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TECHNICAL REPORT

GENDER, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MEETING OF THE UNFPA AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL NEW YORK, 5-6 APRIL 1995

Technical Report is a periodic publication of UNFPA which covers important developments and discussions in the population sector which take place in different fora.

Issues which are covered include: new developments in contraceptive technology; reproductive health and family planning; maternal health; policy formulation and other significant topics related to the population sector.

This Technical Report has been prepared for publication by the Gender, Population and Development (GPD) Branch of the Technical and Evaluation Division (TED).

UNFPA also publishes reports in other series including: Evaluation Report; Programme Advisory Note; and Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) Report.



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Technical Report

Gender, Population and Development: Meeting of the UNFPA Ad Hoc Advisory Panel, New York, 5-6 April 1995

Number 24



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Population Fund

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IEC	Information, education and communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
TED	Technical and Evaluation Division
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Social Development

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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ad Hoc Advisory Panel on Gender, Population and Development met in New York on 5-6 April 1995.¹ The Panel first met in 1987 and convenes every two years. Its primary function is to advise the Executive Director of UNFPA on areas of concern with regard to the role and status of women in all of the Fund's activities. The 16 participants were from both Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and attended the meeting in their personal capacities. (See annexes for the agenda and list of participants.)

In large part, this fifth meeting of the Panel centred on the outcome of the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994. Presentations and discussions reinforced the main thrust of ICPD, which equated reproductive rights with fundamental human rights. Participants voiced their concerns about how to operationalize the concepts regarding gender, population and development in the current climate, which is marked by strong challenges and potential setbacks.

The meeting was organized around several topics that provided a framework for information-sharing, debate, discussion and recommendations. The focus included new approaches and developments in the Fund's strategy and policy on Gender, Population and Development in the light of ICPD; ICPD follow-up; information, education and communication (IEC), including men's roles; reproductive health/family planning -- broadening the concept; collaboration with NGOs in the implementation of the Programme of Action; and an update on the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), to be held in Beijing, China, in September 1995.

The following report of the proceedings covers the presentations of the participants and UNFPA staff members, the discussion and ~~debate~~, and the recommendations of the participants to UNFPA in Gender, Population and Development.

¹ The Panel was formerly named the Ad Hoc Advisory Panel on Women, Population and Development. After the International Conference on Population and Development, UNFPA changed the name of its Women, Population and Development Branch to Gender, Population and Development, to reflect the centrality of gender in all of the Fund's population and development activities. Consequently, the Ad Hoc Advisory Panel's name was changed as well.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The two-day meeting was opened by the UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, who welcomed participants to this fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Panel. Dr. Sadik emphasized the importance of these meetings, as the Ad Hoc Advisory Panel provides UNFPA with an opportunity to obtain the Panelists' views and suggestions concerning the direction of policies and programme activities in gender, population and development. Dr. Sadik mentioned that the previous meeting, two years earlier, had offered many valuable recommendations on issues related to ICPD.

Dr. Sadik set the stage for the meeting by reviewing some of the main outcomes of ICPD. Dr. Sadik emphasized that the ICPD Programme of Action is based on human rights, and that the human rights of women and the girl child are "an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights". The full and equal participation of women in civic, cultural, economic, political and social life at the national, regional and international levels and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the Programme of Action.

The Programme of Action, which emphasizes the need to empower women and to ensure gender equality and equity, is ground-breaking in regard to all facets of women's reproductive health. There is the recognition that family planning must be integrated into the broader context of reproductive health, which should be accessible through the primary health care system to both women and men throughout the life cycle. The Programme of Action also addresses the role of men and the need for their assumption of responsibilities within the family for both child care and household chores. Children should be sensitized to male responsibilities in family life. Further, the role of NGOs and effective partnership between them and Governments

in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme of Action received strong support.

UNFPA Actions to Implement the ICPD Programme of Action

UNFPA has already held post-ICPD consultations with Governments and NGOs to develop regional strategies and, at the national level, to assist Governments in developing their own plans of action. At the international level, consultations on the Programme of Action with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and outside experts indicate the need for UNFPA to delineate the scope of its activities in reproductive health and family planning. UNFPA is now revising its programming policies and procedures in the light of the Programme of Action.

In order to ensure that the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action is totally linked with every aspect of UNFPA's work, a new unit, the Task Force on ICPD Implementation, has been created. In addition, an NGO Advisory Committee has been established to advise the Fund on various policy and programming initiatives. An Inter-Agency Task Force has also been set up at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to develop a coordinated approach for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

UNFPA is presenting a policy paper to its Executive Board with proposals on programme priorities in the light of ICPD. The proposals focus on three substantive areas: reproductive health including family planning, population and development strategies, and advocacy. Advocacy will be addressed in two arenas: in the Fund's efforts as spokesperson for human rights and development issues and in the Fund's

incorporation of advocacy as part of its operational activities. Gender equality, equity and empowerment will be addressed as cross-cutting dimensions of the three programme areas.

Specific Concerns

Dr. Sadik concluded her presentation by inviting the Advisory Panel to address specific areas in which the Fund would benefit from their input and recommendations which she would present to the UNFPA Executive Board together with other proposals. She posed a number of questions in this regard:

- Is "mainstreaming" gender in all of UNFPA programmes sufficient?
- Are there specific activities that UNFPA should fund to improve the status and participation of women?
- In relation to advocacy, what new messages should be conveyed and what new audiences should be reached, given the principles and goals of the Programme of Action?
- With regards to NGOs, what common message should be promoted? How could NGOs be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the ICPD Programme of Action?
- Given the long history of involvement and participation of local NGOs in population-related activities, how should the Fund's collaboration with NGOs that are undertaking the promotion of women's status at the national and community levels be strengthened?

In conclusion, Dr. Sadik noted that UNFPA was working hard to ensure that the FWCW builds on the achievements of ICPD.

She asked for the support of the participants in their various countries and regions to see that these achievements are translated into reality.

Following Dr. Sadik's opening remarks, the participants responded with questions and comments. Given the presentation's focus on integrating the themes and concepts of the ICPD throughout the work of UNFPA, the group addressed the issue of the need to orient UNFPA staff, at headquarters and in the field, to these new concepts, such as the new approach to family planning. There was concern that a concerted effort would be needed to train staff so that they could effectively implement programmes reflecting the new emphases. Dr. Sadik informed participants of several plans for providing staff orientation, among them, a global meeting of all UNFPA staff, planned for June 1995, and training workshops for all staff on both gender and advocacy.

NEW APPROACHES/DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNFPA STRATEGY AND POLICY ON GENDER, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: POST-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Chair for Session 1 was Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services).

Ms. Virginia Ofosu-Amaah, Chief of the Gender, Population and Development Branch, presented a brief historical overview of the Fund's approach to the question of Women, Population and Development and the shift from the concept of women to that of gender, highlighting the lessons learned and the new strategies to strengthen the integral connection between gender, population and development.

UNFPA has consistently accorded importance to the integration of women's issues throughout its policies and programmes. In 1987, the Governing Council approved a strategy to strengthen this approach. The strategy was based on the recommendation of the 1984 Mexico Population Conference which urged Governments to promote and integrate women into national development activities. In addition, two recent conferences -- ICPD and the World Summit for Social Development -- urged Governments to integrate women into all aspects of social, political and economic life. Some Governments have already made a commitment to promote women as agents and not only as beneficiaries in their development strategies.

UNFPA has followed two main approaches: mainstreaming women's issues and supporting women-specific projects. These two approaches are complementary, as the objectives of women-specific projects include the ultimate goal of mainstreaming.

However, an examination of the impact of these approaches indicates that women's issues were overly emphasized without sufficient attention to the societal context and the family and community structures in which women were situated.

The ICPD Programme of Action provided a framework for the direction of the Fund's development work, in particular through Principle 4 and Chapter IV. Principle 4 emphasizes advancing gender equity, equality and the empowerment of women, eliminating all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility. These are the cornerstones of population and development-related programmes. Chapter IV outlines the basis for action to empower women and strengthen their status, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child, and to enable men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and their social and family roles.

Three emphases within UNFPA

The framework provided by the Programme of Action has shaped UNFPA Gender, Population and Development activities into three areas of concern: improving women's status and empowerment, obtaining equality for the girl child, and ensuring that males assume responsibilities for their reproductive behaviour and their social and family roles. In each of the three areas, numerous activities -- including advocacy, and action programmes -- will be developed.

Women's empowerment. For women's empowerment and gender equality, activities are aimed at the following examples:

- Legislation guaranteeing gender equity;
- Advocacy, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, to

promote education and literacy programmes for girls and women;

- Encouragement of Governments to take a holistic approach to women's health needs;
- Support for gender-dissaggregated data, including the production of a manual, prepared in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, on how to collect such data; and
- Research into issues of gender equality.

Equality for the girl child. In the area of equality for the girl child, activities will include:

- Promotion of the education of girls and the need for girls to stay in school;
- Advocacy for the elimination of the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (FGM);
- Population education in schools, including materials that place girls in a positive light; and,
- Counselling and appropriate health services for girls suffering from FGM to be provided within the context of reproductive health services.

Male roles and responsibilities. In the area of male roles and responsibilities, particular attention is being given to the following:

- Advocacy of, and programming for, responsible parenthood;
- Advocacy for the sharing of responsibilities within the family and the household; and
- The education of adolescent males in these questions.

Other activities

To ensure the successful integration into the Fund's programme activities of the new thinking -- moving from women-specific activities to the broader context of gender -- extensive training programmes are being developed and conducted for UNFPA staff and national counterparts. A package is being developed for training to begin in 1996 on pilot basis in Egypt, Indonesia and Zimbabwe. It is hoped that these efforts will be supported in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies and organizations as well as national institutions.

In response to Ms. Ofosu-Amaah's presentation, the participants posed questions on a variety of issues, including the concept of gender, data collection, the girl child, the concept of responsible parenthood and training and advocacy. They underlined the need for resources for ICPD Programme of Action implementation.

- Concept of gender. In the light of the current meeting at the United Nations of the Preparatory Committee for the FWCW, there was discussion about the concepts relating to gender, which are firmly entrenched in and give direction to the ICPD Programme of Action.

Participants discussed attempts to dilute the language and minimize these concepts. One of the challenges to the use of the term "gender" lies in the argument that the term cannot be translated into other languages. Some participants said that this sort of objection masked resistance to the concept. One participant cited an example from her experience with the South-South Commission, where the term was challenged because it could not be translated into Arabic. One of the participants quickly researched the issue and found an Arabic definition

of "gender" which was accepted. As a result, resistance to the term was defused.

Participants noted, however, the persistent lack of clarity about the meaning of the term. Ongoing discussions in various countries and languages are needed to establish a clear understanding of the concepts. Once this understanding has been established, appropriate terms can be found to express these concepts in any language.

- **Data.** The need for disaggregated data was emphasized. There was some discussion about terminology, and a consensus was reached that the increasing use of "gender statistics" was inappropriate. Data are disaggregated by sex. However, data disaggregated by sex are then analysed for gender issues and trends. All survey instruments should be designed to elicit gender-disaggregated data. Most of the surveys use women-centred data based on outmoded demographic perspectives in terms of women's fertility. Male fertility data are needed for a balanced and realistic picture.
- **The girl child.** A number of concerns were aired regarding the girl child. One was the increasing violence against girl children, not only FGM but also sexual violence in general. Another concern was in relation to education. Advocacy for increasing the number of girls going to school is important but not sufficient. The education of girls cannot come about by decree. The reason why girls do not go to school at all or for only a limited time is due to the gender roles within the family, the need for girls to perform household maintenance tasks -- particularly the collection of water and fuel -- and

child care. There must be a clear link between the education of girls and social policy. An examination of the question of the girl child necessarily entails examining male psychology and the education boys receive that reinforces their attitudes and behaviours.

- **Training.** Several participants said that training is needed to promote a clearer understanding of the concept of gender and of the need for gender issues to be integrated into all programmes, projects and policies. There is a distinct gap, it was mentioned, between the theoretical discussions among United Nations staff and the actual implementation of gender-responsive development activities. Government officials at the local level should also be a target for such training.
- **Advocacy.** Several participants emphasised that UNFPA should continue to play an active advocacy role to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

In answering the points raised, Ms. Ofosu-Amaah indicated further areas of the Fund's work. She agreed that there is a need for more widespread understanding of gender and suggested that a technical panel look at the issue with a view towards developing definitions and a conceptual framework that can be adopted by all -- United Nations agencies and organizations, NGOs, grass-roots groups and academics. She emphasized the need to sensitize Governments at all levels to understand the ICPD Programme of Action and to promote its implementation. Following up on the point made about FGM, she stressed the need to be aware of all cultural practices that have a deleterious impact on the health of women and girls, including violence against women and girl children, and the need to train health workers to recognize the symptoms of violence.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Chair for Session 2 was Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services).

UNFPA has established a Task Force on the Implementation of ICPD. Ms. Catherine S. Pierce, Manager of the Task Force, made a presentation on its work towards achieving the goals of implementing the Programme of Action.

The aim of the Task Force is to ensure the Fund's full commitment to, and participation in, the implementation of the Programme of Action at intergovernmental levels, in the United Nations system and at national levels. In the process of developing a strategy for implementing the Programme of Action, new directions are being forged to move forward from Cairo.

Task Force Priorities

A number of areas are pivotal to this process, including the following:

- Human rights framework. The human rights framework is a significant departure from previous approaches, which focused on targets and incentives. Rather, the new thinking identifies human rights as a central issue, stating clearly that all men and women -- as individuals -- have human rights which are essential to the quality of life;
- Population-development issues. The approach of treating population issues as synonymous with development issues anchors population at the centre of sustainable human development,

rather than treating it as an afterthought;

- Empowerment of women and gender equity and equality; This is considered a *sine qua non* to sustainable development.
- Reproductive health/family planning. Family planning is viewed in the broader context of reproductive health and is based on a holistic approach that covers the life cycle of both women and men, and is not restricted to the reproductive years of women. ICPD equated reproductive rights with human rights, a significant starting-point for the implementation of ICPD;
- New partnerships. To provide for new partnerships, a new UNFPA NGO Advisory Group has been established to assist UNFPA in identifying NGOs at the local level. Many NGOs are working on the basis of popular participation and have not yet attained formal status as official groups within the country. UNFPA will be seeking advice on how best to work with these groups. Other new partners include academic and research institutions which will assist in monitoring the impact of ICPD on national policy and help define new directions.

Ms. Pierce pointed out that the three quantitative goals of ICPD -- education, mortality reduction and reproductive health/family planning -- are interrelated. However, the move from rhetoric to actuality is dependent on adequate resources. UNFPA is working with countries to re-examine the 20/20² concept

²

The 20/20 initiative requires the donor community to allocate 20 per cent of official development assistance (ODA), and developing country Governments to allocate 20 per cent of their national budgets, to the social sector.

to ensure the allocation of adequate resources to population and women's programmes.

The activities of the Task Force are centred on four areas: intergovernmental follow-up, inter-agency collaboration, consultation on resource mobilization and national-level activities. UNFPA is fully committed to participating in and implementing the Programme of Action at all these levels.

Ms. Pierce emphasized that the national level was the most crucial area at which to ensure implementation of the Programme of Action. National-level activities include the development of a plan of action, a monitoring tool and a database on national initiatives and action. To promote this, it is important that intergovernmental agencies and the United Nations system speak with the same voice and that this be reflected at the national level. Although the focus is on inter-agency collaboration, key NGOs, regional commissions and other relevant organizations will be included. Within UNFPA, the Task Force is working with the various divisions and staff to ensure that the Programme of Action and the goals of ICPD are integrated into their work.

Ms. Pierce noted that significant progress has already been made. All recent United Nations conferences have placed the spotlight on critical current issues. Population and gender issues are now centre stage and will be taken up again in Beijing. The challenge for UNFPA is to ensure that it does its part in moving forward.

Scope of UNFPA Activities

The parameters of UNFPA activities were discussed at several junctures in the meeting. Following Ms. Pierce's presentation, one participant voiced concern that UNFPA was enlarging too broadly the scope of its activities concerning gender

and women. She argued that, for the best use of resources, UNFPA should continue to focus on family planning and the improvement of the quality of services, thus, addressing gender sensitivity through the Fund's key concerns. The issue of the girl child, for example, would best be left to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with more funds and experience. However, girls need gynecological support and family planning advice, and this is where UNFPA has the experience and relative advantage. She also suggested all UN-funded projects should have a family planning component.

The majority of the participants, however, disagreed with this perspective. They agreed that UNFPA should not restrict itself to family planning issues but should, rather, see itself as central to the question of women's empowerment, gender equity and equality, and reproductive rights. In their view, only by addressing itself to these broader issues can UNFPA make headway on the question of reproductive health/family planning.

In demonstrating the need for the broader view, one participant recalled the UNICEF position that family planning was outside of its domain. However, when it was recognized that addressing family planning issues had a positive impact on the health of the child, family planning was included in UNICEF activities. It was further pointed out that most women do not have access to health care beyond their child-bearing years. Women need at least one check-up in the post-child-bearing years in order to detect tumors and other gynecological problems. If the focus of UNFPA is solely on family planning, reproductive health as a human right will be overlooked.

The United Nations system should adopt an integrated approach to women's health. Adolescent girls and older women (the latter tend to be left out of development programmes) should be part of

such integrated activities. One participant drew attention to the fact that in some countries, e.g., Japan, the term "reproductive health" is not easily translated, and as such, the concept is not understood. There is an evident need in some countries for advocacy by UNFPA, in collaboration with identified strategic partners at national and district levels, to change perceptions. She specifically requested for UNFPA's assistance to train nationals (Japanese) in reproductive health.

In discussing the most effective way to ensure that these issues will be addressed in the broader context by all agencies, participants emphasized the need for inter-agency collaboration and the need for UN agencies to develop at the district level a comprehensive social services development package. Ms. Pierce reiterated that these concerns are the responsibility of all agencies. UNFPA is identifying key partners with which to coordinate approaches for implementing ICPD and Gender, Population and Development programmes. The resident coordinator approach being introduced at the country level provides arenas for synchronizing all programmes and the funding of various agencies. A pro-active role is needed at the country level to ensure this.

Other topics raised in the discussion included the need to address the question of sexual rights as a human right and gender issues concerning adolescent girls, including early marriage.

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING MEN'S ROLES)

The Chair for Session 3 was Senator Akiko Domoto of Japan, who circulated a comprehensive report on the role of Japan in ICPD follow-up and Japan's Global Initiative on Population and AIDS. Senator Domoto highlighted the pressures that NGOs and women parliamentarians have brought to bear on the Japanese Government to ensure women's participation in the decision-making process. She also highlighted the Government's policies to promote the improvement of women's status.

Mr. O. J. Sikes, Chief, Education, Communication and Youth Branch, Technical and Evaluation Division (TED), examined the connection between gender issues and IEC.

Advocacy and Education

Mr. Sikes noted that one of the principal and most universally recognized issues facing education today is that of gender implications in women's and girls' education. UNFPA is addressing these in numerous ways. One is through advocacy -- a process that has included meetings between Dr. Sadik and Heads of State. UNFPA was a partner in the World Conference on Education for All in 1989 and helped organize the E-9 summit of the leaders of Nine High Population Countries in New Delhi in 1993. During that Summit, UNFPA was responsible for the panel on Women's and Girls' Education. In addition, UNFPA has drawn attention to gender issues in its publications and press briefings.

Beyond advocacy, there are population education projects that not only teach what the various gender issues are, but how to respond to them. By beginning

in the early years of schooling, children can learn to respect one another. It is especially important for boys to develop respect for girls and women, and to learn the basics of equality. Mr. Sikes pointed to two critical issues, the need to educate boys to form more positive attitudes of fairness and concern for others, and the need to help girls develop their self-esteem, which entails internalizing positive visions of their future selves. The in-school population education activities funded by UNFPA offer the potential for this. However, it is an area that needs strengthening. Better examples of what can and should be taught to children and how it should be taught are needed.

Adults as well as children must deal with gender issues, and UNFPA is broadening its approach in this area to participants in reproductive health services. The involvement of men in reproductive health/family planning is critical. Until now, men's involvement has been restricted primarily to promoting vasectomy. Most of the family planning services funded by UNFPA are situated in maternal and child health clinics, attended by women. Women who want to practise family planning often find that their husbands do not understand it and will not allow it. UNFPA is exploring two areas of promoting education on this issue, at the workplace and through agricultural extension programmes.

The discussant, Dr. Nahid Toubia, outlined four important levels of promoting IEC: the formal sector controlled by governments; the media; NGOs, especially women's NGOs, and family planning associations; and peer groups. Alternatively, creative methods of message dissemination should be sought. Emphasis should be placed on male responsibilities and their sense of respect for women. Messages should portray the need for men to share power with women. Gender training should be provided to those who develop IEC messages in support of family

planning to ensure that the messages are gender sensitive.

Men's Roles and Attitudes

In responding to Mr. Sikes' presentation, participants highlighted a number of issues that they thought deserved greater attention and that would enhance men's roles and IEC activities. Socio-cultural behavioural research is needed to better understand the foundation of men's roles and attitudes so that IEC activities can be designed to more effectively reach men and bring about change. With regard to men's role in reproductive health, it has been found that men resist vasectomy for a number of cultural and social reasons, often based on misinformation. The need to begin with the youth and peer group through education and other activities was considered essential, as well as Government's role in designing policies that would encourage men to play greater roles in reproductive health/family planning decisions and within the family.

Facilitating and Constraining Factors

Some examples of successful IEC campaigns were given, such as the use of a soap opera in India, in which a young woman was portrayed as refusing to marry until she had completed her education. Participants spoke of the need to develop innovative ways of getting messages across, such as through theater groups, the work place, youth clubs and extension workers and pointed out that hospitals and primary health care centers could be used as the locus of disseminating information. The accomplishments of many local NGOs provide lessons from which others can learn. The constraints on IEC, on the other hand, were also noted, including in some places an increasing level of poverty to the extent that villagers are unable to buy batteries for their radios, thus precluding the impact of a highly effective source of

information and education. Participants agreed that the IEC approach should go beyond posters and a communications strategy should be developed on the basis of research and analyses of local situations.

Participants underscored the need to analyse school curricula and teaching materials to ensure that gender stereotypes are eliminated. Resources would be needed to enable medical schools to likewise design their training programmes to eliminate gender biases.

On ICPD implementation, youth groups should be included in national structures established for this purpose, as their perspective on ICPD follow-up should be sought.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING: BROADENING THE CONCEPT

The Chair for Session 4 was Ms. Devaki Jain, Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), India, who introduced the topic of reproductive health including family planning by emphasizing that broadening the concept to include women's empowerment, and reproductive and human rights, is important not only because of ICPD but because it makes sense. However, many obstacles have been encountered in making this broadened concept operational. Existing patterns of administration and financial assistance, along with accountability mechanisms, including the appointment rules of service providers, are not conducive to the convergence of economic and social security services. These systems need to be reconstructed at national, subnational and international levels. The United Nations system, national Governments and national mechanisms operate along sectoral lines, with funding provided sectorally. Converging processes are therefore required at all levels.

Dr. Charlotte Gardiner of the Reproductive Health/Family Planning Branch, TED, addressed in her presentation a number of issues, including reproductive health as a human right; the implications of the new approach in reproductive health/family planning, in general, and for UNFPA, in particular; and collaboration on the issue with other agencies and organizations.

Dr. Gardiner referred to the ICPD definition of reproductive health, which states: "Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease. . .". Access to family planning and health-care services is seen as a right of men and women. Dr. Gardiner reiterated

that UNFPA supports the concept of sexual and reproductive health as a human right.

The recommendations embodied in the Programme of Action have immediate relevance to family planning programmes, to health delivery systems that comprise components of reproductive health care and to the primary health care system as a whole, all of which need to address gender inequities. The involvement of men in safeguarding the sexual and reproductive health of women is necessary, as well as attention to the reproductive needs of both women and men over the life cycle, while ensuring the inclusion of hitherto neglected population groups. Dr. Gardiner outlined the numerous important and urgent measures that will have to be taken to ensure that the full range of integrated reproductive health care is provided for both men and women, young and old.

Implications for UNFPA

For UNFPA to move away from the family planning focus of its work to the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action, an overall three-pronged strategy has been proposed, namely (a) advocacy; (b) reproductive health components for existing family planning programmes; and (c) integration of the various components of reproductive health at the service delivery level. The essence of this strategy will be to assist countries in filling their nationally identified gaps in reproductive health service delivery, covering the wide range of health care needs relating to reproductive health. IEC will be central to the strategy, in influencing reorientation of existing primary health care programmes and in expanding access and improving the quality of services.

UNFPA proposed to mainstream the issue of gender in reproductive health/family planning through the programme support process. UNFPA is encouraging national committees to lead this process in-country, and field offices have been advised to

include local NGO needs -- especially those of women and adolescents -- in country programme support.

Agency Collaboration and Cooperation

As the tasks set out in the ICPD Programme of Action are beyond the capacity of any single organization, UNFPA will continue to encourage the strengthening of collaboration and coordination arrangements with WHO, UNICEF, other United Nations system partners, bilateral agencies, and NGOs at the global as well as national levels. At the global level, WHO will be involved in standard-setting, research and development, technical guidelines, information dissemination and training materials. At the country level, UNFPA will continue to collaborate and coordinate activities with WHO, UNICEF and other appropriate agencies and organizations, with the objective of implementing comprehensive national programmes in reproductive health.

The discussant, Ms. Maria Isabel Plata, of PROFAMILIA, Colombia, briefly outlined the work of PROFAMILIA, a non-profit service provider, which covers 70 per cent of all the family planning activities in Colombia. Its 48 clinics cover different programmes, working with women, men and youth. It emphasizes an approach that works "with" people rather than "for" them, and is moving from family planning to reproductive health in the context of reproductive rights. She cautioned that in the shift, family planning services may suffer. She emphasised that reproductive health and sexual health are synonymous with people's rights and service providers should respect the rights of their patients and clients. However, more work would need to be done on the sexual rights of clients.

The follow-up discussion focused, in large part, on the question of reproductive health and reproductive rights, with attention to what is involved in trying to

make this shift at the country level. Some participants noted that moving away from concentrating on family planning to broader health and human rights concerns is a political shift. Panelists discussed the type of resistance to such a change that would be encountered at the country level. They also discussed the general constraints to access to health-care services, including cultural, attitudinal and medical hindrances, a lack of resources and a lack of research, and the establishment of clinics in urban areas to which large rural populations (in Africa, more than 60 per cent) have no access. Participants emphasized that the move from family planning to reproductive health is a move from a women-centred approach to an approach that includes men and the relationship between men and women.

Several participants underscored the need for a nationally centred approach, taking into account the differing circumstances in each country. In some, reproductive health as a concept is willingly embraced; in others it is difficult to promote family planning even as a starting-point. It should not be a top-down process, but one that allows countries to decide on their needs. At the same time, advocacy for change is needed, along with work at overcoming resistances and ensuring the provision of resources. UNFPA has, as a starting-point, strong programmes already in existence, which can be reoriented.

Concern was expressed about the situation of women migrants, who tend to be left out of reproductive health/family planning programmes. They are clearly vulnerable in terms of lack of access to services and a prevailing high level of sexual abuse and violence. This is a new area that UNFPA should begin to address.

COLLABORATION WITH NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The Chair for Session 5 was Ms. Salwa Masri, Minister of Social Development, Jordan. She presented a short video film entitled "Women in Development Programme: Noor Al-Hussein Foundation" which focussed on income-generating activities organised by women NGOs in Jordan. The film underscored the important contribution generally made by NGOs especially grassroots level women NGOs to development and confirmed that it is imperative for NGOs to work in partnership with Governments in ICPD implementation.

Ms. Sonia Corrêa, of IBASE, Brazil, in her presentation on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, pointed to the disturbing departures from the principles established in Cairo and the controversies surrounding some of the issues agreed upon in Cairo. This was reflected in the Programme of Action emerging from the Social Summit held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and the weakened stands being reflected in the final stages of the documentation for Beijing. This will have a direct impact on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the international and national levels. It will affect the impact of UNFPA initiatives and the ability of NGOs to contribute effectively to the reframing of national policies, with the possibility of reducing the participation and contribution of NGOs.

Ms. Corrêa outlined the history of increasing NGO involvement and the positive contribution of NGOs to the language of Chapter 15 of the Programme of Action, which covers the role of NGOs. She summarized the fundamental premises of the document, including the distinction

between the roles and responsibilities of non-profit organizations and the conventional private sector; the potential of the non-profit sector of NGOs and acknowledgement of its increasing legitimacy; the distinction between NGOs as providers and as voices of the people expressing the needs and aspirations of societies; the grounding of the partnership principle in decision-making relating to all phases of policy and programme development; the autonomy of the NGO sector; the need for Governments and international organizations to support NGO capacity-building; and the role and participation of women's organizations at all levels.

The ICPD position on the NGO sector goes beyond previous international documents and should be used as a benchmark to guide the partnership between States and the NGO sector in most national settings. These principles provide challenges for implementation. Ms. Corrêa discussed some basic premises that might assist implementation in the years ahead.

First, the implementation of Chapter 15 is conditioned upon the existence of an "enabling political environment" guided by democratic rules and procedures. The involvement of NGOs and the development of frameworks for partnership require the constant acknowledgement of the political and dynamic dimensions inherent in dialogues involving Government, the United Nations system and NGOs, with the recognition by all that, to be successful, this partnership will result in policy changes and the transformation of existing procedures and political conditions. Second, the non-profit sector is heterogeneous and varied in its institutional capacities and interests. This situation, in turn, favours plurality and democracy. Third, the democratic principles embedded in Chapter 15 suggest that no groups should be excluded.

women's NGOs and specific sectors of the family planning community have been the stakeholders of the Cairo agenda. These stakeholders -- women's NGOs, in particular -- which are supported by UNFPA should be involved in monitoring, advising and implementing the Programme of Action. Other sectors of the family planning/population community have resisted and will continue to resist any reframing based on ICPD in the near future. These sectors need exposure to the Cairo concepts and principles, and advocacy work is needed to integrate the ICPD framework into their programmes. Finally, given the very fabric of societies, and the diversity within the international NGO community, there are those opposed to ICPD principles. Although they should not be excluded from public debate, they must not be permitted to obstruct implementation strategies. The ICPD constituency needs to be expanded beyond the currently committed groups to those involved in development, human rights and the environment.

Different parties to the process of partnership would adopt different strategies. For instance, NGOs, particularly women's NGOs, who are the voice of society, would be involved primarily in policy design and advocacy, research, monitoring, transformation of attitudes and the empowerment of women in relation to reproductive rights. Roles and responsibilities need to be defined for each level. Although strategies differ among international, national, regional and local levels, the linkages and the flow of information among those levels are critical.

Resources are needed to guarantee the effectiveness of partnership strategies. NGOs, in particular women's NGOs, need institution-building support, not only funding for projects. New models are needed to ensure the transfer of resources to the most disadvantaged groups and informal organizations.

Underscoring points made by Ms. Corrêa, the discussant, Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, related efforts in Pakistan to implement the Programme of Action in relation to NGOs. An NGO committee for ICPD was formed before the Cairo meeting and pressed the Government to look at population and development through the perspective of women and NGOs. Given the de facto conservatism that prevails on women's rights, the committee played an important role in highlighting the issues and then worked on the post-Cairo implementation. A complementary and real partnership with Government was formed. A successful post-Cairo symposium was held, with positive political will expressed by the Government. A broad-based post-Cairo task force was formed to link smaller organizations with the Government. A few gaps became evident relating to the differing strengths and qualifications of the NGOs and the need to clearly define their roles and establish a line of communication for policy feedback. While there is a positive enabling environment for strengthening NGOs, the Government still views them as extensions rather than as autonomous groups. They are operating within a context in which societal forces want to maintain the status quo and resist women's empowerment and changes in gender relations.

Expanding on Ms. Corrêa's presentation, many participants stressed the need for a positive political will on the part of the Governments as a critical ingredient for the implementation of ICPD. Emphasis was placed on the need to support small local NGOs, which had been provided official legitimacy by ICPD and which had not been recognized in the past. Participants agreed on the vital importance of networking as a means of deriving strength, improving organizing potential and learning lessons, among other benefits. Although local NGOs cannot cover the whole country or implement programmes at a national level, they can contribute to implementation by being catalysts for activities that can be

replicated. They can also conduct advocacy at the local level which impacts on the nation and forges links between the local, regional and national levels.

An example from Egypt was given of an umbrella NGO (comprising 400 NGOs) which has been working effectively to address issues relating to women's empowerment, reproductive health/family planning, the youth and female genital mutilation. The database unit of the organisation provides important information for programmes in these areas.

Another example from India was cited wherein effective local work was made possible in areas where the Government was decentralized and local Government funding was provided for local implementation. One third of the local government structures was reserved for women. These local structures were able to respond more directly to community needs and, so, function more in the manner of grass-roots organizations than as arms of the central Government.

Several participants supported the view that, to truly realize the goals of the Programme of Action, social change is needed in many countries. They pointed to the important role that NGOs play in this process, although this role, in itself, can be threatening to Governments. There was the need to assess NGO involvement at the national level in ICPD implementation, to provide resources to facilitate networking -- to strengthen NGO capacity and to build a bridge between developmental NGOs and those dealing with reproductive health and family planning. It is valuable to remember that Chapter 15 of the Programme of Action was approved with no reservations. International support for NGOs thus is necessary.

UPDATE ON FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Chair for Session 6 was Dr. Leila Mehra, formerly of WHO.

Ms. Natalia Zacharova, Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the United Nations, made a presentation reflecting the status of the preparations for FWCW, which is to be held in Beijing, 4-15 September 1995. At the time of her presentation, the Global Preparatory Committee, which was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, was in the final stages of its meeting.

Ms. Zacharova addressed the positive and negative aspects of the final draft document to be presented in Beijing. The Preparatory Committee began as a routine plenary to discuss the draft of the Platform for Action. However, many of the delegates thought it more appropriate to thoroughly revise it. Some delegations were concerned that the language did not reflect the language of ICPD and the Social Summit. Others protested the document as too pro-gender and women's empowerment. "Informal consultations" were set up for all sides to express their views. Informal working groups of the whole were then charged with the responsibility of revising the draft accordingly. In DAW's view, the draft is now a stronger one, although considerably longer, as it contains a more precise articulation of the concepts. Women's issues are now cross-cutting. However, the delegates did not arrive at agreement on the document as a whole; as a result, 10 to 30 per cent of the sections of the Platform for Action are in brackets, awaiting final wording.

Ms. Dottie Lamm, a participant attending the Preparatory Committee as a public member of the U.S. delegation,

discussed the drafting of a chapter on the girl child which was not part of the original document. The draft chapter pulled together aspects of the document as a whole which were relevant to the girl child, placing a strong focus on understanding the abuse suffered by girl children worldwide. There was strong interest and collaboration on this section resulting from humanitarian concerns. Three key elements are the need for education, the need for building self-esteem and the emphasis on equality and equity.

The discussant, Ms. Aida Guindy, recapitulated the relevant issues discussed at each UN Conference dealing with women's issues and underscored the concerns of delegates attending the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the need to strengthen the draft Platform for Action for FWCW. She asked to what extent the recommendations contained in the regional Platforms for Action are reflected in the draft Platform for Action for Beijing. For example, she referred to the Africa Regional Platform for Action which has an excellent section on the girl child. She also highlighted the dynamic role of NGOs in recent UN Conferences.

Participants also expressed similar concerns that many of the ground-breaking concepts and principles of ICPD were not being reflected in the draft Platform for Action for FWCW or were, at this stage, being placed within brackets. In both the Social Summit and the FWCW, the strengths and contributions of ICPD seemed to be at risk. It is imperative that future development work in all areas -- by Governments, United Nations agencies and NGOs -- continue to integrate and uphold the messages and concepts from ICPD.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNFPA AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL ON GENDER, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The UNFPA Ad Hoc Advisory Panel on Gender, Population and Development reviewed the process leading to and following ICPD. The Panel expressed its appreciation for the actions and approaches already taken by the Executive Director regarding the position that reproductive rights represent a human right, that empowerment and choice are central, that population is an integral part of development, and that partnerships between NGOs, Governments and United Nations agencies and organizations must be promoted.

The Panel emphasized the importance of the Fund's reinforcement of the change in concepts and approaches reflected in the ICPD Programme of Action, which moves away from a primary focus on family planning to the quest for well-being, equality and justice, and an integrative holistic approach to population and development. Noting the success of ICPD in enlisting the support of Governments and civil society to implement the Programme of Action and its principles, the Panel supported the Fund's role in continuing to promote the concepts and language of ICPD. The Panel also supported the Fund's leadership role in bringing women, their rights and status into the centre of all areas of development activities, policies and programmes supported by the United Nations system. In the Panel view, women's groups -- local and national as well as international -- are central to any partnership-building on the part of UNFPA.

The major concerns and issues that emerged from the meeting included:

- Reproductive Rights. The new concepts highlighted in ICPD and the Programme of Action were welcomed as a major reorientation

that puts critical issues on the agenda, including the concept of gender and the need to mainstream gender issues, gender equity and equality, and the empowerment of women. There was discussion about the nature of empowerment and whether the empowerment of women would lead to power over men, rather than equality and partnership. Participants saw empowerment as leading to equality and partnership. They also saw as an especially significant move forward regarding the situating of reproductive health and family planning within the broader scope of reproductive rights, which are inextricably tied to human rights and women's rights. ~~This change~~ permits an approach that moves from providing services to the disadvantaged to enabling all people to have access, as a right, to these services, and not simply as recipients but also as participants and active partners, with wide-ranging implications for the design and implementation of UNFPA policies and programmes;

- The role of NGOs. Participants were gratified by the attention given to the increased role of NGOs in the population and development process by ICPD, as expressed, in particular, in Chapter 15 of the Programme of Action. Such attention gives legitimacy to a wide range of NGOs, particularly the small but significant local community-based NGOs;
- Men's roles and responsibilities. There was considerable discussion about the need to have an impact on the traditional roles of men, and about how this could best be achieved so that men could see these changes as being in their own and society's best interests. There was a call for research into the

sources of men's traditional attitudes and why they are so widely ingrained, so that appropriate and relevant messages can be formulated and programmes designed to take these into account.

- Girl child. It was felt that much work needs to be done in assisting the girl child, to ensure education, promote self-esteem and develop from a young age the sense of rightful equality. Considerable concern was expressed about increasing violence against women, starting at early ages and affecting, in intolerable ways, the lives of girl children and the continuing cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, which results in very early pregnancies.
- Fourth World Conference on Women. Panelists were disturbed by what they perceived as a retreat from concepts and principles established with global support at ICPD. Their concerns included the shift in the definition of the family from one that acknowledges various forms that families can take (ICPD) to a definition that sees the family as nuclear and woman-centred and as harbouring intrinsically dependent relationships. There was an appeal to UNFPA to continue to play a leadership role in implementing ICPD as widely as possible. Considerable support was expressed for the role that UNFPA has played and continues to play in this regard.

Throughout the proceedings, Panelists offered a wide range of recommendations to enhance the Fund's implementation of ICPD; build a gender-responsive IEC programme; look in a new way at men's roles and responsibilities; and forge partnerships in new and innovative ways with a broader and more representative spectrum of national and

local NGOs.

Given the vital impact of ICPD and the Programme of Action to future work of UNFPA, in particular, and to the United Nations and Governments, in general, most of the recommendations suggested by the Panel related directly or indirectly to implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the concepts and criteria contained within it.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCEPTS, AND PRINCIPLES IN THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

It was recommended that:

- UNFPA should ~~play~~ play a catalytic role within the United Nations system, with national Governments, bilateral, multilateral and other international assistance agencies and organizations, on processes for integrating gender issues, gender equity and equality and women's empowerment into all phases of policy and programme/project design and implementation, and promote discussions and acceptance of the concept of reproductive health as a human right;
- UNFPA should address itself to the practical manifestation of these concepts and, in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies and organizations, Governments and NGOs, develop: (a) through research and consultation, common terms of reference for the key concepts of gender, gender equity and equality, and women's empowerment; (b) methodologies that incorporate these concepts as the foundation for gender analysis and the mainstreaming of gender issues; (c) guidelines, training manuals and other aids for integrating gender issues into policy-making; and (d)

- comprehensive gender training programmes geared to all levels: policy, programme/project and grass-roots;
- UNFPA should adopt innovative advocacy measures to urge the integration of ICPD concepts and principles into all policy and programme/project development and implementation at governmental, United Nations agency, multilateral and bilateral levels;
 - UNFPA should recognize that, although mainstreaming gender issues is an essential aspect of the Fund's programme and policies, there continues to be the critical need for special attention to specific areas, such as women's NGO capacity-building and networking, the extension of UNFPA policy on assistance to women in emergency situations to include migrant women, and skill and leadership training for women's NGOs with the ultimate goal of mainstreaming women's issues;
 - Adequate resources should be provided for programmes designed to promote women's empowerment and gender equity and equality;
 - Countries should be urged to prepare action plans to implement the ICPD Programme of Action which (a) include specific gender-sensitive policies, programmes and action research agendas; (b) reflect consultative processes with NGOs, especially women's organizations; and (c) incorporate women's organizations into the implementation of these action plans. These action plans should be implemented with a sense of urgency and not await a lengthy review process;
 - UNFPA should identify countries which can serve as models for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and establish close monitoring of the successes and constraints encountered in this process;
 - All future United Nations conferences should accept the recommendations and action plans already endorsed at similar gatherings to avoid the reopening of debate at each conference aimed at the dilution of, and changes in, the agreements already reached;
 - A report should be compiled of all recommendations made at the various United Nations conferences regarding gender issues and concerns, to provide documentation of the process for addressing these issues from one conference to the next, to be used as a tool for future United Nations conferences.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING

It was recommended that:

- UNFPA should ensure the provision of adequate resources to enable health providers to fulfil their responsibilities to uphold and promote reproductive health rights;
- UNFPA should take an unswerving stand on the position that women are equal to men and are entitled to the same basic human rights, ensuring that these basic principles are integrated in all training materials, language and IEC messages that UNFPA has influence over, and ensuring that the resources necessary for the promotion of reproductive rights are

mobilized and committed;

- UNFPA should advocate the resumption of research and development of new male contraceptive methods, given the reality that few men respond well to the notion of vasectomy; and
- All United Nations-funded programmes and projects should incorporate components relating to reproductive health to ensure that population and development issues as well as both reproductive and productive roles of men and women are addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO DATA COLLECTION

It is recommended that:

- UNFPA should take the lead in developing guidelines and in strengthening mechanisms for sex-disaggregated and gender-differentiated data collection on the situation of women, as a starting-point, especially in countries where the status of women is relatively low;
- Efforts should be intensified to ensure the collection and analysis of gender-differentiated data to supplement the more static sex-disaggregated data as a starting-point for gender analysis and planning; and,
- All survey instruments and data collecting models (such as DHS) should be revised to incorporate new sets of questions to elicit sex-disaggregated data necessary for gender-differentiated analysis. To achieve this, it is necessary to establish a programme whereby women's groups and other specialists in reproductive rights can

work with demographers to ensure that gender issues are reflected in both the survey questionnaires and the subsequent analysis.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

It is recommended that:

- Given that pervasive poverty results in limited access to television and radio, as well as reduced attendance at schools, hospitals and health centres, innovative mechanisms for the dissemination of information should be designed and piloted to reach as wide an audience as possible. Mechanisms could include itinerant theater groups, mobile video shows and cinemas, and other forms of population education;
- Given the tendency to focus on adults, a special focus on youth should be promoted whereby a forum for youth -- both girls and boys -- would be established as a platform for the expression of views on the family, family responsibility, family planning and other issues concerning reproductive health;
- Adolescents and youth should be involved in the process of both framing IEC messages and devising innovative ways of conveying these messages to all sectors of the society, in general, and to young adolescent males, in particular;
- To identify the most effective messages to reach men and women on reproductive health and the concepts of gender equity, equality and empowerment, new techniques (such as humour) should be adopted that are founded on the knowledge of mass psychology and, to better

of mass psychology and, to better tailor the messages to the audience, further research should be undertaken on how people, particularly men, make choices;

- Given the way that educational materials are overwhelmingly gender blind, reinforcing negative social attitudes towards girls and women, gender stereotypes should be addressed from the earliest possible stage and materials should be developed that deliver positive messages promoting a vision of equity and equality.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO CHANGING MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ROLES IN GENDER, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

It is recommended that:

- Given that many girls do not go to school at all or drop out early due to their roles in household maintenance and child care, supportive social structures should be provided that relieve the heavy burden of women's multiple roles, thereby lessening the family's dependence on the girl child's contribution to domestic labour;
- Given the prevailing focus of IEC on contraception and family planning, mainly for women, and on the promotion of messages that are not grounded in reality or everyday experience (such as the equation of small families with happiness, when, for many, large families are the only source of social security), new sets of messages should be developed that can influence men's attitudes and behaviour. To respond to this recommendation, it will be necessary to:

- Increase men's knowledge of reproductive health and birth control techniques, with the goal of developing a partnership between men and women on this issue; and
- Develop strong messages that enable men to understand the benefits of taking equal responsibility with women for child-rearing.

- To devise new and more appropriate messages directed at men, it will be necessary to understand the mind-set that contributes to social and cultural attitudes and a sense of manhood and that, in general, acts as a barrier to accepting equality with women;
- Training and reorientation of the predominantly male staff and officials (including medical doctors) within institutions, such as hospitals and clinics, should be implemented as a priority in order to address their attitudes and behaviours which can and do impede the delivery of services and alienate women clients.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO COLLABORATING WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

It is recommended that:

- UNFPA assist Governments in the formulation of gender-sensitive action programmes/plans for the implementation of the ICPD

Programme of Action in close consultation and collaboration with NGOs, particularly women's NGOs, at all stages of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these programmes and plans;

- Structures set up by Governments for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, such as task forces, committees, advisory groups, and monitoring and evaluation groups, should include representatives of women's NGOs;
- UNFPA should also support activities for strengthening the capacity of local NGOs, particularly grass-roots NGOs, to involve them in the ICPD Programme of Action implementation, particularly in advocacy and the provision of reproductive health/family planning and information services;
- UNFPA should identify and strengthen the capacity of lead NGOs at the country level which will promote networking among national and local NGOs;
- UNFPA should promote technical cooperation among NGOs at the intraregional and intercountry levels as a means of sharing information and capacity-building;
- International networks of women, specializing in issues such as human rights, environment, health/population, poverty/unemployment, women's empowerment, and grass-roots organizations should be encouraged to form a core group to address the principles, concepts and strategies necessary for an integrative approach to population and development and to reach a consensus on the basic messages that represent the voice of the

women's movements. Such a core group could also provide input into the Inter-agency Task Force in its discussions and decisions relating to these issues;

- NGOs should be funded directly to develop catalytic projects that expand the boundaries of concepts, knowledge and practical methodologies and to provide opportunities for such NGO activities to become the laboratory for new approaches, particularly in behavioural and attitudinal change.

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pour la population

*UNFPA Ad-hoc Advisory Panel Meeting on
Gender, Population and Development
5-6 April 1995*

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 1995

9:00 - 9:30 Registration/Coffee

9:30 - 10:00 Opening Session

Statement by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director

Discussion

*SESSION 1: New Approaches/Developments in UNFPA's Strategy and Policy on GPD,
Post-ICPD*

10:00 - 11:30 Chair: Jyoti Shankar Singh, Deputy Executive Director
(Technical Services)

Presenter: Virginia Ofosu-Amaah, Chief
Gender, Population and Development Branch

Discussion

*SESSION 2: Arrangements for Follow-up to International Conference on Population
and Development*

11:30 - 1:00 Chair: Jyoti Shankar Singh, Deputy Executive Director
(Technical Services)

Presenter: Catherine S. Pierce, Manager
Task Force on Implementation of ICPD

Discussion

1:00 - 2:30 LUNCHEON -- Hosted by Dr. Nafis Sadik

SESSION 3: Information, Education and Communication (including men's roles)

2:30 - 4:00 Chair: Senator Akiko Domoto, Japan
 Presenter: O. J. Sikes, Chief, Education, Communication and
 Youth Branch, TED
 Discussant: Nahid Toubia, RAINBØ

4:00 - 4:15 Coffee/Tea Break

4:15 - 5:30 Review of Recommendations

6:00 Reception to be hosted by the Executive Director

THURSDAY, 6 APRIL

SESSION 4: Reproductive Health/Family Planning -- Broadening the Concept

9:30-11:00 Chair: Devaki Jain, ISST
 Presenter: Dr. Charlotte Gardiner, Reproductive Health/Family
 Planning Branch, TED
 Discussant: Maria Isabel Plata, PROFAMILIA

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee/Tea Break

*SESSION 5: Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations in the
 Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action*

11:15 - 12:45 Chair: Salwa Masri, Minister of Social Affairs, Jordan
 Presenter: Sonia Correa, IBASE
 Discussant: Khawar Mumtaz, Shirkat Gah

12:45 - 2:00 LUNCH

SESSION 6: Update on Fourth World Conference on Women

2:00 - 3:30 Chair: Leila Mehra, formerly of WHO
 Presenter John Mathiason, Deputy Director, Division for the
 Advancement of Women
 Discussant: Aida Guindy, Independent Consultant

3:30 - 3:45 Coffee/Tea Break

SESSION 7: Review of Recommendations

3:45 - 5:30 Review and Closing

PARTICIPANTS OF THE UNFPA AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL ON GENDER, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Sonia Correa (Brazil) has been involved with women's issues since 1978. During this time, she coordinated research and analysis on Population and Reproductive Rights for DAWN – Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era – which resulted in a volume on the feminist perspectives from the South. Ms. Correa is currently the Coordinator of the Policy and Research Unit at IBASE, a major development NGO in Brazil.

Akiko Domoto (Japan) has been a member of the Japanese Diet since 1989, following a 30 year career as a television journalist and director. During her tenure in the House of Councillors, she has taken an active stance in national and international issues relating to women. In addition to serving on various national panels regarding women's issues, she was part of the Japanese Government delegation to the Cairo International Population and Development Conference. Ms. Domoto is a board member of the Japan Family Planning Association that specializes in issues relating to population and women's and children's health. She is also a member of Women's Reproductive Health and Rights Group in Japan and Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94.

Aida Guindy (Egypt), worked with the United Nations for 32 years. She was seconded to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in 1959 to help establish the Social Development Division. She became chief of the Social Welfare Services Section of the United Nations Social Affairs Development Division in 1969. In 1975, the International Year of Women, Ms. Guindy became the first woman Director of the Regional UNICEF Office in Eastern Africa. After five years in that position, she was named UNICEF Director in Geneva for the European Office. She is currently active in Cairo, Egypt, in a number of national projects, including population and family planning and women's projects.

Devaki Jain (India), currently holds several national and international positions in the field of public policy. She is formerly the Director of the Institute of Social Studies Trust, and a founding member of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). Ms Jain has served on Advisory Committees and Board of Directors for numerous organizations, including the Indian National Preparatory Committee for the FWCW.

Dottie Lamm, MSW (USA), has served on the Faculty of the University of Denver. Ms. Lamm was a U.S. Delegate to the ICPD. She also serves as an on-going public member of the U.S. delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. As a Denver Post Columnist since 1979, she has written and spoken extensively promoting the status of women, population

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stabilization and reproductive rights. She currently serves on the board of CEDPA (Centre for Development and Population Activities) and on the NARAL (National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) Foundation.

Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye (Nigeria), a demographer, is a Research Director of the Population Research Department of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research. She has written extensively on the situation of women in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as on urban development and migration.

Salwa Damen Masri (Jordan) is presently Minister of Social Development. She has served as teaching and research assistant at the Jordan University/Faculty of Medicine, specializing in Health and Demography. Ms. Masri joined SFWS Community Development Center, where she served as Health Coordinator and Director for Community Development Project. From 1986, she worked with Noor Al Hussein Foundation as the Director for the UNFPA-funded national project on Women in Development, and the UNFPA-funded project, Population Programs for the Grassroots. Ms. Masri has also worked as UNDP consultant to Oman for a project on "Women in Development".

Leila Mehra (India) was with the World Health Organization for 22 years in the Family Planning Programme, Division of Family Health. Upon her retirement in 1992, she continued with WHO in the capacity of Senior Adviser in Family Planning and Population and was involved in WHO's contribution to the ICPD. Throughout her career, Dr. Mehra has been involved with issues concerning women's health.

Habiba El Messabi (Tunisia) received her degree in medicine from the University of Paris. She had been a member of the Executive Bureau of the Women's Union of Tunisia since 1992, and Vice President and founder of an environment and development organization in Djerba, Tunisia since 1988. Ms. El-Messabi served as Mayor of Djerba Midous from 1985 to 1990. She has been involved in various preparatory activities of international conferences, including UNCED, ICPD and FWCW.

Khawar Mumtaz (Pakistan) works as a Coordinator of the Lahore chapter of Shirkat Gah, a women's resource centre with offices in Karachi and Lahore (Pakistan), committed to women's empowerment through research, development and advocacy. Currently she is the Regional Councillor for

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West Asia and Vice-President of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. Ms. Mumtaz has a number of publications to her name. She has been an active participant, both at the national and international level, in the recent international conferences e.g. UNCED, WSSD, and ICPD, and the forthcoming FWCW.

Wanda Nowicka (Poland) has been involved in public life since 1990 as a co-founder of the Association for Non-Ideological State Neutrality, where she is now a member of Board of Directors responsible for international relations. Ms. Nowicka is a co-founder of the Federation for Women and Family Planning, and served as the first President of the Federation until 1993, when she became an Executive Director of the Federation. Ms. Nowicka has taken part in various international meetings and conferences, such as the UN Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993; several preparatory activities connected with the ICPD, as well as the Cairo Conference itself, and the WHO Conference, "Women's Health Counts".

Maria Isabel Plata, LL.B., M.C.L. (Colombia) is Executive Director of PROFAMILIA, the Family Planning Association of Colombia. She has co-authored books on women's human rights and violence against women, as well as various articles on women's reproductive rights. Ms. Plata is a member of IRAW and the International Women's Advisory Panel of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Dr. Mira Seth (India) joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1958. She held important portfolios in the State of Haryana and under the Central Government, more especially, in the Departments of Health, Industry, and Labor. She served as Secretary of the Departments of Civil Supplies, Family Welfare and Women & Child Development, Government of India, for five years before being appointed as Member, Planning Commission in May 1993, where she oversees and coordinates the development programmes and funding for the Departments of Women and Child Development, Labor and Employment, Small Scale Industries, Textiles, Tourism, Culture and Voluntary Action.

Fatoumata Sow (Senegal) is presently Executive Secretary of L'APAC, Association des Professionnelles Africaines de la Communication, (Association of African Professionals of Communication). She drafted a published article for URTNA (Union des Radiodiffusions et télévisions nationales d'Afrique - Union of Radio-diffusions and National Television) in Africa which focussed on questions on health and and population. Ms. Sow is very active in associations and NGOs dealing with women and development.

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Nahid Toubia (Sudan) was the first woman surgeon in Sudan. She is presently Executive Director of RAINBOW, Research Action and Information Network for Bodily Integrity of Women. Previously an Associate for Women's Reproductive Health at the Population Council, she obtained her Master's in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene. Dr. Toubia is a member of several scientific and technical advisory committees of WHO and sits on the advisory committee of the Women's Rights Watch Project of Human Rights Watch. As a women's health advocate, she campaigns widely against the practice of female genital mutilation in Sudan and currently works on issues relating to women's reproductive health and rights.