

As written

# REPUBLIC OF TOGO

-----

COMMUNICATION OF :

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ICPD + 5

THE HAGUE - NETHERLANDS

8-12 February 1999

INTERNATIONAL FORUM  
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATION OF THE MINISTER OF PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

Honourable President,

Distinguished Executive Directors of UNFPA,

Your Excellencies, Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to address on behalf of the Government, this International Forum on Population and Development which gathers very high personalities to go once again deeper into our reflections on the linkages between population growth and development at the edge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I would like to thank hereby the people and the Government of the Netherlands for its hospitality and for the perfect organization of this forum.

I would like to pay a deserved homage to Mrs Dr. NAFIS SADIK, Executive Director of UNFPA, for her continuous concern to have population issues addressed, not in their specificity only, but also as a whole in the framework of an integrated development process.

I would also like to congratulate you, Honourable President, for your election and for the mastery with which you are conducting the discussions. You have accepted a high responsibility ; you can rely on our wholehearted collaboration.

Honourable President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The whole world has unanimously adopted five years ago, a Programme of Action based on acknowledgement of the existence of interrelationships among population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development.

The Programme advocated strategies that could help restrain the galloping population growth through an integrated approach of issues relating to population development and environment. In order to improve people's living standards, new concepts have been identified such as reproductive health, and quantified objectives have been determined with respect to life expectancy, maternal and child mortality and fertility control.

The time has come today to review the results of the implementation of the programme during five years. We will assess the efforts made and possibly reorientate our options in this perpetually changing world.

Certainly, encouraging results have been recorded here and there ; but the hopes of the majority of the global population who always aspires to a greater welfare still remain far from being satisfied, especially in Africa where the high rate of growth remains worrying, when agricultural production does not cease to go lower and when damage to the environment continues to increase.

In order to face this situation, it becomes necessary to develop and enhance Macroeconomic and Sectorial Policies which take into account the synergies and the multisectoriality of the problems of the population, of the food security and of the environment.

The success of our development programmes is at this expense and we must define our priorities and adapt every programme of action world-wide to our political, economic and cultural realities.

For its part, Togo has made substantial progress in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. These results have only been possible thanks to the willingness expressed on many occasions by the President of the Republic, Gnassingbe EYADEMA, and by the Government, who have always placed Man in the centre of the development process.

I would like, in this regard, to make it my agreeable duty to inform you about steps taken by my country in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action.

It is concerning :

the adoption in last October of the declaration of the National Population Policy and the Act banning genital mutilations of women ;

the review of Sectorial Policy Documents on Health to integrate all the elements of reproductive health as defined during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.

Moreover, Honourable President, Education has always been considered as an indispensable means of changing mentalities and behaviours vis-a-vis to questions relating to the population and especially on reproductive health.

Within this framework, modules on reproductive health have been introduced in the training programme of basic and secondary education, so as to ensure the promotion of the concept of responsible relationship, which is the basis of our family planning policy. In this way, appropriate measures have been taken to the benefit of young girls so as to further encourage their access to school.

I am also happy to inform you, and it is a very encouraging fact for our Population programmes, that the synthetic index of fertility of our country has experienced a sensitive drop since it went from 6.6 in 1988 to 5.4 children per woman in 1998, that is a decrease of 1.2 in 10 years.

--

Honourable President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite efforts made by our States, problems of all kinds still remain and cause the specter of poverty to weigh on our populations.

It is therefore our duty to work hard at whatever level we may be found, for a greater transparency in our cooperation relationship, on the economic as well as political aspect, so as to guarantee the success of our development programmes with a view to improving the living standard of our populations.

This attitude will help us avoid homes with tensions which constitute an impediment to the full growth and development of our societies.

Honourable President,

Our expectations are great for, we are convinced that the work of this forum, shall bring' about new strategies of fight against poverty which will make our world more certain and more peaceful.

The case of developing countries being particularly of concern we must act quickly and find adequate solutions likely to ensure the well-being of every individual.

I thank you.