies. The role of women as mothers and workers in all sectors of the economy should be recognized and day-care centres should be provided.

24. In order to assist young people prepare themselves for responsible parenthood, the KPA also suggests that African 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.

25. Regarding population data collection and research, African Governments should continue taking advantage of national and United Nations institutes for demographic training and research in order to increase the potential of nationals from these States in the long-term to perform their data collection and analysis duties. These Governments should (a) undertake regular programmes of conducting population censuses at least once every 10 years; (b) devote greater effort towards more timely analysis, interpretation and integration of findings from census/survey data for economic and social planning; (c) consider as a priority area the improvement of vital registration systems; (d) conduct periodic training workshops for planners, policy-makers, researchers and population programme officers in the use of demographic

data in planning; (e) ensure the involvement of national experts on population in national agencies responsible for formulating, implementing and evaluating of population and development policies; and (f) undertake periodic population projections in the light of improved data quality. Analysis of the implications of these projections should provide useful guides and inputs into the development plans of these States.

26. The collection and analysis of data are necessary but not sufficient criteria for effective socio-economic development planning. African Governments should also develop appropriate mechanisms for disseminating available demographic data to researchers, policy-makers, project officers and the general public. All available demographic data should be summarized and presented in forms easily understood by all sections of the population. Population information networks should be set up to provide an empirical base for project formulation, implementation and evaluation. In this regard, African Governments should encourage greater community participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population programmes.

27. The foregoing recommendations are addressed to the African Governments. The KPA also urges regional and subregional organizations to assist these governments, at their request, the implementation of this African programme of action. Specifically, the KPA calls upon the ECA secretariat, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies to (a) continue the programme of assisting African Governments in the population data collection, processing and analysis; (b) provide assistance to member States in the formulation of population policies and programmes, population information activities and the integration of population variables in development.

28. In the case of ECA, it will be recalled that a Population Programme Centre (PPC) was created in the ECA secretariat in January 1970 and charged with the tasks of (a) creating awareness of the population situation in Africa; (b) helping African Governments to set up offices for handling population problems; (c) training personnel for such offices; and, (d) assisting African Governments, at their request, in the formulation of population policies. In 1976 the PPC became the Population Division of the ECA secretariat. The main functions of the Division include (a) identifying short- and long-term problems relating to all aspects of population and assisting African Governments, at their request, in the formulation and implementation of effective population policies and programmes to deal with these problems as part of their socio-economic development planning; (b) developing, testing and applying demographic research techniques suited to Africa and evaluating the reasons for the observed rapid growth rates of the African population as well as changes in the population structure with a view to assisting African Governments in devising social and economic policies aimed at influencing their population growth rates; (c) assisting African Governments to meet the need for demographers by offering opportunities in all fields of demographic training and research to trainees and researchers.

29. The work of the Population Division in achieving these objectives takes the form of specific studies and research in all fields of demography; organizing technical meetings; compiling, evaluating, analysing and disseminating information on data; on-the-job training and other short/long-term training; and, various levels

of assisting African countries in their efforts towards the integration of population variables in development planning. Advisory services are also offered to African countries in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies and in the evaluation of family planning programmes.

30. Within the framework of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the OAU governing organs have called for a broader scope of activities in the field of population and development for the secretariat. Specifically, the role and programme of OAU is embodied in project RAF/84/PO8 entitled "Strengthening population, labour and development activities in the OAU secretariat". Since 1983, the domain and thrust of activities in population policies in the OAU secretariat have expanded into areas such as advising governing bodies on population and development policy issues as well as analysis, dissemination and evaluation of population policies and programmes of the member States and promoting technical and financial co-operation for population policy programme activities in the member States.

31. Accordingly, the role of OAU in the field of population will continue to focus on (a) increasing and promoting awareness of the WPPA; (b) encouraging issuance of official Government pronouncements on population issues; (c) encouraging and promoting the establishment of appropriate high-level political institutions at the national level for the establishment of national population commissions at the regional level for the establishment of the OAU population commission to provide high-level political backstopping to population activities and co-ordinate national activities; and, at the secretariat level, for the establishment of a population and development unit in OAU with the tasks of co-ordinating, monitoring and evaluating action programmes at various levels of aggregation in the region and seeking funding for the implementation of WPPA activities in the member States.

32. In conclusion, the population problem in Africa is real. The impact of the effect of high birth and death rates, increasing population size and density, rapid population growth, and increasing dependency burden all translate into greater demands on the African Governments in productive activities which in turn accentuate the problems of unemployment, underemployment, persistent poverty, urban slums, crime and political unrest.

33. To the extent that population variables influence development and are also influenced by them, the theme of this analysis is that if Africa is to effect changes in the critical growth components of their populations (particularly fertility) consistent with the recommendations of the KPA and ultimately effect a marked reduction in the region's population growth rate, then a viable population policy for the constituent States should be one that integrates the foregoing suggestions into their development plans. This will be consistent with the spirit of strength which took African nations to Mexico City in 1984 to search for both a continental and country specific solution (to the regional population problem) - buttressed by international understanding and support.

KILIMANJARO PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
ON POPULATION

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 (WPPA) 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 spelled out in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos and reiterated in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 1983,

Noting with satisfaction African Governments' commitment to the objectives and goals of the Alma Ata Declaration of 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,

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,

Further recognizing the very significant contributions in financial, material and human resources of governments, donor agencies and particularly UNFPA, and governmental and non-governmental organizations providing support for population programme in African countries,

Mindful of the cultural, religious, political, ethnic, demographic, geographical and socio-economic diversities of African countries, member States of ECA,

Mindful that, despite current diversities in national perception of population problems, ECA member and associate member States 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 level,

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 African Governments' development efforts 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.

### Background

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 in 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 (WPPA) adopted in Bucharest in 1974 and the recommendations of the Regional Post-World Population Conference Consultation held in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 1975 and identified actions to be taken in the future.

The Conference reviewed conclusions and recommendations of previous population meetings organized in the region and the impact of these on the development of population work in Africa and the implementation of the WPPA.

In conducting these 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.

In its assessment of the demographic situation of the African region and future trends, the Conference observed that the African population of about 500 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 living standards already attained since independence.

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.

The rapid increase in urban population 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.

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.

The drought and refugee problems which have plague many countries in the region have exacerbated the recurrent food problems, and imposed obstacles in national efforts to improve living conditions and reduce mortality.

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. A 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.

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 programmes should give due consideration to the specific cultural, ethnic and religious values of each country.

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.

In the light of this analysis, the Conference adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-reliant Development.

## PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

### 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 African Governments' commitment to self-reliant development and regional, interregional and intercountry collaboration.
- (e) National population programmes should aim at responding to national perceived problems as identified by empirical research findings.
- (f) International co-operation in the field of population should respect socio-cultural values.

### Objectives

1. 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.
2. Provision of programmes that will respond to the needs of sterile and subfecund couples.
3. Achievement of population growth rates that are compatible with the desired economic growth and social development goals.
4. Improvement of living conditions in the rural areas to enhance integrated rural and self-reliant development aimed at stemming current rural to urban migration.
5. To evolve urbanization policies and programmes aimed at developing medium-sized cities and improving living conditions of the metropolitan areas and capital cities.
6. To improve and increase national expertise in the population field especially training, research and programme management and implementation capabilities.
7. To sustain and develop ongoing efforts in demographic data collection and analysis for economic and social development planning and use of data.

8. To improve population information exchange for enhancing national interest and international co-operation.
9. To promote population policies and programmes which enhance the status of women in development.
10. To promote population policies and programmes which respond to the needs of special groups.
11. 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.
12. To promote policies which enhance and protect the rights and welfare of children.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### A. TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF ECA

##### Population and development strategy and policy

1. Population should be seen as a central component in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for accelerated socio-economic development plans.
2. National efforts to enhance the use of demographic data in development planning should recognize the interrelated nature of population and development.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Efforts to integrate population and development should aim at producing a healthier, less dependent and more productive population.
7. 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.



8. Greater use should be made of existing information channels and mechanisms for population education and information.
9. Governments should establish effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating strategies for integrating population and development.
10. Population and development policies should seek to develop the cultural values of each country.
11. Population and development policies should in each country seek to attain targets set out in the World Population Plan of Action.
12. The integration of population in development planning should be extended to subregional and district level in each country.
13. Inter-country collaboration in population and development planning should be encouraged in the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action.
14. Countries are requested to introduce legislation on population matters which seek to protect the fundamental individual human rights and which facilitates the achievement of individual and national welfare objectives.
15. Governments are requested to enact appropriate legislation and introduce suitable programmes for protecting the wellbeing of the aged.
16. Governments should intensify technical cooperation among developing countries to enable them share expertise and experiences in population activities.

#### Fertility and family planning

17. Governments should take appropriate measures to protect and support the family which is the basic unit of society.
18. Countries should recognize that a substantial decline in infant and childhood mortality is a pre-requisite for fertility decline.
19. Countries should recognize the usefulness of family planning and child spacing on the stability and wellbeing of the family.
20. Countries are urged to incorporate family planning services into the maternal and child health services.
21. Special attention should be paid to educating and motivating the population at grass-roots level on the health, social and demographic of family planning.
22. Wherever possible family planning education should be incorporated in training programmes for women, men and the youth.
23. Governments should ensure the availability and accessibility of family planning services to all couples or individuals seeking such services freely or at subsidized prices.

24. Family planning services should include services to sterile or subfecund couples or individuals who want to have children.
25. 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.
26. National family planning programmes should make available a variety of methods to ensure free and conscious choice by all couples.
27. 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.
28. Governments should make necessary efforts to improve planning, funding and management for more effective implementation of MCH/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.
29. In view of current low mean ages at first marriage for females, national programme programmes, especially in education, should aim at raising the age at marriage.
30. Governments should enact legislation which protects the family and the institution of marriage.

#### Morbidity and mortality

31. 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.
32. Countries should review existing health delivery systems and intensify national health services systems which seek to attain the objectives of the Alma Ata Declaration and which ensure maximum community participation in the formulation, organization, delivery and evaluation of such services.
33. Countries should adopt health services systems which respond effectively to the major morbidity casual problems.
34. 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.
35. Governments should consider the provision of safe drinking water and improve nutrition as a principal means of reducing current high levels of morbidity and mortality.
36. Governments should ensure equitable distribution and easy accessibility to health care delivery services to all regions of the country.
37. Health policies and programmes should be integrated in other development sectors such as education, employment and urban, rural and regional planning.

38. Countries should encourage multi-disciplinary research in mortality and morbidity and should use the results of such research in policy and programme evaluation and re-orientation.

39. Governments should promote research in infectious, parasitic and respiratory diseases which contribute 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

40. 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 inter-dependence between rural communities and urban centres.

41. 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.

42. 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.

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

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

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

46. 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.

#### Changing role of women in the development process

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

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

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

50. Governments should pursue more aggressively action programmes aimed at improving and protecting the legal rights and status of women.
51. Governments should introduce programmes designed to reduce the heavy burden of the rural women. Such programmes should include the introduction of labour-saving technology in agriculture, industry and domestic work.
52. Countries which have not done so should introduce programmes that will guarantee equal opportunity between the sexes in education, employment, housing and business.
53. Governments should strengthen national research institutions which study problems related to the integration of women in the process of development and enact appropriate legislation.
54. 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.
55. Special studies should be undertaken to rid African societies of traditional practices which are detrimental to women's economic, social and cultural advancement.
56. Governments which have not so far signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are urged to do so.
57. 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.
58. Governments should take measures to improve information on women which will reflect their real contribution to economic development.

#### Children and youth

59. 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.
60. 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.
61. Governments should institute viable programmes to reduce infant and childhood mortality and improve the conditions of children and youth, especially in rural areas.
62. Governments are urged to celebrate International Youth Year (IYY) in order to highlight problems of youth and seek solutions for them in compliance with the planned United Nations Declaration of IYY in 1985.

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

64. 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

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

#### Population data collection, analysis, training and research

66. African Governments should undertake regular programmes of conducting population censuses at least once every ten years.

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

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

69. Governments should consider as an area of priority the improvement of vital registration systems which ensure total coverage of the population in the shortest possible time. Measure should be taken to ensure timely processing and analysis of these data.

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

71. 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.

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

73. 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.

74. 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.

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

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

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

#### Population information

78. 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 network which provide an empirical base for project formulation, implementation and evaluation.

79. 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.

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

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

#### Community involvement and role of private and non-governmental organizations

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

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

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

### B. TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### To regional and subregional organizations

85. 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.

86. 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

87. The ECA Secretariat, UNFPA and other UN agencies are called upon to continue the programme of assisting African Governments in the population data collection, processing and analysis. 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 this Programme of Action.

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

89. Regional and subregional organizations within the United Nations family should collaborate more closely with ECA in the implementation of this programme in a manner that reduces duplication of efforts.

#### C. TO DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES

90. 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.

91. 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.

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

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

Resolution adopted by the 19th Session of the  
Commission and the 10th Meeting of the ECA  
Conference of Ministers, Addis Ababa,  
14 - 28 May 1984

506 (XIX). Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population  
and Self-Reliance Development

#### The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/87 of 25 November 1981 and 1982/42 of 27 July 1982 on convening of an International Conference on Population in 1984, which, inter alia, invited the regional commissions to consider at their

annual sessions in 1984, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, with a view to formulating suggestions and recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level, and to transmit those suggestions and recommendations to the Conference for its consideration,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/6 of 26 May 1983 on the International Conference on Population, 1984, which requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite all States, representatives of national liberation movements, the United Nations Council on Namibia, government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/76 of 26 July 1983 on Cross-Sectorial review of population, which decided to continue to attach high priority to population programmes and activities as contributing to the social and economic development of developing countries and urged that increased financial support for population activities be made available and that competent entities of the UN system take appropriate action accordingly in a co-ordinated manner in their respective programmes of work,

Recalling further ECA resolution 366 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on priority population programmes of ECA, which requested the Executive Secretary to give high priority to and initiate programmes of assistance to countries on studies, analysis and institution-building activities in priority areas on population and development interrelationships, infant and childhood mortality, levels, patterns and future trends in fertility and population distribution and development,

Taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population (E/1984/28 and E/1984/28/Add.1),

Re-affirming its commitments to the population programmes spelled out in the Lagos Plan of Action and reiterated in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 1983,

Noting with satisfaction efforts undertaken jointly by ECA and UNFPA to develop national expertise in the field of population,

Noting also preparatory work so far undertaken at the global and regional levels to ensure active participation by African countries at the International Conference on population scheduled to meet in Mexico in August, 1984,

Taking note of the report of the Second African Population Conference held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 9 to 13 January 1984,

1. Approves the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and Self-Reliant Development adopted by the Second African Population Conference;

2. Requests the States members of the Commission to ensure that their delegations to the International Conference on Population and to future United Nations Population Commission meetings use the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action as document of reference to ensure adequate consideration of the priority interests of Africa in population activities;



3. Further requests the UNFPA and donor countries and agencies to increase resources given to African countries to speed up the implementation of this programme;

4. Directs the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to ensure that the principles and objectives of this programme as well as the recommendations contained therein be incorporated in the Work Programme of the Commission;

5. Calls on all organizations in the United Nations family, the OAU, intergovernmental, subregional, interregional and national organizations involved in population work in the region to collaborate with the Economic Commission for Africa in implementing this Programme

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eleventh meeting the outcome of the International Conference on Population and progress made in integrating the recommendations of that Conference and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for Population and Self-Reliant Development;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report also to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU on the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population.