



**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC
STUDY OF POPULATION**

IUSSP – UIESP

3-5 rue Nicolas, 75980 Paris cedex 20, France

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

MARCH 24, 2004

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population [IUSSP] is very pleased to have the opportunity to address this meeting of the Commission.

The IUSSP is the only international professional association of population specialists. With more than 1700 full members located in 120 countries and about 200 student associates, the IUSSP has a program of scientific activities that bring together population specialists from different disciplines and countries. Through these activities, the IUSSP acts as a catalyst for the development of scientific knowledge and policies about a wide range of population issues. The IUSSP has long been a partner of the United Nations in raising awareness about population issues. In fact, as this session of the Commission considers progress since the International Conference on Population and Development that was held in Cairo in 1994, we are reminded that the first World Population Conference, held in Rome in 1954, was the result of collaboration between the IUSSP and the United Nations. Today, fifty years after that event, the IUSSP continues to promote the objective and comprehensive discussion of key population issues at the regional and global levels.

ICPD was a watershed event for all those in the population field, including the IUSSP and its members. The IUSSP is proud to have been an active participant in the process leading up to the conference in Cairo and in the conference itself. As background to the conference, the IUSSP prepared a series of Policy Papers on key issues under discussion in the conference, and we believe those papers provided useful scientific input to the conference deliberations. In addition, the IUSSP sponsored a Scientific Forum at the conference.

The ICPD Programme of Action has been decisive in shaping the population field during the past decade. This has been amply reflected in the scientific program of the IUSSP. For example, in the past decade the IUSSP has supported an active program of seminars and conference sessions on reproductive health issues. In the recent past, a brief overview of the activities of the IUSSP since the last session of this Commission clearly demonstrates how the IUSSP's activities speak to the broader set of population issues that are central to the ICPD Programme of Action. During the past twelve months, we have sponsored two cyber-seminars on population-environment inter-relations, one entitled "Population and Deforestation" and the other "Air Pollution and Health Linkages". In addition, a workshop was held on "Population, Consumption, and Environment Dynamics". This past July, a seminar was held in Botswana on

“The Condom in the Era of HIV/AIDS”. In October, a seminar was held on “Increasing Longevity: Causes, Consequences, and Prospects.” In November, a seminar was held on “The Demography of Conflict and Violence”. And also in November, a seminar was held in Mexico City on “Poverty, Programmes, and Demographic Outcomes”.

I would like to put special emphasis on the Mexico City seminar, because it is indicative of a broader emphasis on the relationship between population and poverty. With support from the UNFPA, population and poverty has become a major theme of the IUSSP’s scientific program. To this end, we have organized seminars that focus exclusively on this topic, such as the seminar in Mexico City and a proposed seminar on “HIV/AIDS and poverty”, to be held in Africa early next year. And poverty serves as a cross-cutting theme in all activities of the IUSSP, as reflected for example in sessions at our major conferences. In developing our emphasis on this issue, we have been mindful of the high priority given in the ICPD Programme of Action to human development goals, and we are mindful of the centrality of poverty reduction in the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations as articulated four years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the members and guests of this Commission of the IUSSP’s plans to hold an international conference in 2005. This will be a General Conference of the IUSSP, the 25th such conference. In recent decades, these conferences have been held at four-year intervals; the previous conference was held in 2001 in Salvador Bahia, Brasil. I am pleased to announce that the 2005 conference will be held in the city of Tours, France from 18 to 23 July 2005. We are indebted to our French colleagues in the French Association of IUSSP who extended the invitation to hold the conference in France, and for their dedication during the past two years in planning this large event. I will also take this opportunity to express the IUSSP’s gratitude to the National Institute of Demographic Studies [INED] in Paris, which has hosted the IUSSP headquarters since 2000.

The Tours Conference will provide an opportunity for scientists, programme managers, and policy-makers from all over the world to review advances made in the study of population issues and to debate the possible actions or policy responses to the challenges posed by population dynamics. The Conference programme will consist of 164 regular sessions, several poster sessions, two plenary sessions, three debate sessions and a number of additional training sessions or side meetings. In addition, the French National Organising Committee will host a full day of sessions and round-table discussions on the theme of “The Future of Europe’s Population”. Finally, of particular relevance to this Commission, the Tours Conference will include a special session hosted by the UNFPA that is tentatively entitled “ICPD Vision: How Far Has the 11 Year Journey Taken Us?” We are hopeful that Mrs. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the UNFPA, will be able to arrange her schedule so that she will be able to chair this session.

I would like to emphasize that attendance at the Tours Conference is open to all members of the population community. We invite interested scholars and experts worldwide to attend this important event. Anyone may submit abstracts to designated sessions. The selection of papers by session organizers will be done on the basis of their

merits and their relevance to the proposed session. There are no solicited papers in the regular sessions at this conference. We are particularly interested in ensuring the attendance of population specialists from developing countries and especially from the least developed countries. This and other information about the conference, including session titles and a short description of the types of papers sought for each session, has been posted on the conference website: <http://www.iussp.org/France2005>. Certainly those who are concerned about the broad range of issues that the ICPD Programme of Action addresses will find much of interest in the programme of the Tours Conference.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, on this tenth anniversary of the ICPD, the IUSSP wishes to commend the United Nations Commission on Population and Development for the leadership it has provided in the field of population, from the early years of the United Nations until today. The United Nations has been decisive in influencing the development of population policies and programmes, and it has made a critical contribution to the scientific understanding of population dynamics. For this special credit is due to the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and to the United Nations Population Fund, as abundantly illustrated in the rich and thorough documentation presented to this Commission, in this session and in past sessions. For our part, the IUSSP intends to continue to sponsor scientific activities that can inform the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD.