



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/278
24 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

United Nations Population Award

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers the 1989-1990 period, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 26 April 1982.

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Report of the United Nations Population Award (1989-1990)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201 entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions or to their solutions.
2. The laureate is selected by the Committee of the United Nations Population Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.
3. During 1988, the Economic and Social Council selected the following countries to serve on the Committee for a period of three years beginning in January 1989: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ecuador, India, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Rwanda, Togo and Turkey. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director of UNFPA acts as the Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.
4. On 5 December 1986, the General Assembly, by its decision 41/445, amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the annex to its resolution 36/201 so that an individual and an institution may share the Award.
5. On 26 May 1987, in its decision 1987/129 the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award accordingly.
6. In January 1989, the Committee elected His Excellency Mr. Mario Moya-Palencia (Mexico) as Chairman. He was succeeded, on 24 January 1990, by His Excellency Dr. Jorge Montaña (Mexico).
7. During 1989, the following five eminent individuals were selected by the Committee to serve as honorary members in an advisory capacity to the Committee: Mr. Jean Ripert, former Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation; Mr. Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan; Mr. Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank; Mr. Bradford Morse, former Administrator, United Nations Development Programme; and Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria.

II. THE 1989 AWARD

8. A total of 23 nominations were received for the 1989 Award from qualified nominators. After a thorough review of the nominations and taking into account the

views offered by the honorary members, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected President Soeharto of Indonesia and the Programme national de bien-être familial of Togo as the 1989 laureates.

9. President Soeharto of Indonesia was chosen for the Award because of his strong support over the past 20 years for the national family-planning programme of Indonesia. The large number of studies on Indonesia and cross-national comparative studies provide ample evidence of his commitment and leadership, which have had a direct impact on raising awareness and in finding solutions to the problems of rapid population growth. During the period of President Soeharto's leadership, birth, fertility and infant mortality rates have declined dramatically and the contraceptive use rate has increased to almost 50 per cent of all eligible couples.

10. The Programme national de bien-être familial (National Family Welfare Programme) was chosen because of its accomplishments in effectively promoting family welfare in Togo. The Programme's major orientation is family health, working in combination with the Government, which provides family-planning services. As a result of the Programme's activities, infant-mortality and child-mortality rates have fallen considerably over the past two decades.

11. In accordance with the decision of the Committee, the United Nations Population Award was presented to the laureates by the Secretary-General at a ceremony held at Headquarters on 8 June 1989. Statements were made by President Soeharto, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNFPA, Mr. Aissah Agbetra, Minister of Health of Togo, and the Chairman of the Committee.

III. THE 1990 AWARD

12. A total of 13 nominations were received for the 1990 Award from qualified nominators. After a thorough review of the nominations and taking into account the views offered by the honorary members, the Population Award Committee selected Dr. Alfred Sauvy of France and the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council as the 1990 laureates.

13. Alfred Sauvy, a Professor at the Collège de France since 1959 and former Director of l'Institut national d'études démographiques, was chosen by the Committee because of his significant contributions to the field of demography. Professor Sauvy is known, internationally, for his analysis of the relationships between population and economic factors. His work in the field of migration and population movements has been instrumental in providing alternative approaches to resettlement programmes that attempt to solve problems of inequitable population distribution. Professor Sauvy served as the French representative to the United Nations Population Commission from 1947 to 1983. During his professional career, spanning 70 years, he has been the author of more than 40 books, and a bibliography of his scientific articles comprises more than 30 pages.

14. The Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council was chosen for the successful efforts of its family-planning programme. Since 1972, the work of the Council has led to a decline in the crude-birth rate from well over 35 per thousand in 1965 to the current 20 per thousand. The total fertility rate in Mauritius fell

from more than five children per woman to less than two today, with more than 75 per cent of eligible couples using some form of modern contraception. Overall mortality and infant mortality has also decreased rapidly as a result of the public health programme of the National Family Health and Population Council. Mauritius was cited by the Committee as an example of a successful government programme to reduce fertility by making family-planning services available to all people. The Committee felt that it was especially remarkable that the Government was able to generate consensus and support for family planning, given Mauritius' multi-ethnic population.

IV. FINANCIAL MATTERS

15. As at 1 January 1988, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award had a total of \$456,139. Income from interest for 1988 amounted to \$33,853. Expenditures in 1989, including printing costs and the prizes, totalled \$37,490. The closing balance as at 31 December 1988 totalled \$602,502.

16. Income from interest for 1989 amounted to \$53,669. Expenditures in 1989, including printing costs and the prizes, totalled \$48,729. The closing balance as at 31 December 1989 totalled \$619,515.
