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DRAFT WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

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DRAFT WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION
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/The Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with Economic and Social Council Resolution 1672 (LII), submits the attached draft World Population Plan of Action for the consideration of the World Population Conference. This Plan of Action, elaborated with the assistance of the Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action, is the result of extensive consultations undertaken during the past two years by the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference with Governments, with the Population Commission of the United Nations, with international organizations and with various experts, scholars and interested groups. The ideas and recommendations contained in this draft are presented as a basis for discussion and agreement rather than as the views of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The World Population Conference, having considered the present and prospective world population situation and its relationship with economic development and the improvement of the quality of life, decides on the following World Population Plan of Action.

A. BACKGROUND TO THE PLAN

1. The promotion of economic development and the quality of life requires co-ordinated action in all major socio-economic fields, including the field of population. At the international level, a number of strategies and programmes whose explicit aim is to affect variables in fields other than population have already been formulated. These include the FAO's Provisional Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development, the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme, the ILO's World Employment Programme, the Action Plan for the Human Environment, the United Nations World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development, the Programme of Concerted Action for the Advancement of Women and, more comprehensively, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The explicit aim of the World Population Plan of Action is to affect population variables; its contribution to the solution of world development problems is hence only partial, as is the case for the other strategies. Consequently, this Plan of Action must be considered as an essential component of the system of international strategies which, when taken together, constitute the international community's overall strategy for the promotion of economic development and the quality of life.

2. The formulation of international strategies is a response to universal recognition of the existence of important problems in the world and the need for concerted national and international action to achieve their solution. Where trends of population growth, distribution and structure are out of balance with social, economic and environmental factors, they can constitute serious barriers to the achievement of sustained development. Consequently, policies whose aim is to affect population trends, while they are not substitutes for other socio-economic development policies, can, in conjunction with them,

/facilitate the

facilitate the solution of certain problems facing developed and developing countries and, in the long-run, promote a more balanced and rational development.

3. Throughout history the rate of growth of world population averaged only slightly above zero. The recent increase in the growth rate began mainly as a result of the decline in mortality during the last few centuries, a decline that has accelerated significantly during recent decades. Since about 1950, the world population growth rate has risen to 2 per cent a year. If sustained, this will result in a doubling of the world's population every 35 years. However, national rates of natural growth range widely, from a negative rate to well over 3 per cent a year. Although most countries at present have no explicit policies designed to affect their natural growth rates, and several countries wish to increase them the majority of the world's people, and a large majority of the people of the less developed regions, live in countries whose Governments are attempting, as a matter of urgency to reduce significantly their rates of population growth.

4. Although acceleration in the rate of growth of the world's population is mainly the result of very large declines in the mortality of less developed countries, these declines have been unevenly distributed. Thus, at present, average expectation of life at birth is 63 years in Latin America, 57 years in Asia and only little over 46 years in Africa, compared with more than 71 years in the more developed regions. Furthermore, although on average, less than one in 40 children dies before reaching the age of one year in the more developed countries, one in 15 dies before reaching that age in Latin America, one in 10 in Asia and one in 7 in Africa. In fact, in some less developed countries, particularly African countries, average expectation of life at birth is estimated to be less than 40 years and one in four children dies before the age of one year. Consequently, many less developed countries consider reduction of mortality, and particularly reduction of infant mortality, to be one of the most important and urgent goals.

5. While the right of couples to have the number of children they desire is accepted in a number of international instruments, many couples in the world are unable to exercise this right effectively. In many parts of the world either inadequate knowledge of effective methods of family regulation, or the unavailability of contraceptive services, results in a situation in which couples have more children than they desire or feel they can properly care for. In certain countries and regions, on the other hand, problems of involuntary sterility and of subfecundity exist, with the result that many couples have fewer children than they desire. Of course the degree of urgency attached to dealing with each of these two situations depends upon the prevailing conditions within the country in question.

6. Individual reproductive behaviour and the needs and aspirations of society should be reconciled. In many less developed countries, and particularly in the large countries of Asia, the desire of couples to achieve large families is believed to result in excessive national population growth rates and Governments are explicitly attempting to reduce these rates by implementing specific policy measures. On the other hand, some countries are attempting to increase desired family size, if only slightly.

7. Throughout the world, urban populations are growing in size at a considerably faster rate than rural populations. As a result, the majority of the world's population, for the first time in history, will be living in urban areas by the end of this century. Although urbanization is generally an integral component of modernization, in many countries, more developed as well as less developed, rapid urbanization is associated with over-crowding, urban unemployment, slums, environmental deterioration and many other social and economic problems. Consequently, many Governments are attempting to implement policies designed not only to deal directly with these urban problems but also to reduce the flow of migrants to the major cities.

8. In less developed countries the explosive rate of urban population growth is generally accompanied by a lesser, but still significant, rate of rural population growth. The rural population of less developed countries is growing at a rate of 1.7 per cent a year and in some instances at a faster rate than that of the urban population in more developed countries. Furthermore, many rural areas of heavy emigration, in both more developed and less developed countries, are being depleted of their younger populations and are being left with populations whose age distribution is unfavourable to economic development. Thus, in many countries, the revitalization of the countryside is a priority goal.

9. At least two types of international migration are of considerable concern to many countries in the world: the movement of migrant workers with limited skills, and the movement of skilled workers and professionals. Movements of the former often involve large numbers and raise questions of fair and proper treatment in countries of immigration, the breaking up of families and other social and economic questions in both countries of emigration and immigration. The migration of skilled workers and professionals results in a "brain drain", often from less developed to more developed countries, which is at present of considerable concern to many countries and to the international community as a whole. The number of instruments on these subjects and the increased involvement of international organizations reflects international awareness of these problems.

10. A population's age structure is greatly affected by its birth rates. For example, declining fertility is the main factor underlying the declining proportion of children in a population. Thus, according to the medium projections of the United Nations, the

/average population

average population of less than 15 years of age in the less developed countries is expected to decline from more than 41 per cent of total population in 1970 to about 35 per cent in 2000. However, such a decline in the proportion of children will be accompanied by an increase in their numbers at an average of 1.7 per cent a year. Therefore, the demand for educational services is expected to continue to increase considerably, particularly in view of the existing backlog and the continuously increasing proportion of children wishing to enter and remain in schools. On the other hand, with regard to the young population 15 to 29 years of age, an increase in both their proportion and number is expected in the less developed countries. In many of these countries, therefore, particularly where levels of unemployment and underemployment are already high, the pressure of population upon work opportunities will continue, at least until the end of this century, unless very high rates of economic development are obtained. Furthermore, in both more developed and less developed countries, the greatly changing social and economic conditions faced by youth underline the need for a better understanding of the problems involved and for the formulation and implementation of policies to resolve them.

11. Declining birth-rates also result in a gradual aging of the population. Because birth rates have already declined in more developed countries, the average proportion aged 65 years and over in these countries makes up 10 per cent of the total population whereas it constitutes only 3 per cent in less developed countries. However, the aging of the population in less developed countries has recently begun and is expected to accelerate. Thus, although the total population of these countries is projected to increase by an average of 2.3 per cent a year between 1970 and 2000, the

population 65 years and over is expected to increase by 3.5 per cent a year. Not only are the numbers and proportions of the aged increasing rapidly, but the social and economic conditions which face them are also rapidly changing. Therefore, there is an urgent need both for a better understanding of these changes and for the formulation of policies designed to assist the aged and the community as a whole to face them.

12. Because of the relatively high proportions of children and youth in the populations of less developed countries, decline in fertility levels in these countries will not be fully reflected in declines in population growth rates until some decades later. To illustrate this demographic inertia it may be noted that, for less developed countries, even if replacement levels of fertility - approximately 2 children per completed family - had been achieved in 1970 and maintained thereafter, their total population would still grow from a 1970 total of 2.5 billion to about 4.4 billion before it would stabilize during the second half of the twenty-first century. Under these circumstances, the population of the world as a whole would grow from 3.6 billion to 5.8 billion. This example of demographic inertia demonstrates that whatever the fertility policy formulated, socio-economic development, particularly in less developed countries, must continue to respond to a growing population for many decades to come. It also demonstrates that countries wishing to affect their population growth must anticipate future demographic trends and take appropriate decisions and actions well in advance.

B. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

1. This Plan of Action is based on a number of principles which underly its objectives and are observed in its formulation:

(a) A principal aim of socio-economic development is to improve levels of living and the quality of life of the people; population goals and policies should also serve this principal aim;

(b) True development cannot take place in the absence of individual dignity and national security; discrimination on the basis of race, sex or religion, and the threat of mass destruction, are incompatible with development;

(c) Population and development are interrelated: population variables influence development variables and are also influenced by them; the formulation of a World Population Plan of Action reflects the international community's awareness of the importance of population trends for socio-economic development, and the socio-economic nature of the recommendations contained in this Plan of Action reflects its awareness of the crucial role that development plays in affecting population trends;

(d) Population policies are constituent elements of socio-economic development policies, never substitutes for them; while serving socio-economic objectives, they should be consistent with international and nationally recognized human rights of individual freedom, justice and the survival of national, regional and minority groups;

(e) Recommendations in this Plan of Action regarding policies to deal with population problems must recognize the diversity of conditions within and among different countries and the sovereignty of nations in determining their population policies; while international co-operation should play an important role, the main responsibility for achieving the objectives of this Plan of Action lies at the national level;

(f) International action is becoming increasingly important to the solution of problems affecting human welfare, including population problems; however, the existing system of international strategies

/cannot be

cannot be fully effective unless it ensures that the poor of the world achieve, urgently, a significant improvement in their relative living conditions;

(g) This Plan of Action must be sufficiently flexible in order to take into account the consequences of rapid demographic changes and changes in human attitudes and values;

(h) The objectives of this Plan of Action should be consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter and with the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade; however, changes in demographic variables during the Decade are largely the result of past demographic events and changes in demographic trends sought during the Decade have social and economic repercussions up to and beyond the end of this century.

2. Guided by these principles, the primary aim of this Plan of Action is to expand and deepen the capacities of countries to deal effectively with their national and subnational population problems and to promote an appropriate international response to their needs by increasing international activity in research, the exchange of information, and the provision of assistance on request. In pursuit of this primary aim the following general objectives are set for this Plan of Action:

(a) To advance understanding of population at national, subnational regional and global levels, recognizing the diversity of the problems involved;

(b) To advance national and international understanding of the interrelatedness of demographic and socio-economic factors in development of the nature and scope of the contribution of demographic factors to the attainment of goals of advancing human welfare, on the one hand, and the impact of broader social, economic and cultural factors on demographic behaviour, on the other;

(c) To promote socio-economic measures and programmes whose aim is to affect, where appropriate, population growth, morbidity and mortality, reproduction and family formation, population distribution and internal migration, international migration, and demographic structure

(d) To recommend guidelines for population policies consistent with national values and goals and with internationally recognized instruments;

/(e) To

(e) To promote the development and implementation of population policies, including improvement in the communication of the purposes and goals of these policies to the public and the promotion of popular participation in their formulation and implementation;

(f) To encourage the development of appropriate training, statistics, research, information and education services in support of the above objectives.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

I. Population goals and policies

1. Population growth

3. According to medium United Nations projections, little change is expected to occur in average rates of population growth in either more developed or less developed regions by 1985. However, it is estimated that, if Governments which have population growth objectives - whether to increase, decrease or maintain present rates - are successful in achieving these objectives, population growth in the less developed countries would decline from the present annual rate of 2.4 per cent to about 2.0 per cent by 1985, would remain largely unchanged at less than 0.9 per cent in the more developed countries, and would, therefore, decline in the world as a whole from 2.0 per cent to about 1.7 per cent. These rates, which must be revised as new national targets are set, should be used in the review and appraisal of this Plan.

4. Countries which consider that their present or expected rates of population growth hamper their goals of promoting human welfare are invited, if they have not yet done so, to consider setting quantitative population growth targets and to formulate and implement policies for achieving them which are consistent with basic human rights and national goals and values.

5. Countries which aim at achieving moderate or low rates of population growth should try to achieve them through a balance between birth and death rates at low levels. Countries wishing to increase their rates

/of population

of population growth should, particularly where mortality is high, concentrate unusual efforts on the reduction of mortality and consider, where appropriate, encouraging immigration.

2. Morbidity and mortality

6. The reduction of morbidity and mortality, to the maximum feasible extent, is a major goal of every human society irrespective of its contribution to the achievement of other social and economic goals. Where the rates are very high, concentrated national and international efforts should be applied to reduce them as a matter of highest priority.

7. The short-term effect of mortality reduction on population growth rates is symptomatic of the early development process and must be viewed as beneficial. Sustained reductions in fertility have generally been preceded by reductions in mortality. Although this relationship is not necessarily simple, mortality reduction may be a prerequisite to a decline in fertility.

8. It is a goal of this Plan of Action that the average expectation of life at birth for the less developed regions should exceed 62 years by 1985. This compares with a present level of 55 years and a projected level of 59 years in 1985. Furthermore, by the year 2000, the difference between more developed and less developed regions in this regard should have become negligible. It should be borne in mind that the target for the year 2000 implies a universal expectation of life of about 74 years and would require an average increase from present levels of about 11 years for Latin America, 17 years for Asia and 28 years for Africa.

9. For countries with the highest mortality levels, it is a goal of this Plan of Action that none would, by 1985, have an expectation of life at birth of less than 50 years or an infant mortality rate of more than 120 per thousand live births.

10. It is recommended that national and international efforts to reduce general morbidity and mortality levels be accompanied by particularly vigorous efforts to achieve the following goals;

(a) Reduction of foetal, infant and early childhood mortality and related maternal morbidity and mortality;

(b) Reduction of involuntary sterility, subfecundity, defective births and illegal abortions;

(c) Reduction, or if possible elimination, of differential morbidity and mortality within countries, particularly with regard to differentials between regions, urban and rural areas, social and ethnic groups, and sexes;

(d) Control of infectious and parasitic diseases and the general diminution of undernutrition and malnutrition;

(e) Improvement of health and nutritional conditions which adversely affect the productivity of working age populations and thus undermine development efforts;

(f) Implementation of special measures to reduce deaths from ~~external causes including those from environmental factors and war.~~

11. It is recommended that health and nutrition programmes designed to reduce morbidity and mortality be integrated within a comprehensive development strategy and supplemented by a wide range of mutually supporting social policy measures; special attention should be given to the improvement of management of existing health, nutritional and related social services and to the formulation of policies to widen their coverage so as to reach in particular rural, remote and underprivileged groups.

12. It is urged that the experience of more developed countries in controlling diseases be made available expeditiously to less developed countries.

3. Reproduction and family formation

13. This Plan of Action recognizes the variety of national goals with regard to fertility: Most countries are satisfied with present levels or trends of fertility, a number of countries wish to reduce fertility levels and a few wish to increase them. While no universal family size norm is recommended, it is recognized that a majority of the people of the world lives in countries that wish to reduce present fertility levels, and a larger majority lives in countries that favour small family size norms.

/14. This

14. This Plan of Action also recognizes two separate means for affecting fertility levels: to ensure that all couples are able to achieve their desired number and spacing of children, on the one hand, and the influence upon this desire itself of social and economic measures on the other. The first means has been the subject of recent international resolutions and declarations while the second remains in the exclusive domain of national decisions and national policy.

15. Consistent with the Proclamation of the International Conference on Human Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the relevant targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the other international instruments on the subject, it is urged that all countries:

(a) respect, regardless of their overall demographic goals, the right of couples to determine, in a free, informed and responsible manner, the number and spacing of their children;

(b) make available, to all persons who so desire, if possible by the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade, but not later than 1985, the necessary information and education about family planning and the means to practice family planning, effectively and in accordance with their cultural values;

(c) ensure that family planning and related services aim at both the prevention of unwanted births and the elimination of involuntary sterility and subfecundity in order that all couples are permitted to achieve their desired number of children;

(d) make use, wherever needed and appropriate, of adequately trained professional and auxiliary health personnel, rural extension and home economics workers, and non-government channels, to help provide family planning services and to advise contraceptive users;

(e) ensure that information about, and education in, family planning and in other matters which affect fertility, are based on valid and proven scientific knowledge, and include a full account of any risk that may be involved in the use or non-use of contraceptives.

16. Governments are invited to consider integrating or co-ordinating family planning programmes with health and other programmes designed to raise the quality of family life. In this respect, while the negative social consequences of sterility and sub-fecundity must be recognized, it is noted that the effective use of family planning services may be an important means towards the reduction of pregnancy wastage and the improvement in child and maternal welfare.

17. Countries that wish to affect fertility levels may do so by means of measures which affect the socio-economic determinants of desired family size. This may imply major social, institutional and structural reforms which can affect the entire society.

18. While recognizing the diversity of social, cultural, political and economic conditions among countries and regions, it is nevertheless agreed that the following development goals generally have an effect on the socio-economic context of reproductive decisions that tends to moderate fertility levels:

(a) The reduction of infant and child mortality, particularly by means of improved nutrition, sanitation, maternal and child health care, and maternal education;

(b) The full integration of women into the development process, particularly by means of their greater participation in educational, social, economic and political opportunities, and especially by means of the removal of obstacles to their employment in the non-agricultural sector wherever possible; in this context, national laws and policies, as well as relevant international recommendations, should be reviewed to eliminate discrimination in, and remove obstacles to, the education, training, employment and career advancement opportunities for women;

(c) The promotion of social justice, social mobility, and social development particularly by means of a wider participation of the population in development and a more equitable distribution of income and of social services and amenities;

(d) The promotion of wider educational opportunities for the young of both sexes;

/(e) The

(e) The elimination of child labour and child abuse and the establishment of social security and old age benefits;

(f) The establishment of an appropriate lower limit for age at marriage.

19. It is recommended that, as far as it is necessary and possible, Governments make provision in both their formal and non-formal educational programmes, for informing their people of the consequences of existing or alternative fertility behaviour for the well-being of the family, the educational and psychological development of children and the general welfare of society, so that an informed and responsible attitude to marriage and reproduction will be promoted.

20. Family size may also be affected by incentive and disincentive schemes. However, if such schemes are adopted or modified they should not violate human rights.

21. Some social welfare programmes, such as family allowances and maternity benefits, may have a positive effect on fertility and may hence be strengthened when such an effect is desired. However, such programmes should not, in principle, be curtailed if the opposite effect on fertility is desired.

22. The achievement of the population growth and mortality objectives for 1985, referred to in paragraphs 3 and 8 above, implies an average crude birth rate of around 30 per thousand in the less developed regions. This compares with a present average of about 38 per thousand which, according to United Nations projections, would decline to about 34 per thousand in 1985. Therefore, if the above growth and mortality objectives are to be reached in 1985, substantial national and international efforts would need to be expended urgently to reduce fertility levels in developing countries that are aiming at reducing these levels.

23. Countries which have a very high birth rate may consider taking action compatible with the principles and objectives of this Plan (including paragraph 4 above) to reduce these rates by about 5 to 10 per 1,000 before 1985.

24. Countries which desire to reduce their birth rates are invited to give particular consideration to the reduction of fertility at the extremes of female reproductive ages because of the salutary effects this may have on infant and maternal welfare.

25. It is recommended that in order to promote the well-being of the family and its members:

(a) The family be recognized as the basic unit of society, and protected by appropriate legislation and policy;

(b) National legislation having direct bearing on the welfare of the family and its members, including laws concerning age at marriage, inheritance, property rights, divorce, education, employment and the rights of the child, be periodically reviewed and adapted to the changing social and economic conditions;

(c) No marriage be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties;

(d) Socio-economic and legal measures be undertaken that would reduce the importance of factors which support the existence of polygamous practices;

(e) Measures be taken to protect the social and legal rights of parents and children in the case of dissolution of marriage by death or other reason.

26. Governments should give particular attention to problems of children born out of wedlock, where such problems, exist. Measures should be undertaken, where necessary, to promote the legal and social status of children born out of wedlock.

4. Population distribution and internal migration

27. Policies aimed at influencing population flows into urban areas should be co-ordinated with policies relating to the absorptive capacity of urban centres as well as particular policies aimed at eliminating the undesirable consequences of excessive migration. In so far as possible, these policies should be integrated in plans and programmes dealing with overall social and economic development.

28. In formulating and implementing internal migration policies, Governments are urged to consider the following guidelines:

(a) Measures which infringe the right of freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments should be avoided;

(b) A major approach to a more rational distribution of the population is in planned regional development, particularly the development of regions which are less favoured or more underdeveloped by comparison with the rest of the country;

(c) In planning development, and particularly in planning the location of industry and the distribution of social services and amenities, Governments should take into account not only short-term economic returns of alternative patterns but also the social and environmental benefits involved;

(d) Population distribution patterns should not be restricted to a choice between the metropolis and the rural way of life; serious consideration should be given to the establishment or strengthening of a network of small and medium-size cities to relieve the pressure on the large towns, while still offering an alternative to rural living.

29. Internal migration policies should attempt to inform the rural population of the economic and social conditions in the urban areas, including information on availability of employment opportunities.

30. The creation of employment opportunities (including public works programmes) and social services and amenities in the rural areas, or in areas accessible to the rural population, must be attempted whenever feasible. It is not sufficient to consider how to bring the people to existing economic and social activities, it is also important to consider the alternative of bringing those activities to the people.

31. Considerable experience is now being gained by some countries which have implemented programmes aimed at relieving urban pressure, revitalizing the countryside, inhabiting sparsely populated areas or settling newly reclaimed agricultural land. Countries having such experiences are invited to share them with other countries.

5. International migration

32. Although it is recognized that national boundaries generally present obstacles to migration, it is recommended that Governments regard favourably any feasible measure that may be undertaken by themselves or by the international community to facilitate voluntary international movement.

33. Developing countries that wish to curtail outflows of migrant workers should, with the co-operation of developed countries and the international community, make particular efforts towards the creation of employment opportunities at the national level; this could be achieved through the increased availability of capital, export markets and more favourable terms of trade to these developing countries and through their choice of appropriate production technology.

34. Countries receiving migrant workers should provide proper treatment and necessary social welfare services to migrant workers and their families in conformity with the provisions of relevant ILO conventions and recommendations and other international instruments.

35. In the treatment of migrant workers, Governments should always act towards preventing discrimination against migrants in the labour markets, preserving their human rights, combating prejudice against them and eliminating obstacles to the reunion of their families.

/Laws to

Laws to limit illegal immigration should not only relate to the illegal migrants themselves but also to those inducing or facilitating their illegal entry and stay.

36. Since the outflow of qualified personnel from less developed to more developed countries seriously hampers economic and social development of less developed countries, there is an urgent need to formulate national and international policies to avoid the "brain drain" and obviate its adverse effects, including the possibility of devising programmes for large-scale transfer of appropriate technological knowledge accumulated mainly in the more developed countries.

37. Less developed countries suffering from heavy emigration of skilled workers and professionals should undertake extensive educational and manpower planning, and other programmes and measures, to better match skills with employment opportunities and undertake also measures to encourage the return of their scientists and skilled personnel to specific job situations where needed.

38. More developed countries are urged to encourage their investors in less developed countries to employ local talent to the greatest possible extent. It is recognized that the location of research facilities in less developed countries can help considerably to retain highly skilled and professional research workers for service in their own countries.

39. Where immigration has proved to be of a long-term nature, countries are invited to explore the possibilities of extending national civil rights to immigrants.

40. The flow of skilled workers, technicians and professionals from more developed to less developed countries may be considered a form of international aid and assistance; more developed countries are invited to extend such assistance to less developed countries upon request.

41. Countries affected by significant migration movements are urged, if they have not yet done so, to conclude bilateral or multi-lateral agreements which would regulate migration and protect and assist migrant workers. It is advisable that a suitable international body be available to lend its good offices with a view to ensuring that the human rights of migrants are safeguarded.

6. Demographic structure (with special reference to age and sex)

42. Less developed countries are urged to consider the implications which the combination of their characteristically young age structure and moderate to high fertility have for the planning of their social and economic development.

43. All Governments are urged to consider fully, when formulating their development policies and plans, the implications of changing numbers, proportions and conditions of youth and the aged, particularly where such changes are rapid.

44. In undertaking settlement and resettlement schemes, Governments are urged to give adequate attention to questions of age and sex balances and, particularly, to the preservation and promotion of the welfare of the family.

II. Promotion of knowledge and policies

45. In order to achieve the population objectives of this Plan of Action and to put its policy recommendations adequately into effect, measures need to be undertaken to promote knowledge of the relationships and problems involved, to assist in the development of population policies and to elicit the co-operation and participation of all concerned in the formulation and implementation of these policies.

1. Data collection and analysis

46. Countries that have not yet done so are urged to tabulate and analyse their census and other data collected and make them available to national policy-making bodies.

47. All countries are urged to undertake population censuses between 1975 and 1985. It is recommended that these censuses give particular attention to data relevant to development planning and the formulation of population policies; in order to be of greatest value, it is recommended that these data be tabulated and made available as quick as possible.

/48. Developing

48. Developing countries that have not yet done so should be encouraged to establish a continuing capability for taking multisubject household sample surveys and a long-term plan for securing statistics on various demographic and interrelated socio-economic variables on a regular cyclical basis. All countries are invited to co-operate with the World Fertility Survey.

49. In line with the objectives of the World Programme for the Improvement of Vital Statistics, countries are encouraged to establish and improve their vital registration system, as a long-term objective, and to enact laws relevant to the improvement of vital registration. Until this improvement is completed, it is recommended that sample surveys be made and sample registration data obtained.

50. Developing countries should be provided with technical co-operation, equipment and financial support to develop or improve the population and related statistical programmes mentioned above. Provision for data gathering assistance should cover fully the need for evaluating, analysing and presenting the data in a form most appropriate to the needs of users.

51. Governments that have not yet done so are urged to establish appropriate services for the collection, analysis and dissemination of demographic and related statistical information.

2. Research

52. This Plan of Action gives high priority to research activities in population and related fields, particularly to research activities that are important for the formulation, evaluation and implementation of appropriate population policies. The following research areas are considered of particular importance for filling existing gaps in knowledge:

(a) The social, cultural and economic determinants of population variables in different developmental and political situations, particularly at the family and micro levels;

/(b) The

(b) The demographic and social processes occurring within the family cycle through time and, particularly, through alternative modes of development;

(c) The development of effective means for the reduction of foetal, infant and early childhood mortality;

(d) The study of experiences of countries which have major programmes of internal migration with a view to developing guidelines that are helpful to policy-makers of these countries and of countries that are interested in undertaking similar programmes.

(e) Projections of demographic and related variables including the development of empirical and hypothetical models for monitoring the future;

(f) The formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies, including methods for integrating population inputs and goals in development plans and programmes; the means for understanding and improving the motivation of people to participate in the formulation and implementation of population programmes; the study of education and communication aspects of family planning programmes; the analysis of population policies and their relationship with other socio-economic development policies, laws and institutions; the translation into action programmes of policies dealing with the socio-economic determinants of fertility, mortality, internal migration and distribution, and international migration;

(g) The collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning human rights in relation to population matters and the preparation of studies aimed at the clarification, systematization and more effective implementation of these human rights;

(h) The review and analysis of national and international laws which bear directly or indirectly on population factors;

(i) The assessment and improvement of existing methods of fertility regulation and the development of new methods to meet the varied requirements of individuals and communities including methods needing no medical supervision;

(j) The

(j) The inter-relationships among patterns of family formation, nutrition and health, reproductive biology, and the incidence, causes and treatment of sterility;

(k) Methods for improving the administration, delivery and utilization of social services, including family planning services;

(l) Methods for the development of systems of social, demographic and related economic statistics in which various sets of data are interlinked, with a view to improving insight into the interrelationships of variables in these fields;

(m) The impact of population trends and conditions on other social and economic variables, in particular, on the availability of food and natural resources, on the quality of the environment, on the need for health, education, employment, housing and other social services and amenities, on the enhancement of the status of women, on the aging of the population and the need for social security and on political stability and national viability.

53. While research aimed at filling general gaps in knowledge is extremely urgent and important, research adapted to the particular problems of countries and regions, including methodological studies, must also be given high priority. Preferably, such research should be undertaken in the countries and regions themselves or by competent individuals who are particularly familiar with national and regional conditions.

54. Although it is recognized that national research requirements must be determined by Governments and national institutions, it is nevertheless recommended that high priority be given, wherever possible, to research that has wide relevance and international applicability.

55. National and regional research institutions dealing with population and related questions should be assisted and expanded as appropriate. Special efforts should be made to co-ordinate the research of these institutions, by facilitating the exchange of their research findings and the exchange of information on their planned and on-going research projects.

3. Training, education and information

56. A dual approach to training is recommended: an international programme for training in population matters concomitant with national and regional training programmes adapted and made particularly relevant to conditions in the countries and regions of the trainees. While recognizing the complementarity of these two approaches, national and regional training should be given the higher priority.

57. Training in population dynamics and policies, whether national, regional or international, should, in so far as possible, be interdisciplinary in nature. The training of population specialists should always be accompanied by relevant career development for the trainees in their fields of specialization.

58. Training in the various aspects of population activities should not be restricted to the high levels of specialization but should be extended to middle-level personnel and, where needed, to medical personnel and population programme administrators.

59. Training in population matters should be extended to labour, community and other social leaders, to policy-makers and to senior government officials, with a view to enabling them to identify better the population problems of their countries and communities and to formulate responsive goals and policies.

60. Less developed countries, more developed countries and international organizations should co-operate to develop a world-wide system of international, regional and national institutions that would meet the need for trained manpower and to implement the different recommendations of this Plan of Action.

61. Educational institutions in both the more developed and less developed countries should be encouraged to expand their curricula at all levels to include study of population dynamics and policies including, where appropriate, education in family life and responsible parenthood. Assistance to less developed countries should include, as appropriate, the improvement of infrastructure such as library facilities and computer services.

/62. Governments

62. Governments are invited to use both formal and non-formal education systems to transmit population information to large proportions of their populations and to disseminate, by means of mass communication media, relatively simple information on population questions which face the individual and society. It is recommended that an international programme to collect and analyse such educational experiences be formulated.

63. Governments are invited to consider the use of their programmes in agriculture, adult literacy, the status of women and social security and welfare, and to co-operate with their labour unions, co-operatives, and other similar institutions and programmes, in order to inform and enlighten both rural and urban populations on population matters and on the role which they as individuals can assume in resolving population problems.

64. Voluntary organizations should be encouraged, in the framework of national policies and regulations, to play an important role in disseminating population knowledge and ensuring wider participation in population programmes and to share experiences regarding implementation of population measures and programmes.

65. International intergovernmental organizations should strengthen their efforts in dissemination of information on population and related matters, particularly through periodic publications on the world population situation, prospects and policies, the utilization of audio-visual aids, the publication of non-technical digests and reports, and the issuance and wide distribution of newsletters on population activities; consideration should also be given to the international publication of professional journals and reviews in the field of population.

66. In order to achieve the widest possible dissemination of research, translation activities should be encouraged at both the national and international levels. In this respect, the revision of the United Nations Multilingual Demographic dictionary and its publication in additional languages is recommended.

4. Development and evaluation of population policies

67. Where population policies are undertaken, systematic evaluation of their effectiveness should be made with a view to their continuous improvement.

68. Population measures and programmes should, whenever possible, be integrated into a more comprehensive social and economic plans and programmes and this integration reflected in the organizational planning machinery of countries. In general, it is suggested that a unit dealing with population aspects of development be created and placed at high levels of national administrative structure and that such a unit be staffed with qualified persons from the various relevant disciplines.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. Role of national governments

69. The success of this Plan of Action will largely depend on the actions undertaken by national Governments. The major burden of development of a country will continue to fall on the country itself.

70. This Plan of Action recognizes the responsibility of each Government to decide on its own policies and devise its own programmes of action dealing with the problems of population and economic and social progress. The recommendations made in this Plan of Action, in so far as they relate to national Governments, are made with due regard to the need for variety and flexibility in the hope that they may be responsive to major needs in the population field as perceived and interpreted by national governments. However, it is strongly recommended that national policies be formulated and implemented without violating, and with due promotion of, universally accepted standards of human rights.

71. An important role of Governments with regard to this Plan of Action is to determine and assess the population problems and needs of their countries in the light of their political, social, cultural, religious and economic conditions; such an undertaking should be carried out systematically and periodically so as to promote informed, rational and dynamic decision-making in matters of population and development.

72. The effect of national action or inaction in the fields of population may, in certain circumstances, extend beyond national boundaries; such international implications are particularly evident with regard to aspects of morbidity, population concentration and international migration, but may also apply to other aspects of population concern.

II. Role of international co-operation

73. International co-operation has a supportive role in achieving the goals of this Plan of Action. This supportive role could take the form of direct assistance, technical or financial, in response to national and regional requests and additional to economic development assistance, or the form of other activities, such as monitoring progress, undertaking comparative population research and furthering the exchange of population information and policy experiences among countries.

74. The General Assembly of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UNDP/UNFPA and other competent legislative and policy-making bodies of the specialized agencies and the various intergovernmental organizations are urged to give careful consideration to this Plan of Action and to ensure an appropriate response to it.

75. Countries sharing similar population conditions and problems are invited to consider jointly this Plan of Action and to elaborate those aspects of it that are of particular relevance to them. The United Nations regional economic commissions and regional organizations should play a leading role towards this end.

76. More developed countries are urged to increase their assistance to less developed countries in accordance with the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade and, together with international organizations, to make this assistance available in accordance with the national priorities of receiving countries. In this respect, it is recognized that considerable expansion of international assistance to the population field is required for the proper implementation of this Plan of Action.

77. It is suggested that the expanding, but still insufficient, international assistance in population and closely related matters requires increased co-ordination; organizations responsible for international assistance are urged to co-operate to produce a guide for international assistance in population matters which would be made available to recipient countries and institutions and be revised periodically.

78. International non-governmental organizations are urged to respond, to the greatest extent possible, to the goals and policies of this Plan of Action by co-ordinating their activities with those of other non-governmental organizations, and with those of relevant bilateral and multilateral organizations, by expanding their support for national institutions and organizations dealing with population questions, and by co-operating in the promotion of widespread knowledge of the goals and policies of the Plan of Action.

III. Monitoring, review and appraisal

79. It is recommended that monitoring of population trends and policies discussed in this Plan of Action be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of United Nations work on the World Population Situation and reviewed biennially by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, beginning in 1977. Because of the shortness of the intervals, such monitoring would necessarily have to be selective with regard to its informational content and should focus mainly on new and emerging population trends and policies.

80. It is urged that a complete and systematic review and appraisal of progress made towards the achievement of the goals of this Plan of Action be undertaken by the Population Commission and the Economic and Social Council every five years beginning in 1979. Such review and appraisal activities should, whenever necessary, include appropriate modifications in the Plan's goals and recommendations. All competent organizations are urged to co-operate with the United Nations in this undertaking.

81. It is urged that both the monitoring and the review and appraisal activities of this Plan of Action be closely co-ordinated with those of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and any new international development strategy that might be formulated for the 1980s.

