

**Platform voor
Bevolking en
Ontwikkeling**

**Plate-forme pour
la Population et le
Développement**

*[Een initiatief van de Belgische
civiele maatschappij]*

*[Une initiative de la société
civile Belge]*

Invitation International Conference 1 March 2007

29 January 2007

Dear Friend and Colleague

The Belgian Platform on Population and Development kindly invites you to participate in the international conference **'Population Ageing. Towards an Improvement of the Quality of Life?'**

The subject of the conference is directly linked to the annual theme of the 40th session of the *Commission on Population and Development (CPD)* of the United Nations. In 2007 the subject is: "The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development" — in other words, 'population ageing'.

Enclosed you will find the **programme** of the conference. There are in total 13 international speakers. The purpose of the conference is to put the issue of 'population ageing' (and the socio-economic problems associated with it) into a broad international perspective. Indeed, 'population ageing' is not a 'European' issue, but a 'global' issue.

Presentations will be made in English, French, and Dutch. **Simultaneous translation** will be available in all three languages.

The presentations will be followed with **discussions from the floor** and with **panel discussions**. The panel members will be a mixture of parliamentarians, academics, representatives of ngo's, and high-level civil servants. All panel members have a keen interest in the subject of population ageing, its socio-economic consequences and its importance in the broader perspective of international development cooperation.

The conference is organised under the auspices of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC), the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITG) in Antwerp, and the Study Centre of the Flemish Government (SVR).

The venue of the conference is indicated on the registration form. For those of you who come from outside Brussels, please note that the Hendrik Consciencegebouw is at 10 minutes walking from the North Station (and close to the Place Rogier).

Important! The participation at the conference is free. **The only requirement to participate is to fill out the attached registration form and return it before 17 February** to the organisers. A timely

registration will guarantee an invitation to a free lunch (a cold buffet) and to the reception at the end of the conference.

With kind regards, and hoping to meeting you in great numbers on March 1st, 2007.

On behalf of the organising committee,

Ronald Schoenmaeckers
Member of the Belgian Platform 'Population and Development',
Scientific Director/ Coordinator SVR (Research Centre of the Flemish
Government)

More about CPD

The CPD is one of the *functional commissions* of the United Nations and meets once a year. The CPD has as mandate the follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Population Conference that was held in Cairo in 1994, probably better known as the ICPD-Conference (*International Conference on Population and Development*). The Commission is one of the oldest *functional commissions*. Its establishment dates from October 1946, less than one year after the start of the UN itself. Its original name was simply 'Population Commission'; 'CPD' is the name given in the aftermath of Cairo.

Important!

One specific objective of the conferences organised by the Platform on Population and Development is to formulate a series of recommendations that may be relevant for the discussions at the CPD. The formulation of the recommendations will take place on Friday 2 March. All participants at the conference are entitled to participate. The number of places is however limited. Those of you who wish to participate, indicate 'YES' where appropriate on the registration form. The precise venue will be communicated during the conference (it will be in a building close to the Consciencegebouw).

More about the Belgian Platform on Population and Development

The Belgian Platform on Population and Development has been created in 2000 upon the initiative of the civil society. Its main objective is the follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (and as such, the activities of the CDP), and more particularly of the Belgian policy with regards to international development cooperation in support of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. (For more info, please visit: <http://www.platformpd.be>)

Since its establishment the Platform has organised annual conferences on the theme of the CPD. The conference usually takes place at the very beginning of the year and the CPD session a few weeks later in April. In addition to come to a better understanding and a broad dissemination of the theme and its related issues, one specific objective of the conference is to formulate a series of recommendations that may be relevant for the discussions at the CPD. These recommendations are presented in a brochure, which in agreement with the Belgian authorities is made available to all participants at the CPD.

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