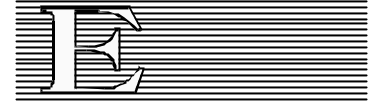




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation
of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
24 - 25 March 1994

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAKAR/NGOR DECLARATION**

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The First Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development was held in Addis Ababa at ECA Headquarter from 24 to 25 March 1994. The opening statement of Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, was read on his behalf by his representative.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
3. It was also attended by representatives from the OAU and UNFPA, the Organizations that were mandated to co-operate with ECA in the activities of the work of the Committee.
4. There were observers from the following organizations and institutions: FRENCH EMBASSY, CERPOD, CIDEP, CST/UNFPA, IFORD, RIPS, ISAE, LAS (League of Arab States), USAID and the World Bank.
5. The composition of the bureau was the same as that of the Third African Population Conference, namely: Senegal, Chairman; Egypt, First Vice-Chairman; Kenya, Second Vice-Chairman; Rwanda, First rapporteur, and Namibia, Second rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

6. The meeting adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Election of officers
 3. Adoption of the agenda
 4. African Common Position at the Cairo Conference
 - (i) Strategy for assisting the African Group at Prepcom III and during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)
 - (ii) Follow-up activities of the ICPD
 5. Implementation and monitoring of the Kilimanjaro Programme of action and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration at the country level and strategies for resource mobilization
 6. Consideration and adoption of programme of work (1994-98) and its budget implications
 7. Establishment of a working group to assist the Follow-up Committee: functions, membership, and frequency of meetings
 8. Any other business: date and venue of the next meeting of the Follow-up Committee
 9. Adoption of the draft report

10. Closure of the meeting

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening Address (Agenda item 1)

7. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ECA welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the meeting. He made reference to the Second African Population Conference held in Tanzania in 1984 which had adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA) as a framework for population and development programmes. He then outlined the organization of the Third African Population Conference (APC.3) in Dakar in 1992 which adopted the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development. The Declaration constitutes the African common position for the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September 1994. He indicated that the Dakar/Ngor Declaration was an essential contribution by Africa to population policies. He observed that the Declaration was hailed by the international community as a decisive step towards resolving African problems. He then paid tribute to the United Nations Population Fund for its financial support to population activities to African countries. However, he deplored the fact that the ECA had no provision of financial resources in assisting the member States regarding the activities of the Follow-up Committee.

8. The Executive Secretary outlined the tasks on which the Committee had to focus. These were - provision of guidance on the preparation of the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September 1994; assessing of implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African population and self-reliant development and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration; preparation for the Conference of Ministers of the Commission, evaluation of reports in the context of the follow-up implementation on the (KPA) and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration. In addition, the first preparatory committee was assigned to prepare a work programme for the next 4 years and set up a working group to assist the Follow-up Committee.

9. The Executive Secretary observed that for the first time, African countries had come up with a document of the nature of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration which has included quantitative objectives. He noted that the objectives were ambitious and required the commitment of all member States. The achievement of the objectives depended on several factors including the establishment and development of quality family planning services accessible to all who need them.

10. He drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the Dakar/Ngor Declaration would be submitted to the OAU meeting in Tunis for approval by the Heads of State and Government.

11. Finally he hailed the co-operation between the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank as a joint secretariat in the implementation of the African Economic Community.

Strategy for assisting the African Group at Prepcom III and during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Follow-up activities of the ICPD [agenda item 4(i) and 4(ii)].

12. In presenting this agenda item, the representative of the secretariat informed the Committee about the experience of the Second Preparatory Committee of ICPD that took place in New York. He further requested the Committee to make suggestions as to the servicing of the African Group during the Third Preparatory Committee that will take place from 4 to 22 April 1994.

13. After discussion of this item it was agreed that:

- (a) The ECA Executive Secretary should communicate again with member States encouraging them to fully participate in the Third Preparatory Committee and that they should send high level delegations to the Cairo Conference.
- (b) Member States need to carefully study the zero draft of the Cairo document in order to make significant input during the meeting.
- (c) OAU and ECA should coordinate consultative meetings for the African Group. OAU would communicate with their New York Office to facilitate consultation meetings for the African Group.
- (d) The Chairman of APC.3 (the third African Population Conference) should be present in New York during the whole session of Prep. Com. III and to continue his past efforts in stimulating the exchange of ideas among the African Group.

Implementation and monitoring of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration at the country level and strategies for resources mobilization (Agenda item 5)

14. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered Document E/ECA/POP/APC.3/FC.1/94/2 on "Proposals on the follow-up of the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development".

15. A representative of the secretariat recalled the review presented to the Third African Population Conference (APC3) on efforts made by ECA member states in implementing the KPA recommendations. He argued that owing to the problems in integrating population factors in development plans (IPDP), few countries had made significant progress on this. Some countries were either in the process of formulating a population policy or have promulgated an explicit policy or have indeed formulated a National Population Programme (NPPs).

16. He then noted that high fertility level still prevails in most of the states. There were also

problems with effecting desired declines in mortality levels and rural-urban in-migration rates; ensuring effective roles for women in development; implementing suggested programmes affecting children and youths; providing adequate data and information for the development of population policies; ensuring an increased role of non-governmental organizations in the development of such policies; and disseminating information to operationalize the IPDP process.

17. The representative further noted that following a review of these problem areas in implementing the KPA recommendations together with the associated constraints and suggestions for their amelioration, APC3 adopted the Dakar/Ngor Declaration. Among other things, the Declaration set targets to operationalize the implementation of the KPA and recommended the establishment of a Follow-up Committee to monitor such implementation.

18. He then reported on the targets set within the Declaration. He pointed out that targets on population growth and contraceptive prevalence rates in most states in the northern Africa were likely to be met while in Sub-Saharan Africa these are unlikely to be achieved. With infant mortality rate and life expectancy at birth, there is a good chance that the states in both North and sub-Saharan Africa will meet the targets. Regarding child and maternal mortality, the poor data situation in both subregions, does not permit even an intuitive judgement on the set targets.

19. A number of suggestions were then made by the representative towards enabling member states to meet the targets.

20. He argued that African leaders have a responsibility to develop long term perspective plans, conserve the environment and slow population growth, in an integrated strategy. In this connection, the number of strategies within the NPPs of member states should be kept at a minimum to improve funding chances.

21. Another suggestion was that to be effective, the management of MCH/FP programmes should be based on setting targets for the service points of the programme and on a cost effective analysis of programme options. The programme targets to be set should aim at reducing fertility and improving the health of mothers and children.

22. On mortality and morbidity, the health environment should be studied and appropriate strategies designed to combat environmental forces. This should include evolving a comprehensive health development plan, identifying the major causes of death and setting targets to reduce their prevalence.

23. On urbanization and migration, a network of small and medium-sized cities should be established or strengthened to offer a choice between metropolitan and rural life.

24. On women in development (WID), all discriminatory laws and cultural practices should be abolished. Then appropriate public education programmes should be mounted.

25. On children and youths, targets should be set to increase school enrolment rate by a given margin over development planning periods at all levels of the educational pyramid. For non-

formal education, targets should be set to promote population and family life education through the mass media, by increasing existing capacities in radio and television audience, newspaper circulation, mobile cinema, supply of books, mass literacy campaign.

26. On data collection, among other things, studies should be undertaken to improve methodologies and strategies to make census cost effective without necessarily compromising data quality.

27. For the IEC, there is need to put in place, national focal points for collating and disseminating population and development information to foster the IPDP process.

28. In the discussion, the Committee amended the categories used by the secretariat in determining the position of each member state on the integration continuum. In view of the gap between perception of population problems and actions taken by member states to develop a population policy, the committee stressed the need for increased publicity to educate the population particularly at the 'grass root level' about the policy measures and strategies.

29. The Committee deplored the delays in processing census and survey data. It noted that by the time the data is made available it is of little value. It was then recommended that appropriate action should be taken to speed data processing, analysis, and dissemination.

30. It was observed that there were a lot of other sources of data, particularly administrative data that was not exploited. This data included vital statistics, as well as data on MCH/FP. The Committee then made an appeal that such data should be analysed and used. It also called on member States to improve vital registration systems.

31. To foster increased understanding of the modalities of the IPDP process within the region, the Committee highlighted the need for a stable political environment and a strong political will.

Consideration and adoption of the 1994-1998 work programme and discussion of its budgetary implications (Agenda Item 6) and setting up of a working group to assist the follow-up Committee: functions, composition of the Committee and the frequency of meetings (Agenda Item 7)

32. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the five-year work programme proposed for the follow-up of the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration was a minimum programme that took into account the human and financial resources available at the Secretariat. He specified that the proposed programme was meant to back up activities carried out by the member States, at the national level, on the implementation of the Declaration.

33. The main activities included in the Committee's programmes were as follows:

- Assist African countries in their preparation of the International Conference on Population and Development

- Prepare the bi-annual follow-up Committee meetings of member States
- Prepare annual meetings of the working group
- Provide technical assistance to African countries in their implementation of the Declaration
- Examine the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration, and
- Finally, prepare a reference document on the implementation of the Declaration by member States.

34. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the mobilization of financial resources needed for the programme implementation was underway and that the Governments of France and the Netherlands had contributed to the programme financing.

35. The terms of reference proposed for the working group were presented by the Secretariat. The working group was requested to assist the follow-up committee in its activities. The working group comprise the main member organizations and institutions of the preparatory Committee of the Third African Population Conference as follows:

Members:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- Organization of African Unity (OAU);
- African Development Bank (ADB);

Ex-Officio:

- Institut africain pour le développement économique et de la planification (IDEP);
- Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD);
- Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS);
- Centre d'études et de recherches sur la population pour le développement (CERPOD);
- Union for African Population Studies (UAPS).

36. Selected African and/or non-African institutions will also be invited as observers to the meetings of the Working Group.

37. During the debate, a member of the committee drew the attention of the Secretariat to the proximity of events on the timetable for the implementation of the proposed programme. The idea of preparing the Committee's activities at the regional level was also suggested.

38. Within the framework of the Declaration's implementation, the preliminary work done in certain countries showed that the level of indicators was well below the objectives set forth in the Declaration.

39. The representative of UNFPA stated that the Fund was prepared to examine favourably

applications for the financing on national programmes on the implementation of the Declaration by member States. The Fund would grant only limited support to regional programmes.

40. In conclusion, the representative of the Secretariat requested the countries to conduct preliminary studies on the population situation and trends in their respective countries in order to better appreciate the efforts to be made at the national level, taking into consideration the regional objectives contained in the Declaration.

41. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the meetings of experts and NGOs provided for in the work programme could be convened before the Cairo Conference. Hence, the working group should be set up rapidly. The conclusions of the Cairo Conference should also be included in the work programme of the follow-up committee on the Dakar/Ngor Declaration which could then be reviewed accordingly.

42. The work programme proposed by the Secretariat for the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration was formerly approved by the Committee as well as the composition and the terms of reference of the working group expected to assist the Committee.

Any other business: dates and venue of the next meeting of the Follow-up Committee (Agenda item 8)

43. Soon after the Cairo Conference the Follow-up Committee will meet to integrate the outcome of the Conference into its work programme.

Adoption of the report (Agenda item 9)

44. The Follow-up Committee adopted its report. The amendments are fully reflected in this report.

Closure of the meeting (Agenda item 10)

45. In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the participants for their active contribution to the meeting. He then requested the secretariat to initiate activities as recommended by the meeting.

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