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Note by the secretariat

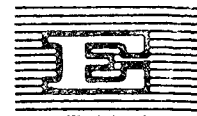
The Executive Secretary has the honour to forward to the delegates
attending the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the World
Population Conference document E/CN.9/292/Rev.1, entitled "Report
of the Secretary-General on the draft World Population Plan of Action",
which contains the second draft of the Plan.

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WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE DRAFT
WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

Second draft

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INTRODUCTION

The first draft of the World Population Plan of Action was presented to the seventeenth session of the Population Commission in November 1973 in document E/CN.9/292. On the basis of the Commission's deliberations, as well as other consultations, it became apparent that many delegations would prefer to have, at the World Population Conference, a shorter draft than the 25-35 page document originally recommended. Furthermore, it was also recommended that, for the sake of brevity, the recommendations in the shorter document would not contain the justifications for making them but that these would be in another larger background document to the World Population Plan of Action. Finally, since last November, a number of suggestions for revision have been received from Governments and international organizations.

In accordance with these recommendations the second draft of the World Population Plan of Action was prepared in two versions: a summary version and a detailed version. In the present document, E/CN.9/292/Rev.1, the summary version of the second draft of the World Population Plan of Action is presented after a brief preface dealing with a selected number of population questions. In the document E/CN.9/292/Rev.1/Add.1 is presented the detailed version of the second draft of the Plan.

It is proposed that the present summary version should, after appropriate revisions, constitute the draft of the World Population Plan of Action which will be presented to the World Population Conference. The detailed version would then become the Secretary-General's background document to the draft World Population Plan of Action.

I. FOREWORD TO THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION*

1. Promoting economic development and social well-being requires co-ordinated action in all major social and economic sectors, including population. On the international level a number of strategies have already been formulated which explicitly aim at affecting variables in other social and economic sectors than population, such as the FAO Indicative World Plan and the World Food Programme, the ILO World Employment Programme, the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the United Nations World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development and, more comprehensively, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The World Population Plan of Action explicitly aims at affecting population variables. As with the other sectoral strategies, therefore, its contribution to the solution of world development problems is only partial. This Plan must be viewed as part of the system of international strategies, plans and programmes which, taken together, constitute the over-all strategy of the international community for the promotion of economic development and social well-being.

2. The formulation of international strategies reflects the universal recognition of the existence of important problems in the world and the need for concerted national and international action for their solution. In many parts of the world today, there are periodic or chronic shortages of food and resources, high unemployment and underemployment, severe deterioration of the human environment, low levels of technological knowledge and skills, dilapidated urban conditions and generally low levels of social and economic development. While trends of population growth, distribution and structure are nowhere the only cause of these problems, imbalances between population trends and other social and economic factors can constitute a serious handicap to economic development and social progress. Consequently, policies aimed at affecting population trends, while they are not substitutes for other social and economic development policies, can, in conjunction with them, greatly facilitate the solution of many problems facing countries today and promote a more balanced and rational development. In the remaining part of this foreword, a selected number of population questions are briefly discussed.

3. Since 1950, the rate of growth of world population has increased considerably. While, historically, this growth rate was consistently lower than 1 per cent per year, it has, since 1950, reached the 2 per cent level. At present rates, therefore, world population would double every 35 years as compared with the approximately 100 years it took for it to double to its 1950 level. Many countries feel that the size and rate of growth of their population are creating great

* This foreword was drafted in response to suggestions that the World Population Plan of Action should be preceded by a section describing its scope in relation to other international strategies and discussing briefly some of the major population questions facing the world today. It is not, therefore, presented as an integral part of the Plan.

pressures on their resources and are a major handicap to their development. Thus, while most countries in the world find their population growth rates acceptable, and some wish to raise them slightly, the majority of world population and a large majority of the population of the developing regions, live in countries that are attempting to reduce, urgently and significantly, their rates of population growth. As a rule, these countries are attempting to do so through the reduction of fertility levels.

4. The acceleration in the rate of growth of world population is the result of spectacular declines in the mortality of developing countries. These mortality declines, however, have, at best, been uneven. Thus, compared with 71 years in the more developed countries, average expectation of life at birth at present exceeds 60 years in Latin America, is around 57 years in Asia and only about 47 years in Africa. Furthermore, while, on average, less than one of every 40 children dies before reaching the age of one year in the more developed countries, one of every 15 dies before reaching that age in Latin America, one of every 10 in Asia and one of every 7 in Africa. In some developing countries in fact, particularly African countries south of the Sahara, expectation of life at birth is less than 40 years and one of every four children dies before the age of one year. Consequently, many developing countries today consider mortality reduction a prerequisite for fertility reduction and one of the most important and urgent goals of development.

5. While the right of couples to have the number of children they desire is generally accepted, many couples in the world today are unable to exercise this right effectively. In many parts of the world, inadequate knowledge of effective methods of family limitation or the unavailability of contraceptive supplies results in situations where couples have more children than they desire or feel they can properly care for. In many countries, on the other hand, intolerable levels of sterility and sub-fecundity prevail - with the result that many couples are actually unable to achieve their desired number of children. The relative urgency for dealing with these two situations depends, of course, on the relevant conditions in the country in question.

6. Family size desires are determined on the micro or household level and may not, when cumulated, be optimal from the long-term viewpoint of society as a whole. In many developing countries today, particularly large countries in Asia, family size desires are believed to result in excessive national fertility and population growth rates and Governments are explicitly attempting to reduce them by emphasizing aspects of their social and economic development which may have the needed effect on family size desires. On the other hand, a few countries, mostly in Europe, are attempting to increase, if only slightly, the desired family size. Unfortunately, knowledge of the determinants of fertility at the micro level is still deficient; improvement of this knowledge is a prerequisite for the formulation of more effective policies in this regard.

7. In all regions of the world, the urban population is growing at a considerably faster rate than rural population. As a result, the majority of world population will, for the first time in history, be living in urban areas by the end of this century. While urbanization is generally an aspect of modernization, in many

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countries rapid urbanization has been associated with over-crowdedness, urban unemployment, the creation of slum settlements, environmental deterioration and a variety of social and economic ills. Many Governments are, therefore, attempting to implement policies not only to increase the absorption capacity of cities but also, or alternatively, to reduce the flow of migrants to the main cities.

8. In the developing countries, this "urban explosion" is generally accompanied by a smaller, though still significant, "rural explosion". The rural population of developing countries is at present growing at a rate of 1.7 per cent a year and, in some instances, at a faster rate than the urban population of more developed countries. Furthermore, many rural areas of heavy emigration, in both developed and developing countries, are being depleted of their more talented youth and working population and are left with an increasingly unviable age distribution of their population. The revitalization of the countryside is a priority goal in many countries of the world and a good deal of valuable experience is being gained by countries in this domain.

9. Two types of international migration movements are of major concern to most countries in the world: the movement of migrant workers with limited skills and the movement of skilled workers and professionals. The movement of migrant workers is often quantitatively significant and raises questions regarding the fair and proper treatment of migrant workers in the country of immigration, the breaking up of the families of the migrants and other social and economic questions in both the emigration and immigration countries. The migration of skilled workers and professionals, on the other hand, while quantitatively less significant, results in a "brain drain", often from less developed to more developed countries, which is at present of major concern to many countries and to the international community at large. The increased international awareness of the problems involved is reflected in the increasing number of bilateral and multilateral agreements and instruments on these subjects and the increased involvement of international organizations in them.

10. A population age structure is greatly affected by its fertility rates; declining fertility results, for example, in a gradual ageing of the population. Since fertility has already declined in the more developed countries, it is found that, on average, the proportion aged 60 years and over in these countries is 14 per cent - compared with little over 5 per cent in the less developed countries. However, the ageing of the population of the less developed countries has recently begun to take place and is expected to accelerate in the near future. Thus, while the total population of these countries is projected to increase by an average of 2.3 per cent a year between 1970 and the year 2000, the population 60 years and over is expected to increase by 3.2 per cent a year and that 65 years and over by 3.5 per cent a year. Not only are the number and proportion of the aged increasing rapidly, the social and economic conditions facing them are also rapidly changing. There is an urgent need at present both for a better understanding of these changes and for formulating policies for assisting the aged in facing them.

11. Declining fertility is also the main factor underlying the declining proportion of children in a population. Thus, the population of less than 15 years

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of age in the less developed countries will, on average, decline from more than 41 per cent of total population in 1970 to around 35 per cent in the year 2000, still some distance from the 26 per cent level prevailing at present in the more developed countries. This decline in the proportion of children, however, will be accompanied by an increase in their numbers at an average of 1.7 per cent a year in the less developed countries. The demand for educational services, therefore, will 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. With regard to the young population 15 to 29 years of age, on the other hand, 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, population pressures on work opportunities will continue unabated, at least until the end of this century. Furthermore, the greatly changing social and economic conditions faced by youth, in both the more developed and the less developed countries, underline the need for a better understanding of emerging questions and for the formulation and implementation of policies to resolve them.

II. THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

(Second draft)

Outline

- I. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES
- II. POPULATION GOALS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
 - 1. Population growth
 - 2. Morbidity and mortality
 - 3. Reproduction and family formation
 - 4. Population distribution and internal migration
 - 5. International migration
 - 6. Demographic structure (with particular reference to age and sex)
- III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND POLICIES
 - 1. Data collection
 - 2. Research
 - 3. Education and training
 - 4. Evaluation and promotion of population policies
- IV. ROLE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
- V. MONITORING, REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

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The World Population Conference, 1974, having considered the present and prospective world population situation and its relationship with economic development and social well-being, decides on the following World Population Plan of Action.

I. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

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 for all people - population goals and policies should also serve this ultimate objective;

(b) True development, including improvement of the quality of life, cannot take place in the absence of individual dignity and national security; racial discrimination 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;

(d) Population policies are constituent elements of socio-economic development policies, never substitutes for them;

(e) Population policies, while serving socio-economic objectives, should be consistent with internationally and nationally recognized human values of individual freedom, justice and the survival of national and other population groups;

(f) Recommendations in this Plan of Action regarding policies to deal with population problems must recognize diversity of conditions within and among different nations and the sovereignty of national Governments in determining their population policies;

(g) The occurrence in the world of rapid demographic change accompanied by rapid social changes and changes in human values must be taken into account in formulating this Plan of Action;

(h) While the main responsibility for achieving the objectives of this Plan of Action lies at the national level, international co-operation is essential;

(i) The objectives of this Plan of Action should be consistent with the objectives of the United Nations and, particularly, those of the Second United Nations Development Decade; 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.

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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 global, regional, national and subnational 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 over-all goals of advancing human welfare through socio-economic development, 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 that are aimed at affecting reproduction and family formation, including family planning programmes, and through measures and programmes affecting morbidity, mortality, population distribution, internal migration, international migration and demographic structure;

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

(e) To promote greater motivation and wider participation in the formulation and implementation of population policies and to improve communication of the purposes and goals of these policies to the public;

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

II. POPULATION GOALS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

3. This Plan of Action, while fully recognizing the interdependence and complementarity between actions in the population field and actions in other fields of socio-economic development, is principally concerned with goals and policies aimed at affecting population variables. It is one of several international strategies which, taken together, constitute the multidisciplinary approach of the international community to the solution of world problems in the fields of economic development and social well-being.

1. Population growth

4. Countries which consider that their rates of population growth hamper their goals of promoting development and human well-being are urged, if they have not

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yet done so, to consider setting quantitative population growth targets and to develop policies for achieving them which are consistent with basic human rights and national goals and values. The international community and the developed countries should, upon request, assist developing countries in defining and achieving such targets, although this assistance should not be considered a substitute or prerequisite for other forms of development assistance.

5. It is estimated that, if Governments which have population growth objectives are successful in achieving these objectives, the population growth rate in 1985 would be less than 2.0 per cent for the less developed countries and less than 1.7 per cent for the world. These rates, which should be revised as new national targets are set, should be used for the review and appraisal of this Plan.

6. 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 growth should, particularly where mortality is high, concentrate unusual efforts on the reduction of mortality.

2. Morbidity and mortality

7. The reduction of morbidity and mortality, to the maximum feasible extent, is a major goal of every human society irrespective of its contribution to other aspects of economic growth and social well-being. Particularly where the rates are very high, concentrated national and international efforts should be applied to reduce them as a matter of highest priority.

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 and that, by the year 2000, the difference between more developed and less developed regions in this regard should have become negligible. The target for the year 2000 implies an increase from present levels of 10 years for Latin America, 15 years for Asia and 25 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. The highest national and international priority should be given to the reduction of morbidity and mortality in these countries.

10. National and international efforts to reduce general morbidity and mortality levels should be accompanied by particular efforts in these component areas:

(a) The reduction of foetal, perinatal and early childhood mortality and related maternal morbidity and mortality;

(b) The minimization of the incidence of sterility, subfecundity, defective births and illegal abortions;

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(c) The reduction or elimination of differential morbidity and mortality within countries, particularly with regard to regional differentials, to urban-rural differentials, to sex differentials, and to differentials among social and ethnic groups;

(d) The improvement of health conditions which adversely affect the productivity of working age populations thus undermining development efforts.

11. National and international programmes should continue to give high priority to the elimination of infectious and parasitic diseases and the diminution of malnutrition.

12. In undertaking policies to reduce mortality, countries, particularly developed countries, are urged to give priority attention to:

(a) Intensifying research into the reasons and remedies of such major causes of death as heart diseases and the various forms of cancer;

(b) Undertaking special measures to minimize deaths by external causes, such as work-related accidents, car accidents, homicide and suicide;

(c) Expediting the transfer of knowledge learned in controlling diseases and other causes of death to the developing countries.

13. National goals to reduce morbidity and mortality must be supported by vigorous and well-designed programmes of health and nutrition. Furthermore, health programmes should be integrated into an over-all development strategy and supplemented by a wide range of mutually supporting social policy measures.

14. Existing health, nutritional and related social services should be made more effective through the use of modern management techniques, and policies should be designed to widen their coverage to reach, in particular, rural, remote and underprivileged groups.

3. Reproduction and family formation

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, all countries are urged:

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

(b) To make available, to all persons who so desire, and 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 practise family planning effectively and in accordance with their cultural values;

(c) In order that all couples are permitted to achieve their desired number of children, to ensure that family planning and related services aim at both the prevention of unwanted births and the elimination of sterility and subfecundity, the emphasis to be determined by the relevant conditions in the area;

(d) To make use, where needed and appropriate, of midwives, para-medical personnel and non-medical and commercial channels to help in providing family planning services and in advising contraceptive users;

(e) To ensure that information and education on family planning and other matters affecting fertility are based on valid and proven scientific knowledge, and include a full account of the risks that may be involved.

16. In so far as possible and required, Governments should make provision, in their various educational programmes, for informing and enlightening their citizens as to the consequences of fertility behaviour for the well-being of the family, the mental and psychological development of children and the general welfare of society, with a view to promoting an informed and responsible attitude to marriage and reproduction.

17. Governments are invited to consider integrating or co-ordinating family planning programmes with health programmes and programmes to raise the quality of family life. In this respect, it is acknowledged that the effective use of family planning services may be an important means towards the elimination of illegal abortion.

18. Countries wishing to affect fertility levels may do so not only through family planning programmes but also, or alternatively, through measures that affect the social and economic determinants of desired family size. Developing countries wishing to reduce desired family size should lay primary stress in their development plans and programmes on those development aspects that are both desirable in themselves and have the desired effect on the socio-economic context in which reproductive decisions are made.

19. While recognizing the diversity of social, cultural, political and economic conditions among countries and regions, it is nevertheless believed 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 through improved nutrition, sanitation, child health care and maternal education;

(b) The fuller integration of women into the development process, particularly through their greater participation in educational, social, economic and political opportunities and especially through removing, whenever possible, obstacles to their employment in the modern sector;

(c) The promotion of social justice and social mobility, particularly through a more equitable distribution of income and of social amenities;

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

(e) The establishment of an appropriate age at marriage.

20. The desire for children may also be affected by incentive and disincentive schemes. However, the use of such schemes should be carefully undertaken and should not, in any circumstances, violate the human rights of individuals.

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. Countries having a very high birth rate, for example in excess of 40 per 1,000, may consider undertaking action compatible with the principles and objectives of this Plan (including paragraph 4 above) to reduce these rates by around 10 per 1,000 by 1985. Assistance to these countries should be given high priority in international activities.

23. Countries wishing to reduce their birth rates are invited to give particular consideration to the reduction of fertility at the extremes of female reproductive ages.

24. In order to promote the well-being of the family and its members, it is recommended that:

(a) A minimum age at marriage for women of at least 17 years be established;

(b) Socio-economic measures be undertaken that would minimize the reasons for polygamous practices;

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

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

4. Population distribution and internal migration

26. International organizations are urged to expand the assistance available to developing countries in information-gathering, research and policy formulation and implementation in the fields of population distribution and urbanization.

27. Policies aimed at influencing population flows into urban areas should be co-ordinated with policies for increasing the absorption capacity of urban centres

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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 the decision-making processes dealing with over-all social and economic development.

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

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

(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 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, and to educate and train actual and potential rural migrants to the cities so that they may be able to adjust to, and cope with, the new way of life facing them.

30. A great deal of experience is now being gained by some countries with major programmes aimed at relieving urban pressure, replenishing or revitalizing the depleted or stagnating countryside, inhabiting sparsely populated areas or settling newly reclaimed agricultural land. Countries having such experiences are invited to share them with other countries. International organizations are urged, within their respective competence, to study these programmes, to analyse and systematize these experiences, and to disseminate the information in a way that is most useful to national policy-making in this field.

5. International migration

31. Developing countries wishing to curtail outflows of migrant workers should, with the assistance 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 and export markets to these developing countries and through the choice of production technology in these countries.

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32. 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 other international instruments.

33. In the treatment of migrant workers, Governments should always act towards preventing all forms of discrimination in the labour market, preserving human rights and eliminating obstacles to the reunion of families. 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.

34. Countries affected by significant migration movements are urged, if they have not yet done so, to conclude bilateral agreements which would regulate migration and protect and assist migrant workers. Competent international organizations should co-operate and assist in these undertakings.

35. Developing 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.

36. Developed countries are urged to encourage their investors in developing countries to utilize local talent to the maximum feasible extent. It must be recognized that the location of research facilities in developing countries can greatly moderate the "brain drain" from these countries.

37. International organizations concerned should co-operate in sponsoring and encouraging meetings between countries affected by the migration movements of skilled workers and professionals to work out agreements among themselves taking into account relevant principles of human rights.

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

38. The present age structure of a population is a major determinant of its fertility and mortality levels for several decades to come. Since this "demographic inertia" is not widely understood, international organizations should, in accordance with their respective mandates, undertake educational activities to point out the intricacies and full implications of it. Governments are urged to take it fully into account in formulating their population growth objectives in related social and economic sectors.

39. Developing countries should give particular consideration to the effect of fertility rates and age structure on their economic growth and the need for social services in their development and planning decisions.

40. International organizations should take a vigorous role in research into the implications of age structure for development and planning, making the relevant

findings available to interested Governments. The need for adequate statistics on demographic structure must receive particular attention.

41. All countries are urged to give full consideration in their development plans and policies to the rapidly changing numbers, proportions and conditions of youth and the aged.

42. In undertaking settlement and resettlement schemes Governments are advised to give adequate attention to questions of age and sex balances and particularly to the preservation and promotion of the family.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND POLICIES

43. In order to achieve the population objectives of the 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 population objectives, measures and programmes.

1. Data collection

44. All countries are urged to undertake population censuses between 1975 and 1985.

45. 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.

46. Developing countries should be encouraged to establish and improve their vital registration systems, as a long-term objective, and relevant laws should be enacted by them so that vital events may be accurately registered. In the interim, sample registration data should be developed. All countries are urged to collect information on international and internal migration.

47. 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.

48. Developing countries should be provided technical assistance, 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 appropriate form to serve adequately the needs of users.

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

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2. Research

50. This Plan of Action gives high priority to research activities in the population and related fields. The following research areas are considered of particular importance for filling existing general 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 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 peri-natal, infant and early childhood mortality;

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

(e) The formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies, including methods for integrating population inputs and goals in development plans and programmes and for improving motivation and participation in population programmes, the analysis of population policies and their relationship with other socio-economic development policies, laws and institutions and the translation into action programmes of policies dealing with the socio-economic determinants of fertility, mortality, internal migration and international migration;

(f) The means for improving existing methods of fertility regulation and for developing new methods to meet the varied requirements of individuals and communities; priority areas in this regard include the development of contraceptives for use by the male, longer-acting agents in the female and the development of additional methods needing no medical supervision;

(g) Population genetics and the reproductive processes, in particular, the interrelationships between health, sanitation and nutrition, on the one hand, and the incidence of spontaneous abortion, sterility and sub-fecundity on the other;

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

(i) 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, housing and other social amenities, on the aging of the population and the need for social security and on political stability and national viability.

51. While research aimed at filling general gaps in knowledge is extremely urgent and important, research adapted to the particular problems of countries and regions must also be given high priority. In principle, such research is best undertaken

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in the countries and regions themselves or by competent individuals who are particularly familiar with national and regional conditions. The support and expansion of national research institutions in developing countries and regions should be given high priority in international assistance.

3. Education and training

52. A dual approach to training is recommended: an international programme for training in population matters concomitantly with national and regional training programmes adapted and made particularly relevant to conditions in the countries and regions of the trainees.

53. 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 and career development for the trainees in their fields of specialization.

54. Training should not be restricted to the high levels of specialization but extended to middle-level personnel in the various aspects of population activities. Where needed, the training of population programme administrators must be undertaken.

55. Training in population matters should be extended to social leaders, policy-makers and senior administrators with a view to enabling them better to identify the population problems of their countries and formulate responsive goals and policies.

56. Educational institutions in developing countries and regions should be encouraged to expand their curricula at all levels to include study of population dynamics and policies. Assistance from developed countries and international organizations should include, as appropriate, infrastructural aspects such as the building up of library facilities and the availability of computer services.

57. Governments should make appropriate use of the formal and non-formal education systems to transmit population information to large segments of the population and of the mass media of communication to disseminate relatively simple information on population questions facing the individual and society. In this regard, an international programme to collect and analyse experiences in this field is recommended.

58. Governments should consider utilizing their agricultural programmes, institutions and services, their programmes to enhance the status of women, their social security and welfare schemes, their labour unions, their co-operatives and their other relevant institutions and programmes to inform and enlighten the rural and urban workers and populations regarding population matters and their role in resolving population problems.

59. Developing countries, developed countries and international organizations

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should co-operate to develop a world-wide system of international, regional and national institutions that would meet the need for trained manpower in the different population aspects covered by this Plan of Action.

4. Evaluation and promotion of population policies

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

61. Population measures and programmes should, whenever possible, be integrated into 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.

62. National voluntary organizations should be encouraged 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.

63. International 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 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.

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

65. Experts from different countries should continue to be brought together in technical seminars, workshops and study tours to promote the exchange of research findings and experiences.

IV. ROLE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

66. This Plan of Action recognizes that:

(a) It is 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. These policies, however, must be formulated and implemented without violating, and with due promotion of, universally accepted principles of human rights;

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(b) 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;

(c) The effect of national action or inaction in the fields of population, indeed in many fields of social and economic development 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;

(d) International co-operation has a supportive role in achieving the goals of this Plan of Action.

67. The General Assembly of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UNDP/UNFPA and other competent inter-governmental legislative and policy-making bodies of the specialized agencies and the various multilateral organizations are urged to give careful consideration to this Plan of Action and to ensure an appropriate response of their organizations to it, within the framework of their respective mandates.

68. Developed countries are urged to increase their assistance to developing countries in accordance with the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade and, together with international organizations, to make this assistance available to all sectors and in accordance with the national priorities of receiving countries.

69. The expanding international assistance in population and closely related fields requires increased co-ordination. In this regard, international assistance organizations are urged to co-operate to produce a guide for international assistance in the population field which would be made available to recipient countries and institutions and revised periodically as needed.

70. 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 other regional organizations should play a leading role towards this end.

71. International non-governmental organizations are urged to:

(a) Review their priorities and, where feasible, expand their activities, to offer maximum response to the goals and policies of this Plan of Action;

(b) Co-ordinate, in so far as possible, their activities with each other and with those of relevant multilateral organizations with a view to ensuring that these activities correspond to the needs and aspirations of recipient countries;

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(c) Continue and expand their support to national institutions and organizations dealing with population questions to improve their capacity to contribute to national population goals and individual welfare;

(d) Devote particular attention to promoting widespread knowledge of the goals and policies of this Plan of Action.

V. MONITORING, REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

72. The monitoring of population trends and policies discussed in this Plan of Action should be continuously undertaken as a specialized activity of United Nations work on the World Population Situation and reviewed biennially by the Population Commission and the Economic and Social Council beginning in 1977.

73. A complete and systematic review and appraisal of progress made towards the achievement of this Plan's goals should 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 policies. All competent organizations are urged to co-operate with the United Nations in this undertaking.
