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Joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat

Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee
on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor
Declaration and the ICPD-PA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13-14 June 1997

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAKAR/NGOR DECLARATION
AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK | 4 |
| B. AGENDA | 4 |
| C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS | 5 |
| Annex 1A | 13 |
| Annex 1B | 19 |
| Annex 1C | 25 |
| Annex 1D | 26 |
| I. Introduction | 28 |
| II. Implementation of the Work Programme of the Follow-up Committee and the African Population Commission | 28 |
| III. Formulation and Implementation of Population Policies and Programmes | 29 |
| IV. Follow-up and Evaluation of Population Policies and Programmes | 29 |
| V. Conclusion | 30 |

PART I
REPORT OF THE MEETING

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Family and Sustainable Development (DND) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PA) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on 13 and 14 June 1997. The opening statement of Mr. K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA was read on his behalf by Mrs. P. Makinwa-Adebusoye, Chief of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD).

2. The following states members of the Commission were represented at the meeting: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia.

3. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) both of which organizations have been mandated to work with ECA in carrying out the activities of the Committee.

4. Observers from the following organizations and institutions also participated in the meeting: the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS).

5. The composition of the bureau was the same as that of the third African Population Conference (APC 3), namely:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------|---------|
| Chairperson | - | | Senegal |
| First Vice-Chairperson | - | Egypt | |
| Second Vice-Chairperson | - | | Kenya |
| First Rapporteur | - | | Rwanda |
| Second Rapporteur | - | | Namibia |

B. AGENDA

6. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening ceremony ;
2. Election of officers ;
3. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work ;
4. Report on the activities of the African Population Commission ;
5. Monitoring the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA:
 - 5.1 Progress Report on the implementation of the five-year programme of follow-up activities ;

- 5.2 Consideration of factors and issues contributing, to or affecting the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA ;
- 5.3 Consideration and adoption of guidelines and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA ;
- 5.4 Consideration and adoption of a draft Questionnaire for monitoring and evaluating national implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA.
6. Any other business ;
7. Adoption of the main Recommendations of the meeting ;
8. Closure of the Meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening statement (agenda item 1)

7. After welcoming participants in his opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ECA underscored the importance of the meeting. He then briefly described the proceedings of the first meeting of the Follow-up Committee held in 1995 and during which participants had discussed at length the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the DND. He recalled that the Committee had adopted a five year programme of follow-up activities (1994-1998) in which it requested ECA to give priority to the organization of a workshop among experts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA. He went on to inform the meeting that the workshop had been organized in 1995 at ADB headquarters, Abidjan, by the Joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat in cooperation with UNFPA and IPPF and with financial contributions from the Governments of France and the Netherlands. The proceedings of the Workshop containing guidelines for national formulation and follow-up of DND and ICPD-PA activities had been published and circulated to member States.

8. The Executive Secretary paid tribute to ECA, OAU, ADB, UNFPA and its regional technical support teams for their exemplary cooperation within the framework of the Joint/ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat and for the technical and financial support provided to African countries in their population activities. Among the activities conducted by the joint secretariat to promote the sharing of views and experiences among African countries have been the organization of: (a) consultative meetings of the African group during the preparations leading to the ICPD and during the ICPD itself; (b) a seminar on population and development for African Ambassadors in 1993; (c) the first General Assembly of the African Population Commission held in 1994; (d) the expert and NGO workshop on the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA in 1995; and (e) the current meeting of the Follow-up Committee as a technical preparatory meeting leading to the second General Assembly of the African Population Commission.

9. The Executive Secretary reviewed the agenda items in order to highlight the tasks on which the Committee should focus its work: (a) evaluating activities conducted by member States in implementation of DND and ICPD-PA recommendations; (b) operationalizing the machinery and guidelines proposed by the Abidjan Workshop in order to speed-up the implementation of both programmes of action; and (c) recommending the most appropriate ways of formulating, implementing and monitoring national population policies and programmes while taking into account the DND and ICPD-PA principles and objectives.

10. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary welcomed the participation of such a large number of officials responsible for national population policy and programme formulation and implementation. He

expressed the hope that their discussion would lead to concrete proposals that would help member States to achieve the regional objectives of the DND and the ICPD-PA.

Report on the activities of the African Population Commission (agenda item 4)

11. Introducing this agenda item, the President of the African Population Commission first recalled that the Commission had been formally established in May 1994 in Addis Ababa and that its inaugural meeting had been attended by representatives from 48 member States. The main objectives of the Commission were to: (a) coordinate the activities of national population commissions; (b) mobilize resources for population activities in Africa; (c) promote an African common position on population and development at international conferences and, (d) to impress upon member States the inter-dependence of population and development issues.

12. The President of the Commission gave a detailed account of the work of the Commission since its inception. Among other things, the Commission had participated in the 16th session of the OAU Council of Ministers and 30th Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government held in Tunis in June 1994. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government had adopted the Tunis Declaration on Population and Development thereby endorsing the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and inviting African countries to formulate and implement coherent population policies. Also, the joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat which served as the Commission's secretariat had organized three meetings of the African group at the ICPD in order to help with the formulation of the African position and to ensure that it would be reflected in the final document. The Commission had also participated actively in the work of the 1995 Africa Regional Conference on Women held in Dakar in preparation of the African submission to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

13. He indicated that other activities of the joint secretariat had consisted of organizing periodic briefings on the Commission's activities to target groups such as the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa or national experts. It was in that connection that the joint secretariat had organized in cooperation with UNFPA, IPPF and the support of the Governments of France and the Netherlands, a workshop of national experts and NGOs on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA in Abidjan in 1995. He also informed the meeting that the Commission maintained close working relations with the Group of African and Middle Eastern Parliamentarians. The aim of that initiative was to encourage and promote the formation, in each country, of parliamentary groups on population and development and to impress upon them the need to review current legislation with a view to facilitating the implementation of national population policies and programmes.

14. The President of the Commission finally drew lessons from the study tours that the joint secretariat had conducted in 1995 and 1996 to Senegal, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mauritius, Cameroon and Egypt, namely: (a) the fact that, in most of the countries visited, people did not know of the existence of the African Population Commission; (b) the poor performance of national population commissions; (c) the poor coordination of population activities; (d) the dependence of African countries on external financial assistance; the little interest demonstrated by decision-makers in population issues; and (e) the active role played by NGOs in population and development activities.

15. During the discussions, some participants highlighted the importance of the study tours conducted by the Commission, given the lessons learned. Other participants recommended that such study tours should be continued and expanded to other countries the better to improve the activities of the Commission. Nevertheless, given the inadequacy of the financial resources available and the uncertainty as to whether UNFPA would continue to finance the study tours, it was proposed that the Commission might want to diversify its sources of funding by calling on intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) in particular.

16. The poor performance of national population commissions were also discussed at length. Some participants stressed the need to identify first those factors which might have impeded the proper functioning of the national population commissions before venturing solutions. Accordingly, governments

were requested to establish forthwith machinery for evaluating the activities of national commissions. Other speakers invited governments to allocate the funds needed by the national population commissions and to up-grade their status in the administrative structure so that they can conduct their activities.

Progress report on the implementation of the five year work programme of follow-up activities (agenda item 5.1)

17. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the first part of document FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/2 on the implementation of the five-year programme of follow-up activities.

18. A representative of the secretariat recalled that the Committee had adopted, at its inaugural meeting, a five year (1994/1998) work programme for the implementation of the DND. The main activities in the work programme which had been subsequently expanded to include ICPD-PA activities were to:

- (a) Assist African countries in the preparation of ICPD ;
- (b) Prepare the biennial meetings of the follow-up committee ;
- (c) Prepare the annual meetings of the working groups ;
- (d) Provide technical assistance to African countries in the implementation of both DND and ICPD-PA ; and
- (e) Review the progress made in the implementation of the DND;

19. He then reviewed the follow-up activities conducted by ECA over the 1994-1996 period in cooperation with those organizations mandated to work with ECA within the framework of the Committee secretariat. Both the DND and the proceedings of APC 3 had been published as part of the ICPD preparations in ECA's working languages of English, French and Arabic and widely distributed. He also mentioned the Expert and NGO Workshop on DND and ICPD-PA implementation organized at Abidjan in 1995 and which had brought together more than 100 national experts, African and non-African NGO representatives, United Nations and donor participants who had shared views and ideas on modalities for the implementation of the two Programmes of Action. The workshop proceedings had been published in English and French in 1995 and included a framework paper which proposed a follow-up and evaluation approach that described, in each case, the role of countries and their development partners in the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA.

20. Concerning the monitoring and implementation exercise, the secretariat had prepared periodic reports on implementation activities at the national, regional and international levels. The evaluation reports indicated the factors and obstacles which had influenced implementation. A questionnaire had been sent out to countries in order to collect information on the implementation process. The studies and reports had been considered (at major conferences organized by ECA) and sent to member States.

21. In conclusion, he stressed the inadequacy of the resources available for regional follow-up activities and the time it took for member States to provide information on the implementation process. Those had largely impeded the implementation of the work programme during the two initial years.

22. During the discussions, some members of the Committee highlighted the constraints relating to the formulation of the population policies and the monitoring of their implementation. While some of those difficulties could be resolved at the national level, it must be admitted that a number of them depended on international assistance. African countries, for instance, needed the technical assistance of international organizations to strengthen their technical institutional capacities and to properly integrate

population issues in development planning or to boost their IEC activities.

23. One participant deplored the fact that the annual meetings of the working group mandated to assist the Follow-up Committee have never been convened by the secretariat and requested to know why that had happened.

24. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the Follow-up Committee had been established in 1994 and that its main members were ECA, OAU, ADB and UNFPA. Ex-officio members were the regional institutes and centres for training and research (IFORD, RIPS, IDEP, CERPOD, UEPA) in population and development. The reason why annual meetings of the working group had not been organized was that most of the activities had been undertaken to date by the Joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat with technical backstopping from the UNFPA support teams.

Consideration of factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA (agenda item 5.2)

25. Under this agenda item the Committee considered the second part of working paper FSSDD/AP.3/FC.2/97/2 on factors and obstacles influencing the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA.

26. Introducing the document, the representative of the secretariat recalled that ECA's objective had always been to impress upon governments the importance of the population factor in the development of Africa. The secretariat had pursued that objective in three phases.

27. First, priority had to be given to collecting the data needed for socio-economic planning. Most African countries had been able to assemble such data largely through the African survey programme financed by the UNFPA. During the second phase, stress had been laid on data analysis and the promotion of appropriate population policies. The fact that African governments had adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA) on Population and Self-sustaining Development in 1984 and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration in 1992, illustrated the degree of success achieved in this area. The current phase essentially focused on the type of assistance to be given to member States in their implementation of the relevant recommendations of the DND and the ICPD-PA.

28. Thirty-one of ECA's member States had answered the questionnaire on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA. Upon analysis of the responses, ECA had been able to identify the factors which had facilitated or impeded the pursuit of national population policies and programmes.

29. The favorable factors identified were: (a) the emergence of democracy in member States; (b) a positive shift in perceptions and attitudes; (c) the accumulation of basic data on population and development; (d) the persistence of relatively high levels of fertility; (e) the topicality of gender equality; (f) the creation of institutional machinery for integrating population variables into development planning; (g) the role of international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors; and (h) the on-going review of population policies in some countries.

30. The main obstacles to the implementation of DND and ICPD-PA were the following: (a) the paucity of national technical, institutional and financial capabilities; (b) the persistence of negative attitudes and socio-cultural practices; (c) the persistence of the socio-economic crisis and structural adjustment; (d) the weakness of IEC activities; (e) the poor commitment of political and religious leaders in opting for rational population policies; (f) the fact that population variables were inadequately integrated into development planning; (g) the lack of cooperation among national institutions as reflected in limited sharing of experiences in population and development; (h) political instability and high professional turnover which reduce the chances of maintaining direction in development policy; and (i) the lack of clear strategies to be pursued in programme implementation.

31. During the discussions, participants considered the poor commitment of policy-makers as the main obstacle to the implementation of population policies and programmes. In that regard, they recommended

that each national structure responsible for population policy and programme coordination should network with opinion leaders and develop models for making policy-makers, opinion leaders and locally-elected officials aware of the programme. Some participants, bearing in mind countries like Tunisia where resolute policy commitment had made it possible to make a rational choice in population policy, requested the secretariat to think out practical modalities for the exchange and sharing of such experiences.

32. Other participants questioned the effectiveness of the current institutional machinery for integrating population variables in development planning. They stressed that the integration exercise was generally confined to the presentation, in the national economic and social development plan, of an introductory chapter dealing with population issues. While they recognized the usefulness of ECA's published guidelines for the integration of population variables in development planning, they deplored the fact that those guidelines were little followed by member States. ECA could remedy the situation by organizing workshops which would enable planners to make good use of the document.

33. In many cases, the lack of adequate information was a major obstacle to the full integration of population variables in development planning. Data collection should therefore be encouraged for the purpose of enabling countries to have a reliable data base for the conduct of in-depth studies and research into population matters. That would make for better follow-up and a comprehensive evaluation of development policy and programme implementation. The abundance of more reliable information would make for optimal use of national and regional training and research structures and reduce national dependence on foreign technical assistance.

34. The Committee also emphasized the important role that NGOs continue to play in the population and development sector in Africa. However, the lack of a viable mechanism for coordinating their activities also constrained the implementation of population policies and programmes since it reduced NGO effectiveness. The problem of coordination did not only occur in government/NGO relations but also at the level of the various donors operating in a particular country.

35. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that ECA planned to organize a two-week workshop aimed at training national experts in techniques for the integration of population variables in development planning. The workshop would be organized in cooperation with the UNFPA support team and the IDEP human resources project.

Consideration and adoption of guidelines and mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of DND and ICPD-PA (agenda item 5.3)

36. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the guidelines and mechanisms proposed by the expert and NGO workshop held in Abidjan with a view to adopting practical implementation modalities which member States could use to speed up the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA. Part III of working document FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/2 on guidelines and mechanisms for the follow-up and evaluation of DND and ICPD-PA implementation was considered in this respect.

37. A representative of the secretariat indicated that the proposed frame-work had been based on the proceedings of the joint expert and NGO workshop on DND and ICPD-PA implementation. The frame of reference set out for member States the practical modalities for speeding up implementation of both programmes of action, taking into account the lessons drawn from the experience gained in implementing the KPA. The monitoring and evaluation approach specified the role of countries and that of development partners in the implementation of both programmes of action.

38. At the national level, it was primarily up to member States to implement the DND and ICPD-PA. Given however, the regional and international dimensions of the two programmes, they would need to begin by working out recommendations likely to be implemented at the national level. Once the goals were set and national population policy defined, programmes of action would need to be formulated, organizational and institutional machinery defined and appropriate arrangements and legislative policies adopted. A transparent objective approach would have to be pursued in the monitoring and evaluation exercise right from the programme design stage. The guidelines also proposed that member States should

forge partnerships with NGOs both in the formulation and in the implementation of population policies and programmes.

39. At the regional level, the aim of establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms was to complement national efforts, promote the sharing of data and experiences among member States and to coordinate the technical and financial assistance provided by external partners. Member States benefitted from the work of the Follow-up Committee to which ECA submitted, every other year, analytical reports evaluating those factors which had facilitated or impeded the implementation of both programmes of action and proposing solutions to the constraints and problems. Up-dating regional data on population and development would, however, guarantee the success of the monitoring and evaluation exercise. That required close cooperation between ECA and the regional advisors of the UNFPA technical support teams which were accordingly invited to up-date their country data profiles during their missions.

40. Following the introduction of the document, some participants expressed the hope that the regional and sub-regional follow-up exercises would be expanded to take into account the positive experiences of the countries themselves. The South-South Population and Development Partnership created at Cairo in 1994 was singled out for mention. That partnership brought together countries of the South (Morocco, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Colombia and Kenya) which cooperated in population activities. The partnership secretariat could play an important role in the regional follow-up of the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA and should accordingly be associated with the exercise.

41. The role of women in monitoring the implementation of both programmes of action was also to be recognized. In the view of some participants, one chapter in the document should be specially devoted to considering that issue. The exercise should actually draw on the contribution of all other partners, namely NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society.

42. In conclusion, the Committee adopted the guidelines and mechanisms proposed and recommended that each country should draw inspiration from them in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of their national population policies and programmes.

Consideration and adoption of a draft questionnaire for evaluating national implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA (agenda item 5.4)

43. The draft questionnaire on the evaluation of national implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA (document FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/5) was introduced by a representative of the secretariat who explained that, as requested by the inaugural sessions of the Follow-up Committee and the African Population Commission, ECA planned to conduct a detailed evaluation of the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA particularly in terms of the facilitating and constraining factors. A draft questionnaire had been prepared for that purpose.

44. A consultative mission had already been fielded to IFORD, RIPS, IDEP, CERPOD and UEPA within the context of preparing the draft questionnaire. The comments of those institutions regarding the content and the format of the questionnaire would be taken into account in the revised version. Nevertheless, he drew the attention of the Committee to UNFPA's decision to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the ICPD-PA and suggested that participants should listen to the statement of the UNFPA representative before considering the proposed draft questionnaire.

45. The representative of UNFPA indicated that in accepting the Executive Secretary's proposal to conduct a mid-term review and appraisal of the ICPD-PA, the UNFPA Executive Board had requested her to initiate the preparatory work. All ICPD partners would be involved in the review exercise, particularly the entire United Nations system, the NGOs, academics and the private sector. The preparations would take place within the framework of enhanced cooperation between the Population and Development Commission and the United Nations Population Division.

46. National evaluations would be conducted to assess the progress achieved, the lessons to be drawn, the constraints and the successes. Funding needs would also be evaluated in terms of ICPD-PA objectives

which stipulate that developing countries should meet two-thirds of the financing required for population and development activities.

47. The UNFPA representative also emphasized that the United Nations regional commissions would be called on to play an important role and be closely associated in the whole process, particularly in the preparation of the country questionnaires. A preliminary meeting had already been organized in May 1997 in New York among UNFPA, the United Nations Population Division and the regional Commissions which had indicated the activities they planned to conduct within the context of the mid-term evaluation on the occasion of their respective golden jubilee anniversaries. ECA, for example, had proposed the inclusion of this item on the agenda of its forth-coming Conference of Ministers.

48. While the time for preparation was probably short, the Committee could rest assured that UNFPA would prepare a calendar of activities which would culminate in 1999 with the convening of a major conference like the one organized in Amsterdam.

49. In light of the foregoing, the Committee considered the substance of the draft questionnaire proposed by the secretariat. A large number of speakers focused on the selection of themes in order to make the content of the questionnaire conform to the priorities defined in the UNFPA framework while taking the specific features of the region into account. In conclusion, the Committee proposed amendments and requested the secretariat to review the questionnaire to comprise the five following sections: (a) population programmes and policies; (b) reproductive health; (c) gender, population and development; (d) partnerships with NGOs, the private sector and local communities; and (e) resource mobilization. The Committee nevertheless requested the secretariat to pay particular attention to the issues of institutional and legal framework, political commitment and advocacy, given the specific focus of these issues.

Any other business (agenda item 6)

50. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Adoption of the recommendations of the meeting (agenda item 7)

51. The Follow-up Committee adopted its recommendations. Those recommendations, containing the amendments proposed and adopted are annexed to the present report.

Closing of the meeting (agenda item 8)

52. The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contribution to the work of the Committee and requested the secretariat to undertake the activities recommended by the meeting.

Annex 1A

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DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony ;
2. Election of officers ;
3. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work ;
4. Report on the activities of the African Population Commission;
5. Monitoring the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA:
 - 5.1 Progress Report on the implementation of the five-year programme of follow-up activities ;
 - 5.2 Consideration of factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA ;
 - 5.3 Consideration and adoption of guidelines and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA ;
 - 5.4 Consideration and adoption of a Draft Country Questionnaire for monitoring and evaluating national implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA.
6. Any other business ;
7. Adoption of the main Recommendations of the meeting ;
8. Closure of the Meeting.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Friday, 13 June 1997

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. | - | Registration of participants |
| 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | - | Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1) |
| | - | Election of officers, Adoption of the agenda and Programme of Work (agenda items 2 and 3) |
| 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | - | Report on the activities of the African Population Commission (agenda item 4) |
| | - | Progress Report on the implementation of the 5-year programme of follow up activities (agenda item 5.1) |
| 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | - | Lunch Break |
| 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | - | Presentation and discussion of factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA (agenda item 5.2) |
| 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | - | Coffee Break |
| 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | - | Consideration and adoption of guidelines and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating national implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA (agenda item 5.3). |

Saturday, 14 June 1997

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|------------------------|---|--|
| 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | - | Consideration and adoption of a Draft Country Questionnaire for monitoring and evaluating national implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA (agenda item 5.4) |
| 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | - | Free |
| 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. | - | Adoption of the main Recommendations of the meeting (agenda item 7) |
| | - | Closure of the Meeting (agenda item 8) |

Annex 1D

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/1 Draft Agenda
2. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/Add.1 Provisional Annotated Agenda
3. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/Inf.1 Programme of Work
4. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/Inf.2 List of documents
5. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/2 Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
6. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/3 Programme of Action Agreed to at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development
7. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/4 Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development
8. FSSDD/APC.3/FC.2/97/5 Draft Country Questionnaire

PART II

**MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DND AND THE ICPD-PA**

I. Introduction

1. The Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PA) was held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on 13 and 14 June 1997.
2. The Committee considered the issues on its agenda, namely:
 - (a) Activities of the African Population Commission; and
 - (b) Activities conducted in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA.
3. After debating at length and exchanging views on the issues, the Committee formulated the following recommendations which will be submitted to the Second General Assembly of the African Population Commission for consideration and adoption.

II. Implementation of the Work Programme of the Follow-up Committee and the African Population Commission

4. Since the operations and activities of the African Population Commission derived from those of the National Population Commissions, the Committee recommended that African Governments should honor their commitment to population activities by, inter-alia:
 - (a) Increasing the human, material and financial resources of the National Population Commissions (NPCs) so as to make them more operational; and
 - (b) Creating operational NPCs in countries where they do not exist.
5. Participants acknowledged the importance of the missions fielded by the Commission and recommended that they be continued and extended to other countries so as, on the one hand, to better disseminate information on Commission activities and, on the other hand, to strengthen partnerships and the sharing of information and experiences among member States. Accordingly, African Governments and their development partners should provide the necessary financial support to the Commission which should also endeavor to diversify its current sources of financing.
6. Given the importance for the secretariat of the Follow-up Committee to interact with national focal points in the implementation of its work programme and the difficulties encountered in preparing lists of such focal points, the Committee invited Governments to identify and designate focal structures for the monitoring and evaluation of population policy and programme activities.
7. In addition, the Committee recommended that the secretariat should rely on the NPCs and those Government-designated representatives attending the Second meeting to secure the information needed for monitoring, at the regional level, the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA.

III. Formulation and Implementation of Population Policies and Programmes

8. Noting the low degree of commitment of policy-makers and religious leaders to the pursuit of population policies and programmes, the Committee recommended that IEC/advocacy outreach activities should be directed at them. In this regard, it was highly recommended for national structures coordinating population policies and programmes to network with opinion leaders such as parliamentarians, journalists and religious leaders. Such networking structures should further extend their outreach to policy-makers, opinion leaders and local elected officials.

9. Furthermore, since no population policy can be implemented without an adequate legal framework that sufficiently highlights the issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the Committee recommended that Governments should review existing legal provisions and policies in order to align them with the set objectives and to institute such provisions and policies where necessary.

10. For countries to make the best use of the positive results achieved in other countries, the Committee encourages a more sustained cooperation effort in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes among relevant national institutions.

11. Noting that the definition and pursuit of realistic population policy objectives and proper integration of population variables in development planning depended on a good knowledge of socio-economic and demographic characteristics and factors as well as their interrelationships, the Committee recommended that member States should consolidate, with international support, the current system of information and data collection and promote population studies and research based on more reliable data.

12. In this regard, national capabilities for data collection and analysis and for research in the field of population and development should also be strengthened by making optimum use of national and regional training and research structures.

13. Furthermore, the Committee identified as a major problem for the implementation of population policies and programmes, the irrational use of the meager resources allocated to this sector. Consequently, both with regard to national and international assistance, effective mechanisms should be set up to coordinate the activities of the various partners (Government, donors, NGOs and the private sector) with a view to securing the sustainability of population policy and programme activities in Africa.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of Population Policies and Programmes

14. The Committee considered and adopted the guidelines and mechanisms proposed at the Workshop of Experts and NGOs on the implementation of the DND and the ICPD-PA. It accordingly recommended that in implementing the principles and mechanisms, each member State should draw on these principles and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national population policies and programmes, taking into account the realities prevailing in the country.

15. The Committee noted the increasingly important role that NGOs and private sectors were playing in the implementation of population policies and programmes. To enable them to contribute fully to the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA recommendations, the Committee invited Governments to facilitate the establishment of NGOs working in the population sector and to encourage further private-sector involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national population

policies and programmes. In that regard, the Committee invited Governments to establish and promote an enabling framework for partnership with NGOs and the private sector.

16. Following an in-depth review of the Draft Questionnaire for evaluating the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA and in light of additional information on the mid-term evaluation (ICPD + 5) provided by UNFPA, the Committee proposed some amendments and requested the secretariat to revise the questionnaire which would comprise the following five sections:

- (a) Population and development policies and strategies ;
- (b) Reproductive health ;
- (c) Gender, population and development ;
- (d) Partnerships with NGOs, private sector and community organizations ;
- (e) Resource mobilization.

17. The Committee also invited the secretariat, given their specific nature, to accord particular attention to issues relating to the institutional and legal framework, to political commitment and to IEC/advocacy.

18. The secretariat was also to take into account the preliminary observations made on the format and content of the questionnaire so as to make it simpler for member States to fill out and make the information provided easier to use. As a result, the draft questionnaire will be submitted to the forthcoming General Assembly of the African Population Commission only for notification and information.

V. Conclusion

19. The implementation of these recommendations require more sustained commitments from Governments and their development partners if the implementation of established programme activities are to be followed up more effectively. The African Population Commission and the Follow-up Committee should, within their spheres of jurisdiction, see to the implementation of those recommendations forming part of their programme activities.