

9 March 1999

English only

Commission on Population and Development**Thirty-second session**

22-24 March 1999

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development at its inter-sessional meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 28 and 29 September 1998****A. Background**

1. At its thirtieth session, the Commission on Population and Development authorized the Bureau to hold inter-sessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis. In follow-up to this decision, an inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau was convened on 28 and 29 September 1998. At the invitation of the Government of Malaysia, the meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur and hosted by the National Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia.

2. Three members of the Bureau of the Commission — Belgium, the Niger and Malaysia — participated in the inter-sessional meeting. The Bureau members from Peru and Ukraine were not able to participate. A complete list of participants who attended the Bureau meeting is given in annex I to the present report.

B. Opening

3. The meeting was officially opened by Her Excellency Y. B. Datin Paduka Hajja Zaleha Ismail, Minister of National Unity and Social Development. The Minister extended her warm welcome to the participants. She briefly

outlined the current population situation in Malaysia, policies adopted and initiatives undertaken since the International Conference on Population and Development and stressed the Government's commitment to the principle that people are the centre of development.

4. Further introductory statements were made by Dr. Raj Karim, Director-General of the National Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia, and Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development, and by Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. Dr. Karim welcomed the members of the Commission and other officials attending the opening. She described the work of the Bureau at this inter-sessional meeting, stressing in particular the importance of the forthcoming session of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.' Mr. Chamie extended his appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the meeting. He noted the leadership being provided by Malaysia in the field of population and looked forward to its continued support and contribution to the work of the Commission on Population and Development. He also

99-065 14 (E)



stressed the importance of the inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau for the work of the Commission. Notes

5. Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), delivered a keynote address on the impact of the International Conference on Population and Development. She mentioned the many changes that had taken place in attitudes and in the way population issues were addressed. She was pleased that most countries had adopted the concept of reproductive health.

¹ **Report of the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 5-13 September 1994** (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

² See Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, annex II.

³ See **Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3** (A/53/3 and Corr. 1 and Add. I), chap. III.

C. Deliberations and recommendations

6. The deliberations of the Bureau were held under the auspices of the National Population and Family Development Board and were chaired by Dr. Karim. The provisional agenda was discussed at the start of the inter-sessional meeting and the agenda, as adopted, is presented in annex II to this report.

7. The items discussed at the inter-sessional meeting covered the proposed agenda and organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-second regular session and of the Commission acting as preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; review of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council with specific responsibilities for the follow-up to the major United Nations Conferences; integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits; work of the Commission on Population and Development in the next quinquennium; preparations for the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; substance and organization of work of the Population Division; and other matters.

8. The recommendations of the Bureau on the above items are presented in annex III to this report. The Bureau reaffirmed the importance of its inter-sessional meetings in facilitating the work of the Commission. It also stressed the importance of the inter-sessional meetings for stimulating interest and awareness of population issues and of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the host country. The meetings provide an opportunity to organize briefings for Government officials, scholars and the press.

Annex I

List of participants

Members of the Bureau

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Other participants

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Annex II

Agenda of the inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Commission

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Commission on Population and Development:
 - (a) Agenda items and organization of work;
 - (b) Review of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;
 - (c) Integrated and coordinated follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits;
 - (d) Work of the Commission on Population and Development in the next quinquennium.
4. Preparations for the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development **(ICPD+5)**.
5. Substance and organization of the work programme of the Population Division.
6. Other matters.
7. Conclusions.
8. Closing of the meeting.

Annex III

Recommendations of the Bureau

I. Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda, organization of work and working methods for the thirty-second session of the Commission

1. The Bureau recommended a revised provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission, as shown in appendix I to the present annex.
2. The Bureau proposed the organization of work of the Commission at its thirty-second session, as shown in appendix II to this annex.
3. Given the useful intervention of a special discussant at the thirty-first session of the Commission, the Bureau recommended that a special discussant again be designated to launch the debate on the main report of the Commission, namely, *World Population Monitoring*, focusing on population growth, structure and distribution.
4. The Bureau recommended the convening of a panel of experts to discuss the special theme of population growth, structure and distribution. The panel should be convened on Monday **afternoon**. The Bureau recommended that the panel should comprise five persons from different regions (including a chairman), and be so organized as to have **five-minute** introductions from the panellists, responses **from** Member States and three-minute rejoinders by the panellists. Panel members should be invited by the Secretariat with **sufficient** advance notice so as to have adequate time for preparation.
5. The Bureau recommended that interventions by delegations should concentrate on the special theme or issue under consideration. Oral presentations should be for a maximum of five minutes, and delegations wishing to prepare lengthier statements could make them available in writing.
6. The Bureau requested the Director of the Population Division to present the work programme of the Population Division in a concise and integrated manner so as to encourage interaction. In addition, the Secretariat should ensure that presentations of other United Nations bodies are also concise, focused and relevant to the work of the Commission.
7. The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the thirty-second session to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group

should begin its work on the first day of the Commission, by 3 p.m. on Monday, 22 March, and finish its work by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 23 March, so that draft resolutions and decisions can be processed and submitted to the plenary for adoption as soon as possible.

8. Given the short duration of the regular session of the Commission, the Bureau recommended that the Secretariat, in consultation with members of the Commission, prepare initial **drafts** of resolutions and decisions in order to facilitate the work of the working group. The issues that the Commission may wish to consider include: the special theme for 1999, namely, Population growth, structure and distribution; the special topics for the years 2001-2003; and international migration. The Secretariat should, before the session **of the** Commission, consult with Member States and brief delegates on issues that are likely to be considered by the working group.
9. The Bureau recommended that it should meet one day in advance of the opening of the thirty-second session of the Commission to review the **drafts** prepared by the Secretariat.
10. The Bureau requested the Director of the Population Division to conduct informal consultations with Member States regarding the composition of the Bureau for the **thirty-second** session of the Commission.
11. The Bureau recommended that drafts of documents should be provided to members of the Commission as soon as they are available. The documents should be posted on the Internet when they are **officially** issued.

II. Recommendations concerning future sessions of the Commission

1. At the thirty-first session, the Commission decided that "Gender, population and development" should be the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-third session in the year 2000.
2. After considering the work of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and reviewing topics that need further consideration, the Bureau recommended the following topics for the years 2001-2003:
 - 200 1: Population and socio-economic differentials within and among countries

2002: Population and environment

2003: Reproductive rights and reproductive health

3. In the year 2004, the Bureau recommended that the focus should be on the next quinquennial review and appraisal with no special theme for that year.

4. The Bureau recommended that the agenda of the **thirty-third** session should include a report by the **Secretary-General** on the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly.

5. The Bureau also recommended that the documentation for the thirty-third session should include a report by the Secretary-General on the operational aspects of gender, population and development to be prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

6. The Bureau recommended that efforts should be made to seek funding to hold an expert group meeting on the special theme of gender, population and development, and that if such a meeting was held, the report should be presented to the Commission at its thirty-third session.

7. The Bureau recommended that at the thirty-third session of the Commission, a representative of the Commission on the Status of Women should be invited to inform the Commission on the preparations for the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

8. The Bureau recommended that Governments that seek membership in the Commission should ensure proper representation. The Commission deals with substantive issues related to population and development and the representatives to the Commission should have the appropriate background in these fields. The representatives to the Commission need to work in close collaboration with their permanent missions to the United Nations.

9. The Bureau recommended that members of the Bureau should be elected as early as possible at each session so that its work can begin without delay.

10. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution **1998/46** of 31 July 1998, annex II, regarding the functional commissions with specific responsibilities for the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and the practicality of such issues as the timing of the election of the members of the Bureau.

11. The Bureau **reaffirmed** that the inter-sessional meetings were useful and important in preparing for upcoming sessions. It urged Member States to facilitate the participation of the Bureau members in the inter-sessional

meetings and urged that the reports of these meetings be made available as early as possible.

12. The Bureau recommended that the Commission empower the Chairman of future sessions of the Commission to invite friends of the Chair to inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau in order to ensure continuity and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its work.

13. To improve coordination with other functional commissions, the Bureau recommended that the reports of the Commission and of the inter-sessional meetings should be shared with the Bureaux of other commissions.

14. The Bureau recommended that, at its next **inter-sessional** meeting, the agenda should include an item on the work of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

III. Recommendations concerning preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the live-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5)

1. The Bureau suggested the organization of work of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly, as shown in appendix III to this annex.

2. The Bureau strongly emphasized that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development should be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action and that there should be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein.

3. Introductory statements should be made with respect to presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the report of the International Forum on the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action. The deliberations should focus on the report of the Secretary-General for the special session of the General Assembly containing proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. The Bureau recommended that, at the close of the session of the Commission on Population and Development acting as preparatory committee for the special session, the document should be finalized and should contain no bracketed text.

5. The Bureau encouraged Member States to designate as soon as possible representatives to the Commission. Documents **that** are relevant to the work of the Commission and the preparations for the special session should be forwarded to the designated representatives as early as possible.

6. The Bureau stressed the need for the effective participation of actors from civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session.

IV. Recommendations regarding the work programme of the Population Division

1. The work programme of the Population Division for the biennium 2000-2001 needs to be **sufficiently** flexible to take into account the results of the special session of the General Assembly. It should support the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The work of the Population Division should continue to be maintained and strengthened to permit the comprehensive and up-to-date evaluation of population levels, trends, policies and relationships between population variables and development.

2. The Bureau encouraged the Population Division to continue its outreach efforts to enhance collaboration with institutes and universities engaged in population research so as to ensure a mutually beneficial exchange of information and promote, whenever possible, coordinated activities in specific areas of research.

3. The Bureau recommended that the Population Division seek funding for collaboration with other institutions, in particular for the holding of expert group meetings to shed light on key population concerns of the international community.

4. The Bureau also stressed the importance of participation by Population Division staff in professional meetings in order to take maximum advantage of relevant research work being undertaken at universities, research centres and **other** institutions and avoid duplicating the work of other institutions.

Appendix I

Revised provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development

1. Election of **officers**.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:
 - (a) Organization of work;
 - (b) Report of the inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau.
3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development:
 - (a) Population growth, structure and distribution;
 - (b) Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development.
4. World population situation.
5. Work of the Commission on Population and Development in the next quinquennium.
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session.

Appendix II

Provisional organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-second session

Monday, 22 March 1999

- Morning:
- Item 1* Election of officers
 - Item 2* Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
 - (a) Organization of work
 - (b) Report of the inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau
 - Item 3* Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development
- Documentation*
- Concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 1999: population growth, structure and distribution (E/CN.9/1999/2)
- Report of the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (E/CN.9/1999/3)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action (E/CN.9/1999/4)
- Afternoon:
- Item 3* Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (*continued*)
 - Item 4* World population situation
- Documentation*
- Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/1999/5)
- A panel discussion on population growth, structure and distribution will be held on Monday, 22 March, from 4.30 p.m. to 6p.m.*

Tuesday, 23 March 1999

- Morning and afternoon:
- Item 5* Work of the Commission on Population and Development in the next quinquennium
 - Item 6* Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population
- Documentation*
- Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 1998: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/1999/6)
- Proposed programme of work in population for the biennium 2000-2001: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/1999/7)

Item 7 **Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission**

Wednesday, 24 March 1999

Morning: *Item 8* **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session**

Appendix III

Provisional organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Wednesday, 24 March 1999

- Morning:
- Item 1* Election of officers
 - Item 2* Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
 - Item 3* Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly
 - (a)** Documents for information
 - Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development **(E/CN.9/1999/PC/2)**
 - Report of the International Forum on the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development **(E/CN.9/1999/PC/3)**
 - (b)** Document for consideration
 - Report of the Secretary-General for the special session of the General Assembly containing proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development **(E/CN.9/1999/PC/4)**
- Afternoon: *Item 3* Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)

Thursday, 25 March 1999

Morning and
afternoon: Informal consultations

Friday, 26 March 1999

Morning and
afternoon: Informal consultations (*continued*)

Monday, 29 March 1999

Morning and
afternoon: Consideration of draft proposals

Tuesday, 30 March 1999

Morning and
afternoon:

Item 4 Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee
for the special session of the General Assembly
