

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET1. CONTROL NUMBER
PN-AAH-4942. SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION (695)
PA00-0000-0000

3. TITLE AND SUBTITLE (240)

The United Nations World Population Conference, 1974 with text of World Population Plan of Action ; discussion outline, annotated references and commentary on social welfare services

4. PERSONAL AUTHORS (100)

Hunter, H. J.

5. CORPORATE AUTHORS (101)

Mich. Univ.

6. DOCUMENT DATE (110)

1976

7. NUMBER OF PAGES (120)

62p.

8. ARC NUMBER (170)

301.32.H945

9. REFERENCE ORGANIZATION (150)

Mich.

10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES (500)

(In Study aids for social work education)

11. ABSTRACT (950)

12. DESCRIPTORS (920)

Social services
Social welfare
Population policy
Family planning

13. PROJECT NUMBER (150)

14. CONTRACT NO.(140)

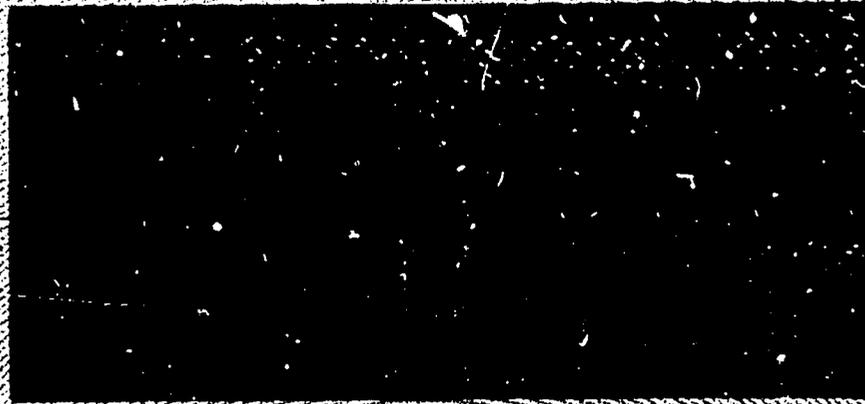
AID/csd-3313

15. CONTRACT
TYPE (140)

16. TYPE OF DOCUMENT (160)

PN-AAH-494

Study Aids for Social Work Education



**SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
AND
POPULATION PLANNING PROJECT**

The University of Michigan

THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974
with text of
World Population Plan of Action

Discussion Outline, Annotated References and
Commentary on Social Welfare Services

by

Helen J. Hunter

Social Work Education and Population Planning Project
The University of Michigan
1976

Other Project Publications:

***SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION FOR FAMILY AND POPULATION PLANNING:**

Topical Outlines and Annotated References Selected for Social Work Educators, edited by Glasser, Hunter and Meyer;

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRACTICE FOR FAMILY AND POPULATION PLANNING
by Mukunda Rao;

***SOCIAL WORK ROLES AND FUNCTIONS IN FAMILY AND POPULATION PLANNING:**
Some Implications for Social Work Education by Chilman and Glasser;

UTILIZING POLICY SKILLS IN FAMILY AND POPULATION PLANNING PROGRAMS
by Cura and Vinokur;

HEALTH BENEFITS OF FAMILY PLANNING: Information for Social Workers
about Reproduction and Health by Helen J. Hunter;

SATISFACTIONS AND COSTS OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY PLANNING DECISIONS OF
PARENTS: A Discussion Guide for Social Work Education by
Diane Kaplan Vinokur;

ETHICAL ISSUES OF POPULATION POLICY IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE:
Discussion Outline and Summarized References, compiled by
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FOREWORD

Social workers and other workers engaged in providing social welfare services have a special reason to be informed about the World Population Plan of Action adopted by consensus of 136 nations convened at the United Nations World Population Conference, August 1974, in Bucharest. As the central premise of the World Population Plan of Action, population policies and programs are seen as necessarily related to policies and programs for social development. It is clear that the social services are crucial in programs that seek to deal with population problems in this context.

The purpose of this Study Aid is to help social work educators and students appreciate what led up to the Bucharest Conference, what happened there, what the World Population Plan of Action proposes, and what reactions have followed the Bucharest Conference. A discussion outline and annotations of selected readings are provided, and a text of the World Population Plan of Action is reprinted. Of particular relevance is the commentary specifying some of the ways that implementation of the World Population Plan of Action will require participation of social welfare service professions.

This Study Aid contains substantive information that can be used immediately for discussions about the place of social work in population programs. Its selected references and annotations can lead interested social workers to additional and readily available sources that will enhance further study.

We believe that the careful work of Helen J. Hunter has produced a most useful addition to the teaching materials offered to social workers by the Social Work Education and Population Planning Project.

Henry J. Meyer
Project Director

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THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

I

Introduction

In 1970 the United Nations designated 1974 as World Population Year. The intent was to reflect the almost universal interest among nations in population change, including rapid population growth and internal and external migration. The culmination of World Population Year was the World Population Conference held in Romania in August of 1974. This conference of governments at Bucharest was attended by official delegations who could commit their countries to a population plan of action. Representatives of 136 states attended the Conference as well as other recognized participants and observers. A Population Tribune was held simultaneously in Bucharest attended by non-governmental organizations and other interested persons. Considerable preliminary activity was carried out in preparation for the Conference and a Draft World Population Plan of Action was developed for discussion, amendment and approval at Bucharest.

What actually happened at Bucharest was not a quiet discussion leading directly to agreement. Instead, to the surprise of some, the Conference became a political forum for ideological debates leading to the "politicization" of population issues. Debate centered on the "development" approach to population problems versus the "population regulation" approach. The former emphasized the importance of overall social and economic development (developmentalism), minimizing population as such as a central problem. The latter emphasized the desirability of universal goals of reducing population growth and promoting the small family norm as the central objective of the Conference. Countries placing major emphasis on extending family planning programs were accused of believing that complex problems of developing countries could be

solved by more technology. "Developmentalists" were accused of closing their eyes to the dangers of population explosion. The developmentalists were eager to make sure that no specific quantitative targets for population reduction were recommended in the final Plan of Action and that, instead, emphasis on socio-economic development would dominate the recommendations. Eventually, a consensus on the World Population Plan of Action was reached, the Holy See of The Roman Catholic Church dissociating itself from the consensus that favored the full text. The final Plan was a compromise document which revised the Draft Plan so as to represent the several viewpoints that emerged at the Conference.

Perspectives on Population Problems

As already noted, the major revisions of the Draft Plan appeared to result from the polarized views of (1) developmentalism or (2) population factors as an integral part of any effective development strategy. However, these polar views were not uniform positions which countries either subscribed to or rejected. Rather, they were orientations from which different delegations interpreted population problems and viewed demographic and political issues. It is important to see that the differing positions among countries fell along a continuum of viewpoints. Some major positions as they were expressed in country statements and in general debate are simplified in the discussion below.

One position regarded "so-called" population problems as actually problems of inequality of world wealth and over-consumption in the developed countries. Rapid population growth was considered progressive and family planning programs were denounced as distractions from the true issues of development. Countries espousing this view included Francophone Sub-Sahara Africa, Algeria, Argentina, China, Albania, Romania, Cuba and Peru.

A second major position acknowledged that population problems are real for some countries and hinder social and economic development. Population problems, from this perspective, are seen as rooted in such conditions as poverty, poor health, high mortality, and lack of education.

These conditions contribute to rapid rates of population growth and can be mitigated through development. Countries promoting this position varied their emphasis with India and Egypt, for example, tending to stress the development aspect and other countries (Mexico, Yugoslavia, Italy and some Latin American and African states) stressing the need for effective population policies within socio-economic development.

Another position held that both rapid development and strenuous population policies are required to balance population growth rates with rates of economic and resource development. Most of Asia (except China and India), most of Western Europe (excluding France and Italy), Iran, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and some Latin American states subscribed to this viewpoint.

A position taken by representatives from Eastern Europe (except Romania and Yugoslavia) maintained that the concept of a "population problem" is invalid and therefore "population policies" are unnecessary. It was maintained that in a properly organized society demographic trends are adjusted automatically by social and economic forces. The contention was that each mode of production (feudalism, capitalism, and socialism) has its own natural laws of population. They claimed exploitation of the Third World by capitalist countries cause so-called population problems.¹

The meaning given by many delegations to the idea of "development" in relation to population should be seen against the background of proposals for a "new international economic order." The Conference at Bucharest followed rather soon after a special session of the U.N. General Assembly in May, 1974, that adopted a Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The meeting in Bucharest became a forum for continuing the political

¹ For a more complete discussion of these viewpoints see W. Parker Mauldin, et al. "A Report on Bucharest: The World Population Conference and the Population Tribune, August 1974." Studies in Family Planning, Vol. 5, No. 12. (December, 1974). New York: The Population Council, p. 363.

discussion of the measures of this prior U.N. action and Algeria led the Third World countries in bringing attention to this cause.

The Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order call for several economic measures including: an end to all foreign occupation, domination and exploitation; an equitable relationship between prices received for raw products by developing countries and prices they must pay for imported goods; improved access to markets in developed countries, for example, by removing tariff barriers; a code of conduct regulating transnational corporations; and other measures. The Programme also declares that developed countries should assist countries commensurate with their responsibilities and should go beyond present levels of aid.² Appreciation of the measures should expand the meaning of socio-economic development as it was discussed in Bucharest.

What really happened at Bucharest? Was it only an "international extravaganza"? Was the population movement set back by the events of the Conference? Does developmentalism really challenge the assumptions on which the need for control of population are based? What are the implications of the Conference and the Plan of Action? What has occurred since Bucharest and what are some possible future directions? These are questions which are now being considered by development planners, economists, professionals specifically involved with population problems and others from a variety of disciplines, both in governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations.

Purpose of this Study Aid

This Study Aid has a purpose more limited than these questions. It attempts to provide a framework for consideration of the World Population Conference now that "the dust has settled." It seeks to provide some

² Ibid., p. 362.

information on World Population Year, the Conference, and The World Population Plan of Action. The international politics of the Conference received most attention from the popular media. Much of the interpretation of events of 1974 and later occurs in professional journals from various disciplines, and in newsletters which reach only those on population-oriented mailing lists. In general, considerable information about population issues is lost to the public and to those in professions newly interested in population-related problems.

It is intended that this Study Aid be useful for interpreting current approaches to population-related problems in the reader's own country and in the world. It should help create more awareness of policy changes. In an effort to be directly helpful to *those persons involved in providing social welfare services*, a "Commentary" has been prepared on the implications for social welfare services of the World Population Plan of Action.

Organization of the Study Aid

Following the "Commentary on Social Welfare Services and The World Population Plan of Action," the Study Aid provides a discussion outline and a section containing selected annotated references. The references provide some information and suggest sources of further and more complete substantive material. The outline is divided into: A. a section dealing with events prior to the Conference and the Conference itself; B. a section on the World Population Plan of Action; and C. a section considering post-Bucharest perspectives, activities and possible future directions. The references have been selected for their informational value. We have also considered accessibility and cost. The reader who wishes to obtain additional materials will find a list of Information Sources at the end of the Study Aid.

Included as the last part of the Study Aid is a complete text of the World Population Plan of Action. The text of the Plan itself contains background material on population and related problems and states the principles, objectives and recommendations of the participants of the World Population Conference. Specific parts of the Plan which are

especially relevant to those who provide social welfare services are discussed in the Commentary. A complete reading of the Plan, however, will provide an overall perspective of population and development issues as they were considered at Bucharest.

A number of publications are available on the topic of the United Nations World Population Year, but a few basic references may be especially useful. These are highly recommended readings for faculty and students alike, and they are relatively easy to obtain. One reference, A Report on Bucharest: The World Population Conference and The Population Tribune, August 1974 by W. Parker Mauldin and others is an excellent objective summary of events and related activities at the Conference (see page 26). A second volume of note is the Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974 which is available from the United Nations (see page 43).

Students and teachers should likewise be aware that other United Nations materials can be obtained locally in many countries. The reader seeking further information on World Population Year or the Conference may contact the Office of the U.N. Resident Representative or the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in the country. Also, the U.N. Information Office and its library can be rich sources of U.N. documents in individual countries.

Associated Teaching/Learning Materials

In 1973 the Social Work Education and Population Planning Project at The University of Michigan published a compendium of suggested topical outlines to assist in the integration of population planning into social work curricula.³ Those receiving the earlier volume may consider the

³ Social Work Education in Family and Population Planning: Topical Outlines and Annotated References Selected for Social Work Educators, edited by P.H. Glasser, H.J. Hunter, and H.J. Meyer, 1973.

present Study Aid a supplement to that publication. Other Study Aids are also pertinent: Utilizing Policy Skills in Population and Family Planning by Nenita Cura and Diane Vinokur (1975); Ethical Issues of Population Policy in Social Work Practice by Helen Hunter (1976); and Rural-Urban Migration: A Problem for Population Planning and Social Work Practice by Bonnie Carlson Jordan and Ma. Elisa S. Munda (1976).

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

II

Commentary on Social Welfare Services and the World Population Plan of Action

The providers of social welfare services throughout the world had a major "call to action" and they have been alerted to new responsibilities as a result of the World Population Conference in 1974. The World Population Plan of Action,* the policy document agreed on at the meeting in Bucharest, Romania, is a political compromise in many ways, but the importance of *population policies within the context of social and economic development* emerged as the primary focus. This is a departure from the premise held in some countries that population policies can and should be carried out as independent programs and not as part of the social and economic programs in a country. Within this relatively new context social welfare services and those providing them have considerable prominence.

The development approach to dealing with problems associated with population dynamics (rapid growth rates, internal and external migration, high infant mortality, subfertility, etc.) was crystallized in Bucharest. It became evident that those providing social welfare services would have an increasingly important role to play. A review of the Plan of Action makes this very clear. The Plan states principles and objectives relating to an *improvement in the quality of life* for all people and urges governments to take a variety of measures to that end. These

* A text of the World Population Plan of Action is reproduced as Part V of this Study Aid.

measures imply, either directly or indirectly, a need to carry out many of the activities usually associated with social welfare services.

It is possible to identify specific recommendations of the Plan which appear to call on the educator or the health professional to carry them out. In addition, much other work called for in the implementation of the Plan would fall to social welfare workers and similar personnel. It is not an overstatement to say that the Plan's goals and recommendations are likely to be best carried out by those trained in social welfare functions.

This is evident when the Plan is summarized in terms of activities carried out typically in settings or locations where social work is normally practiced. The Plan requires programs involving community organization, interpersonal work, administration, policy and training. It should be noted that the label given to persons carrying out these tasks and providing social welfare services is not of central importance. Whether called social workers, social welfare workers, or by another name, these are the persons on whom much of the success of social and economic development programs will depend. This has important implications for manpower development in every country if the recommendations of the Plan are to be taken seriously. The present and potential importance of this category of worker has been re-affirmed by all countries in the consensus reached at Bucharest.

The World Population Plan of Action is divided into four major sections: A. Background to the Plan; B. Principles and Objectives of the Plan; C. Recommendations for Action; and D. Recommendations for Implementation. These sections and some subsections are briefly discussed here in terms of their relevance for those providing social welfare services. In analyzing the text only those parts which can be specifically related to individual and family welfare have been highlighted.

A. Background to the Plan, with Relevance to Social Welfare Services

The Plan indicates at the outset that "The promotion of development and the quality of life require coordination of action in all major socio-economic fields including that of population...The explicit aim of the World Population Plan of Action is to help co-ordinate population

trends and the trends of economic and social development." It considers the *inertia of social structures*; problems faced by couples in *managing their fertility*, including subfecundity; social problems arising from *uncontrolled urbanisation* (overcrowding, slums, environmental deterioration, unemployment); as well as the need for *revitalization of the countryside* to reduce the out-migration.

The background section of the Plan also alerts developing countries to problems associated with changes in a population's age structure, leading to special needs of youth and the aged.

It can be seen by reviewing the first section of the Plan of Action that much attention and concern is focused on the social service needs occurring in the present and anticipated for the future. As populations change over time (and this varies according to countries), the kinds of services required will vary. In cases of declining birth rates the proportion of the population that is aged will increase calling for programs suited to their security and health. Where deaths go down, particularly infant and child mortality, a larger proportion of youth will compose the population; this will be the case in many countries for decades ahead. These young people will need to have policies set and programs implemented to suit their particular educational and employment needs.

In addition to the fertility and mortality factors influencing population change, the Plan considers at the outset a third dynamic, that of migration (both internal and international). Special problems of migrants in their new locations and the impact of out-migration on places of origin are given attention. Mentioned are such problems as ensuring rights and services for the migrant and promoting revitalization of the countryside to reduce emigration and the loss of valuable human resources.

If we look at the concerns about people and the improvement of the quality of their lives, as discussed early in the Plan, it is very clear that social welfare services are and will be in great demand. Although these services have value in themselves, they also will be significant in

terms of coordinating "population trends and the trends of economic and social development," the explicit aim of the Plan of Action.

B. Principles and Objectives of the Plan, with Relevance for Social Welfare Services

The social worker and others performing social service functions can readily relate to the principles and objectives of the Plan of Action. For example, "development" is regarded as requiring recognition of the dignity of the individual, appreciation for the human person and his self-determination and the elimination of all forms of discrimination. Furthermore, population policies within the context of socio-economic development policies are admonished in the Plan to be consistent with "internationally and nationally recognized human rights of individual freedom, justice and the survival of national, regional and minority groups." These are all values generally asserted also by those involved in the provision of social welfare services.

This section of the Plan has even more explicit pertinence for those performing social welfare work. The role of the *family* is acclaimed as the central focus: "The family is the basic unit of society and should be protected by appropriate legislation and policy." This is an important development at a Conference where differences in social, economic, and political orientations were so extensive.¹

In addition to affirming the centrality of the family, the World Population Plan of Action affirms as a principle the integration of *women* into the development process. This integration of women includes equal access to education and equal participation in social, economic, cultural

¹ W. Parker Mauldin, et al. "A Report on Bucharest: The World Population Conference and The Population Tribune, August 1974." Studies in Family Planning, Vol. 5, No. 12. (December, 1974). New York: The Population Council, p. 366.

and political life and necessary measures to facilitate this integration by a full sharing of family responsibilities by both partners. Also, international strategies are seen as succeeding only if they ensure through social and economic reform a significant improvement of living conditions for the *under-privileged* of the world. The expression of these principles and objectives based on them has a clear, if implicit, relation to social welfare services.

C. Recommendations for Action, with Relevance for Social Welfare Services

The recommendations for action in the Plan are divided into the following sections, each of which has some implications for social services: 1. Population Goals and Policies: a. Population Growth; b. Morbidity and Mortality; c. Reproduction, Family Formation and the Status of Women; d. Population Distribution and Internal Migration; e. International Migration; and f. Population Structure; 2. Socio-Economic Policies; and 3. Promotion of Knowledge and Policies: a. Data Collection and Analysis; b. Research; and c. Management, Training, Education and Information. A glance at these headings and subheadings points up some areas which relate to social welfare services, particularly in the areas of family formation and the status of women, population distribution and internal migration and promotion of knowledge and training.

It is in this section of the Plan that there appears to be a strong call to action for those presently involved in social services as well as an alert with respect to needed training of future manpower. If social service functions require legitimation, they receive it here.

It is quite evident that, regardless of what the practitioner or worker is called, there is great need for manpower to perform functions and roles generally, if not exclusively, identified with social work and allied activities.

Several paragraphs in this part of the Plan of Action make clear to governments some of the measures which need to be taken. Recommendations directed toward health cannot be carried out without social programs as well. This is evident merely by listing what these paragraphs of the

Plan call for: reducing illness and death rates, particularly with regard to differentials between social and ethnic groups and the sexes; reduction of deaths from social and environmental factors; and improved health and nutrition programmes supplemented by mutually supporting social policy measures to reach, in particular, rural, remote and underprivileged groups.

The section on reproduction, family formation, and the status of women contains many additional references to social welfare services, either directly or indirectly. For example, recommendations are made which ask countries to:

- respect and ensure informed and responsible decisions on number and spacing of children;
- encourage education about responsible parenthood;
- ensure that related social services aim at both prevention of unwanted pregnancies and involuntary sterility, and at facilitation of child adoption;
- make use of social workers to help provide family planning services and advise users of contraceptives;
- integrate health and other services to raise the quality of life (including family allowances, maternity benefits, family planning within official health and social insurance systems, and family planning policies which promote psycho-social harmony and mental and physical well-being of couples);
- promote social justice, social mobility, and social development with participation of the population and a more equitable distribution of income, land, social services and amenities;
- eliminate child labor and child abuse, and establish social security and old age benefits;
- provide information about the consequences of existing or alternative fertility behavior for the well-being of the family, development of children and general welfare of society;
- strengthen social welfare programmes, regardless of their effect on fertility;
- assist families as far as possible to enable them to fulfill their role in society;

- protect the family by appropriate legislation;
- strengthen family ties by recognizing the importance of love and mutual respect within the family unit;
- review national legislation having direct bearing on the welfare of the family and its members and adapt laws to the changing social and economic conditions and to the cultural setting;
- protect social and legal rights of spouses and children when marriage is dissolved by death or other reason;
- equalize the legal and social status of children born in and out of wedlock as well as adopted children;
- establish legal responsibilities of each parent towards the care and support of all their children; and
- ensure full participation of women in the educational, social, economic and political life of their countries on an equal basis with men.

The selected recommendations noted above highlight the significant role for social workers and those performing similar functions in social development that are related to population changes.

The Plan next makes several references to problems associated with population distribution and internal migration. For example, adverse consequences of urbanization are noted: drain from rural areas through migration of individuals who cannot be absorbed by productive employment in urban areas, serious disequilibrium in the growth of urban centres, contamination of the environment, inadequate housing and services and social and psychological stress. The role of social services in dealing with such problems is evident.

Some guidelines are set forth with respect to formulating and implementing internal migration policies which involve social welfare services. For example, governments are urged to *consider the distribution of social services* in development planning. Intensive programmes of economic and social improvement are urged for the rural areas which will permit an effective expansion of social services. Programmes are urged which make accessible to scattered populations the basic social services, for example, by consolidating them in rural centres.

Additionally, with respect to internal migration, policies are encouraged to include the *provision of information to the rural population concerning economic and social conditions in the urban areas* including information on the availability of employment opportunities. Efforts are recommended which would bring social services, new employment opportunities, etc., to the rural areas.

International migration is also considered in the Plan. Of special interest to the social worker is consideration of the problems of refugees and displaced persons arising from forced migration. Countries receiving migrant workers are urged to "provide proper treatment and adequate social welfare services to them and their families..." The Plan also urges that governments ensure that fundamental rights of migrants are safeguarded.

The section on population structure calls on all countries to "carry out, as part of their development programmes, comprehensive, humanitarian and just programmes of social security for the elderly." In undertaking settlement and resettlement schemes and urban planning, governments are urged to give adequate attention to questions of age and sex balance and, "particularly, to the welfare of the family."

Those involved in various social welfare service settings may find relevance also in the recommendations in the section on promotion of knowledge and policies to achieve population objectives of the Plan. This section calls for measures to promote knowledge of the relationships and problems of achieving population objectives and to elicit cooperation from all involved in the forming and implementing of policies recommended in the Plan. Countries are asked to assist in data collection and analysis; carry out fertility surveys; and improve vital statistics and registration. These and similar activities can engage persons involved in social welfare work. Also, high priority is given to "research activities in population problems (including unemployment, starvation and poverty)." It is indicated that "such research is best carried out in the countries and regions themselves and by competent persons especially acquainted with national and regional conditions."

Some important areas of research in the Plan of Action are of special interest to social workers. Some examples of research deemed important include:

- study of the social, cultural and economic determinants of population variables in different developmental and political situations, *particularly at the family and micro levels;*
- study of the demographic and social processes occurring within the *family cycle* through time, and particularly, in relation to alternative modes of development;
- study of experiences of countries which have major programmes of *internal migration* with a view to developing guidelines that are helpful to policy makers;
- formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies, including the study of ways to improve the *motivations of people* to participate in formulating and implementing population programmes;
- collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning *human rights* in relation to population matters;
- evaluation of the impact of different methods of fertility regulation on *ethical and cultural values and on mental and physical health;*
- evaluation of the impact of different methods of family planning on the health of *women and family members;*
- methods of improving the management, delivery and utilization of all *social services* associated with population, including *family welfare* and, when appropriate, family planning; and
- study of interrelations of population trends and conditions and other social and economic variables, in particular...the need for *health, education, employment, welfare, housing and other social services and amenities...the need for social security...and the changing structure, functions and dynamics of the family as an institution...*

In addition to stressing research, the Plan of Action also calls attention to the need for development of management in all fields related to population:

- training in population dynamics and policies, whether national, regional or international, should be inter-disciplinary in nature and should be extended to labor, community and other social leaders, and to senior government officials;
- educational institutions in all countries are encouraged to expand their curricula to include the study of population dynamics and policies; and
- the training and management function of those in several disciplines, including social work, is relevant in this connection.

Also, with respect to development and evaluation of population policies, it is urged that a special unit dealing with population be created and "staffed with qualified persons from the relevant disciplines."

D. Recommendations for Implementation

The final section of the Plan of Action involves recommendations for implementation. This section deals with (1) the Role of National Governments, (2) the Role of International Co-operation and (3) Monitoring, Review and Appraisal of progress made toward achieving the goals of the Plan of Action. It might be pointed out that here again the special need for *training* in the field of population is urged.

* * * * *

In conclusion, this review of the World Population Plan of Action has noted the large number of references made to the present and potential need for social welfare services. The importance of implementing relevant programmes in order to achieve population objectives within the context of social and economic development is made clear throughout the document. When the question is asked "Who will carry out the programmes?" the response cannot be limited to health and educational professionals and to economics and economic planning. A major inference that can be made from the text of the Plan itself, particularly with its attention to the family, is that those performing social welfare services will carry much

of the responsibility in reaching the goals of development. There must be cooperative action among disciplines, to be sure, but the Plan makes it very clear that social welfare programmes are very much in order. With additional stimulus and emphasis on these services, from such international conferences as the one on population at Bucharest, it is likely that this trend will continue. This has very strong implications for future training in the area of social welfare services.

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

III

Discussion Outline

- A. The United Nations World Population Year
 - 1. Recent population history: Before Bucharest; preparation for World Population Year
 - 2. The World Population Conference, Bucharest, August 19-30, 1974
 - a. Preliminary Conference activities; Draft World Plan of Action
 - b. Structure and setting of the World Population Conference and the World Population Tribune
 - c. Various population perspectives of the Conference and Tribune participants. The relationship between population issues and socio-economic development. Political aspects of population. The new international economic order. The status of women.

- B. The World Population Plan of Action
 - 1. Background, principles and objectives
 - 2. Recommendations for action and implementation

- C. Responses to the World Population Conference and the World Population Plan of Action
 - 1. The Conference in perspective: differing viewpoints
 - 2. Analysis of the Plan of Action. Implications for future directions

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

IV

Annotated References

The following annotations describe readings which can be obtained to accompany the Discussion Outline. Since there is overlap in content among readings, the annotations are grouped under Sections A and C of the Discussion Outline. Within these sections, the annotations are ordered to reflect the sub-headings of the Outline. A text of the World Population Plan of Action (Section B of the Discussion Outline) is reproduced following the Annotated References.

A. The United Nations World Population Year

United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The United Nations and Population: Major Resolutions and Instruments. Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, 1974, (212 pages).

This book, a compendium of major resolutions and documents of the various United Nations bodies having a bearing on population, serves as a basic source of reference. It is published in the three official languages of the United Nations--English, French, and Spanish--and is current to May 18, 1973. The material reveals that the United Nations concern with population is not limited to the statistical or demographic aspects of population, but extends to the wider spectrum of problems faced by people: health, aging, food, housing, work, marriage, education, migration, environment, discrimination, and privacy. In order to facilitate its use, the book has an annotated table of contents. Chapter headings are: I. Charter of the United Nations; II. Conventions, Declarations and Proclamations; III. General Assembly Resolutions; IV. Economic and Social Council; V. Regional Economic Commissions; VI. Other United Nations Bodies; and VII. The Specialized Agencies.

Berelson, Bernard. "World Population: Status Report 1974. A Guide for the Concerned Citizen." Reports on Population/Family Planning, No. 15. New York: The Population Council, January 1974, (47 pages). [Available from The Population Council, 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

This booklet provides a worldwide overview of the population situation in 1974. A number of important population matters now on the world agenda are presented in an easily readable fashion. The major elements of "the population problem" are discussed along with those efforts being made to cope with them. The various sections include: (1) Statements by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Rafael M. Salas, and Antonio Carillo-Flores; (2) Population Growth: Past, Present, and Prospective; (3) Policies and Programs; (4) Additional Readings; (5) A Commentary by Dr. Berelson. Numerous supplementary charts, tables, extracts, and discussions accompany the text making this exceptionally useful reference material.

Gardner, Richard N. The United Nations and the Population Problem: Planning for the 1974 World Population Conference. Rensselaerville, New York: The Institute on Man and Science, 1973, (35 pages). [Available from The Institute on Man and Science, Rensselaerville, New York 12147]

This is a report of the proceedings of an international conference held in May, 1973, in preparation for the 1974 World Population Conference. The conference was co-sponsored by the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies and the Institute on Man and Science. The keynote speeches of Antonio Carillo-Flores, Secretary-General of the World Population Conference, and Rafael M. Salas, Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities, are included in the proceedings. The participants considered the objectives and principles which could set the tone for the World Population Conference and the Plan of Action. Some pre-Conference procedures were discussed and these were particularly important with respect to the World Population Plan of Action. The question of whether the action plan (which was being developed by the Secretary-General of the Conference with the advice of

an international committee of experts) should be presented at Bucharest for decision without going through a governmental committee, or whether the action plan necessarily should be considered in advance by the Population Commission was discussed. The discussion of preparations for the Year and the Conference brought out the importance of developing a process by which a broad spectrum of views on population problems could be fairly and fully considered.

Population Reference Bureau. "Chronology of Major Population and Related Events. World Population Year 1974 (with a brief overview of 1973)." PRB Report. Vol. 1, No. 1, (1974). Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau, Inc.
 [Available from the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20038]

This report lists a concise description of significant trends and activities in the population field from January 1974 through December 1974. The year 1973 is also included more briefly. An annotated bibliography of Current Readings in Population is included.

United Nations. "To Promote Human Welfare and Development. A Digest of the Basic Documents Prepared for the World Population Conference." New York: United Nations. August, 1974, pp. 26-32.
 [Available from United Nations, United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 20017]

This report constitutes a synthesis of documentation produced for the World Population Conference at Bucharest. It is based on substantive points on the Conference agenda, and documents and reports prepared for the scientific symposia which preceded the Conference. The report also takes into account the documents drafted as part of the preparations for the World Population Plan of Action by an Advisory Committee of Experts designated for this purpose. It is divided into six sections: I. Recent Population Trends and Future Prospects; II. Population and Development; III. Population, Resources and the Environment; IV. Population and the

Family; V. Population and Human Rights; and VI. The World Population Plan of Action. The principal conclusions reached by each symposium are listed at the end of this report.

Mauldin, W. Parker, et al. "A Report on Bucharest: The World Population Conference and the Population Tribune, August 1974." Studies in Family Planning, Vol. 5, No. 12. (December, 1974). New York: The Population Council, pp. 357-395.
[Available from The Population Council, 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

The authors provide a thorough overview of the World Population Conference and associated activities. Significant events of both the Conference and the Tribune are highlighted. Major committee reports and the lectures are summarized. The World Population Plan of Action is described with discussion of major revisions of the draft plan. The text of the plan itself appears at the end of this article.

A generalized assessment of the implications of Bucharest for population professionals is made. Essentially, the following topics are highlighted: 1) The context of population issues; 2) National sovereignty and international responsibility with respect to the population issue; 3) Politicizing population issues; 4) Objectives for population policy; 5) New directions for family planning; 6) Support for population programs; and 7) Mechanisms for communication.

The authors also review the meaning of the "new international economic order." Notable developments and achievements, as well as notable omissions, of the Conference and Tribune are discussed. They also ask several questions related to what priorities countries will assign to population issues.

In general, the authors indicate that the implications of Bucharest are mixed and uncertain. The politicization of the population issue precluded informational contributions from population professions and, in fact, surprised them. A positive aspect of the politicizing was that it raised the level of awareness among delegates of population-related issues and of the implications of population growth in the world today.

The authors point out that the long-range effects of Bucharest are unknown but more important and lasting accomplishments may yet emerge. The Conference was the first meeting of government representatives to consider population issues and this gave population a prominence. Also, the World Plan of Action represents a meaningful agreement which contains few specific guidelines, but has a positive tone and flexible proposals.

McCormack, Arthur. "Population and Development at Bucharest and After." International Development Review. Vol. XVII, No. 3 (1975/3), pp. 14-19.
 [Available from Johnson Reprint Corporation, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003]

The author discusses events at Bucharest and since Bucharest. The "developmentalist" view is defined and some criticisms of this approach are noted. For example, he observes that the problem of time renders the purely developmental approach implausible--there is not time for socio-economic development and social justice to occur first, followed by a reduction in population growth rates.

The agreement at Bucharest is explained with insight and the author states that "Far from deciding completely in favor of the developmentalist theory then, as many have believed, the Conference's position was not too far removed from what might be called the Population--Programmes--plus Development position." He believes that many of the vehement views put forth at the meeting were political and meant for external consumption.

With respect to events since Bucharest various effects of the Conference are noted, for example, (1) the World Food Conference passed, with little difficulty, a resolution on food and population concerns; (2) a special meeting of the U.N. Population Commission to study the follow-up of Bucharest did not have the opposition that there had been in the past to population regulatory policies, *provided* they were proposed in a framework of development; (3) several positive regional follow-up consultations confirmed the value of the Population Conference; that is, the controversy at Bucharest on developmentalism versus

immediate specific population programmes proved largely academic when it came to practice; (4) literature which formerly was entirely population-oriented has begun to regard population as part of development.

The author discusses the tasks ahead. He emphasizes primarily the task of obtaining money to meet the needs of countries requesting assistance for family planning and population programmes. Numerous countries have applied for this assistance since Bucharest.

Stycos, J. Mayone. "Demographic Chic at the UN." Family Planning Perspectives, Vol. 6, No. 3 (Summer 1974), pp. 160-164.
 [Available from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., 515 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022]

The author expresses concern over the re-emergence of anti-Malthusian thinking about the population question, particularly among some Third World intellectuals. To demonstrate this he refers to a publicity packet (Action Pack) distributed prior to the Bucharest conference and carefully analyzes the slogans and intent of the material contained therein. Stycos primarily is concerned that such informational material can mistakenly be interpreted as having UN approval, in spite of the authors' disclaimers, since the packet was financed and widely distributed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

He feels that the slogans expressed throughout the packet, which seem harmless at first glance, actually could have serious and negative implications for the population movement in the next decade. Social and economic development are put forth by the writers of this packet as a more reasonable approach than family planning and population policies. This is embodied in one of the slogans: "Take care of the people and the population will take care of itself." China is cited as an example of how social development will bring down fertility. However, Stycos challenged this since numerous population and family planning policies have existed in China along with development. Furthermore, he notes that China's success in reducing fertility is questionable since reliable data are not available.

The modest success of family planning programs, many of which are new, is described by Stycos in a positive light. He concludes that "nothing will be served by insisting that population problems will go away if only the problem of poverty is solved. Population problems will be with us for a long time. They must be faced squarely and they must be dealt with directly."

Franda, Marcus F. "Reactions to America at Bucharest." Fieldstaff Reports. Southeast Europe Series, Vol. XXI, No. 3 (1974). New York: American Universities Field Staff, Inc., (12 pages). [Available from American Universities Field Staff, Inc., 535 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

The author describes the posture of the United States delegation to the World Population Conference at Bucharest. He indicates that the strategy to talk little about consumption and use of resources in the U.S., or any other issues related directly to control of population growth, led to accusations that a "quick technological fix" was sought. The U.S. representatives were in a dilemma at Bucharest and the author suggests that it is clear that "we have an international communications problem, which stems in large part from the inability of our diplomatic missions to respond openly and candidly to discussions of matters that are of great concern among diplomats of other nations in the world."

Dobson, Wendy. "Population: Was Bucharest a Bust?" Montreal: The Gazette, Monday, September 16, 1974.

This newspaper article by the rapporteur of the Working Group at the World Population Conference which prepared the Plan of Action is a summary of the events of the Conference and the Plan. The diversity of viewpoints which existed and how they are reflected in the Plan is noted. The author points out that, in spite of this diversity, the following concepts eventually were included in the Plan: (1) all countries were invited to adopt population policies to help achieve their overall human

welfare goals; (2) all couples need to be ensured that they are able to achieve their desired number and spacing of children; (3) all countries should respect and ensure, regardless of their overall demographic goals, the right of persons to determine in a free, informed, and responsible manner, the number and spacing of their children. Other important concepts called to the attention of the developed countries were policies concerning consumption of increasingly scarce world resources and inequitable investment patterns. A major focus of the World Population Conference was on the need for integration of population concerns into development planning and into national institutional structures. The importance of raising living standards was emphasized.

Ray, Krishna. "Population Policy from the Southern Perspective." Beyond Dependency: The Developing World Speaks Out. Edited by Guy R. Erb and Valeriana Kallab. Washington, D.C.: Overseas Development Council, 1975, pp. 95-110.
[Available from the Overseas Development Council, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036]

Although not related specifically to events at Bucharest, this chapter describes a perspective on population from the Southern countries' viewpoint. The author traces the evolution of population policy and discusses the urgency of population planning. He considers the political sensitivity of population policies and notes the different and 'extreme' positions between countries of the North and some of the Southern countries.*

The general objectives of a population policy are described. The author indicates several typical population policy positions of some developing countries and discusses their relationship with economic

* Those countries designated as the "North" refer to more economically developed and richer nations generally in the Northern hemisphere and the "South" refers to the developing nations generally in the southern hemisphere.

development. Ten varying positions among countries of the South are concisely explained. Also, progress toward population policies in the developing world is discussed.

The author concludes that neither family planning programs nor population programs offer an *alternative* to economic development plans in the South. He points out that regional differences of viewpoint on the relationship between population and development are striking. On the other hand the developed world has, for the most part, launched policies and can now "Cope fairly effectively with population problems." He provides data which show population increase and per capita income in developed and developing countries. Ray feels that the critical question is "Can the world's limited resource endowment withstand both the increasing levels of affluence and consumption by a small minority of economically prosperous nations...and the complete divorce between economic reality and population policy found in many of the world's developing countries?" He urges a less aggressive attitude among developed countries in encouraging adoption of national population policy in the South. He states that "moral persuasion is preferable to economic coercion and penalties..." He indicates that population policies of the North and South will vary because they are derived from complex historical, ideological, political, social and economic considerations. Mutual understanding, however, can best be brought about by better dialogue between the North and the South.

Oakley, Deborah. "A Feminist Perspective on the World Population Plan of Action." Paper presented at American Public Health Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 23, 1974, 6 pages (unpublished). [Available from Department of Population Planning, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109]

The author discusses what impact, if any, the World Population Conference may have on the status of women in the world. She describes the milieu in which this issue came up at Bucharest and refers to the paragraphs related specifically to the status of women in the Plan of Action. She expresses scepticism, however, about whether Bucharest will result in

more rapid progress. She asks whether it provided "only another signal that the Sisyphean labor required to gain equality for all women in the world has just begun, that the forces keeping women down use even gentle appearances of recognition to avoid the real tasks, [and] that at least some struggle is required."

Evidence of real progress, according to the author, will be seen if high priorities are given to International Women's Year (1975), by inclusion of women in development, and by high priority funding allocation criteria by governmental and non-governmental agencies. There is concern, for example, over the high percentage of female participation in the agricultural labor force which generally is not valued by development planners. A woman speaker at Bucharest from Indonesia indicated concern about the potential future erosion of the status of women, unless they are taught necessary skills to survive in modern economies.

The author concludes that only time will tell whether the World Population Plan of Action was a positive step. Bucharest did, however, move the discussion about the status of women to a wider audience.

B. The World Population Plan of Action

A text of the World Population Plan of Action is reproduced as Part V of this Study Aid, beginning on page 45.

C. Responses to the World Population Conference and the World Population Plan of Action

Finkle, Jason L. and Barbara B. Crane. "The Politics of Bucharest: Population, Development, and the New International Economic Order." Population and Development Review, Vol. 1, No. 1 (September, 1975), pp. 87-115.
[Available from The Population Council, 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

The authors examine the U.N. World Population Conference held in Bucharest, Romania, in 1974 and contend that the significance of the Conference was a "new politicization of population." They point out that this politicization occurs within the context of the struggle among industrialized nations and the poor nations of the Third World over the distribution of resources and power. They indicate that the broad political goals and priorities of nations, rather than attitudes on population questions, accounted for the positions taken at the Conference. The authors examine the preliminary planning for the Conference and relate this to the unpreparedness and dissension which developed at Bucharest. They also discuss how the structure and setting of the Conference affected its dynamics. The major political alignments at the Conference are analyzed and the political basis for both confrontation and conciliation is explained.

Tabbarah, Riad. "Bucharest Revisited." People, Vol. 2, No. 3 (1975), pp. 3-5.
[Available from International Planned Parenthood Federation, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW 1Y 4PW, England]

In this article the chief of the Population Policy Section of the United Nations discusses three issues that are central to an understanding of the message of Bucharest. These are (1) the relationship between population and development, (2) the purposes and nature of family planning programmes, and (3) the formulation of global population growth targets.

The World Population Plan of Action is described as a policy instrument which recognizes both direct and indirect means for slowing rates of population growth. The author notes that emphasis on indirect means for slowing rates of population growth have been misinterpreted by some observers who erroneously perceive the Bucharest conference and plan as advocating social and economic development as a *substitute* for population policy. Rather, population policies are 'constituent elements' of development policies.

A second important aspect of the Plan of Action involves the human rights approach to family planning programmes rather than the 'demographic' approach. This shift in emphasis in the plan placed family planning in the proper humanitarian and socio-economic context. A third issue involved population growth as a 'global' problem and the author explains that at Bucharest it became clear that not all countries perceive their growth rates as 'excessive.' Those countries with a large population felt this more acutely.

Tabarrah identifies a few of the important implications of Bucharest:

- (1) The Plan of Action provides a framework for regional and national population programme formulation; the next step is a shift from international to regional and local efforts.
- (2) Population must be viewed in its proper socio-economic context.
- (3) Population growth must not be represented in terms of a global crisis which every country must urgently help solve.
- (4) 'Population' must not be equated with population growth, nor 'population policy' with family planning. Population concerns include such areas as reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity, and mortality differentials by region, by social and ethnic group and by sex, sub-fecundity, illegal abortions, rights of families and of children, migration movements and urbanization, and others.
- (5) Family planning as a human right must be appropriately available without compulsion.
- (6) Perhaps the most important implication of the World Population Plan of Action and the World Population Conference derives from their emphasis on the indirect means of population policy.

The author notes that many national population commissions were created as part of the countries' preparations for participation in the

World Population Conference. However, many of these are now suspended or about to be abolished. He stresses that a concerted effort is needed to perpetuate the dialogue on population policy which was begun at Bucharest.

UNFPA. "Bucharest Follow-Up." UNFPA News Letter. Monthly Bulletin of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Vol. 1, No. 3, (April, 1975). New York: U.N. Fund for Population Activities. [Available from Public Information and NGO Office, U.N. Fund for Population Activities, 485 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

This brief article describes regional meetings which were held in Qatar, Mexico, and Zambia, after the Conference at Bucharest. In Qatar the Regional Population Consultation focused on internal migration and settlement of nomad populations. The meeting was suspended early due to the death of King Faisal. The Latin American Population Consultation, second in a series of regional consultations, was held in Mexico in March, 1975. Twenty-eight Latin American and six European countries attended. The President of Mexico outlined his country's commitment to population policy. The working group considered the implications for Latin America of recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action. The Regional Population Consultation held in Zambia in April, 1975, discussed proposals for a population programme of action for consideration by African countries. Also, recommendations for implementing the World Population Plan of Action were adopted.

Mead, Margaret. "World Population: World Responsibility." Science, Vol. 185, (September 27, 1974). [Available from Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005]

A noted anthropologist concludes that the United Nations Population Conference in Bucharest dramatized the "growing global concern for the planet's plight." She believes that the successful agreement on the new World Population Plan of Action reveals how far we have come since the

United Nations was founded. She states that events at Bucharest "affirmed that continuing unrestricted worldwide population growth can negate any socioeconomic gains and fatally imperil the environment." Also, the Conference recognized that constructive changes in the consumption patterns of affluent countries are vitally necessary to cope with the world's limited resources. Mead indicates that a new view of population emerged at the Conference which (1) added the responsibility for the quality of international life to the sovereign rights of states to determine domestic policies; and (2) added the responsibility for the well-being of children and the community to the human rights of individuals and couples to decide on the number and spacing of their children.

Pradervand, Pierre. "A Different Path." People, Vol. 2, No. 3 (1975), p. 22.
 [Available from International Planned Parenthood Federation, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PW, England]

The author states that it is important to recognize the growing polarization and politicization of world issues between the rich and poor countries if the population debate is to be understood. He believes that the approaches taken by the western nations have been tactless in the past and mistakes should be instructive. Pradervand points out that most post-Bucharest assessments agree that it is not population measures or development that is needed but both together, with varying mixes depending on local conditions. He suggests that the real issue, and the real disagreement, concerns what one means by 'development.' According to the author development encompasses the type of education, mode of industrialization, quality of medical delivery service systems and approaches to population and family planning. He questions defining development as westernization and suggests that the Third World countries create their own original development models (as China has done) and that western nations accept the challenge of helping them be different.

Ohlin, Goran. "The New Breed of Malthusians." Family Planning Perspectives, Vol. 6, No. 3, (Summer, 1974), pp. 158-159.
 [Available from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.,
 515 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022]

The author, a Swedish economist, considers the question of whether population should be regarded as a policy variable. He reviews some arguments about responses to population growth and challenges "population alarmists" who advocate dramatic policies to reduce fertility. He feels that population growth will slow down whether or not governments try to do anything about it, but that it will take time.

Ohlin reviews various approaches, such as family planning programs, motivational efforts, social policies, etc., and concludes that "it is wrong, perhaps even slightly dishonest, to suggest that there is a very great deal one can do by means of population policy to influence population." Except for a strong case of policies designed to tackle the obvious problem of unwanted births, he does not see much value in promoting policies which suggest that population growth is the "big problem of mankind" which is often suggested by population policies. He does note that family planning programs are essential and they make a contribution to fertility decline when people will use them.

The author indicates that it would be useful to speculate less about population as a policy variable and worry more about population growth and its costs as a "relatively firm given from which long-term planning has to start and ought to do so immediately." He feels that planners are already awakening to this.

Boersma, Dee. "World Population Conference in Perspective." Science, Vol. 188, (June, 1975), p. 1969.
 [Available from Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005]

This brief statement on The United Nations World Population Conference suggests that stronger answers than "wait and see" emerged from the Conference in terms of population growth and the quality of life. The

delegates from 135 nations adopted by acclamation (only the Holy See reserving) a World Population Plan of Action which, although not ideal and somewhat hesitant in tone, does make provisions for countries wishing to reduce population growth. The author notes that three specific implications for population growth rate and quality of life of all countries are especially apparent in three areas: the status of women, control of reproduction by individuals, and the use of the environment.

During the conference greater attention was given to the elimination of discrimination against women and expansion of the role of women than was apparent during the pre-Conference discussions and in the draft Plan of Action. In addition, the Plan carefully acknowledges national sovereignty but delineates basic individual rights to control reproduction. The Plan asks individuals, in addition, to assess the cost of a child not only to the family but to society at large--the first time that a U.N. document has asked this of individuals. In terms of the environment, the Plan indicates that population goals should consider supplies and characteristics of natural resources as well as the quality of the environment. It directs attention to minimizing waste and distributing resources more equitably.

In terms of post-Conference action, a regional post-world population conference consultation, held in Bangkok in January, 1975, set national goals and timetables for making family planning services available and plans for reducing birthrates to the replacement level were adopted by 26 countries. The author states, "The rhetoric of government suggests that population problems and the World Plan of Action will be receiving high priority."

The author suggests that the U.N. World Conference of the International Women's Year would be some indication of the extent to which governments are committed to population and quality of life issues. It is emphasized that "Unless individuals and governments recognize the role of women in population increase and take action to integrate women in all facets of development, population growth may continue as women define themselves solely in terms of their child-bearing and child-rearing capacities."

Franda, Marcus F. "The World Population Conference: An International Extravaganza." Fieldstaff Reports. Southeast Europe Series, Vol. XXI, No. 2, (1974). New York: American Universities Field Staff, Inc., (9 pages).
 [Available from American Universities Field Staff, Inc., 535 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

The author discusses events at Bucharest and provides some background on Conference planning, political alignments, the Youth Conference, and the World Population Conference. He indicates that the final, ambiguous wording of the World Population Plan of Action was a representative compromise, accomodating the many divergent views on population that were expressed by the 135 delegations present. He suggests that the convening of a world population conference on a political basis must be viewed from the perspective of time. The mere holding of such a conference is argued by some as a significant step in the right direction. The author states that the Plan of Action was not a turning point, and the conference not much of a landmark, despite some positive gains in education and communication. He concludes, "An international extravaganza it may have been, but Bucharest was neither a bandwagon nor a bust."

Sanders, Thomas G. "Latin Americans at Bucharest." Fieldstaff Reports. East Coast South American Series. Vol. XVIII, No. 2, (October, 1974). New York: American Universities Field Staff, Inc., (12 pages).
 [Available from American Universities Field Staff, Inc., 535 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

The author views the World Population Conference at Bucharest as an important milestone in the development of Latin American population policies. Although the conference has been criticized as having bogged down in ideology and compromises, the reality is that for the first time Latin America and other countries "had to state publicly a position on population policy." It is pointed out that over the past decade in Latin America there was little public awareness of problems caused by population growth and change. There was little official commitment to family planning or specific population policies.

During the decade 1964-1974, however, the infrastructure for population awareness and policy was laid. Bucharest provided an opportunity to "take stock" of what has happened and future directions. The role of two countries attending the conference, Mexico and Dominican Republic, are discussed. The delegation from Mexico provided considerable influence, both prior to and during the conference, particularly in terms of population policy within the context of development policy. The Dominican Republic, however, presented a stronger population-policy orientation noting that "the accelerated growth of the Dominican Republic population has diminished the effects of all the efforts that in other circumstances would have had an impact of enormous significance in the standard of living of the Dominicans."

Berelson, Bernard. "The World Population Plan of Action: Where Now?" Population and Development Review, Vol. 1, No. 1, (September, 1975), pp. 115-146.
[Available from The Population Council, 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017]

This article analyzes the text of the World Population Plan of Action and summarizes the actions called for by the recommendations of the Plan. The recommendations are categorized according to their emphasis or de-emphasis and revisions are scrutinized to better interpret the direction of the final Plan. The "actors" called upon to implement the Plan are identified with respect to the major recommendations.

The author concludes from his careful analysis that the international community involved in the population field is left with basic decisions on policy and program since the Plan is broad, yet does not deal with allocation of resources, division of labor, or divergence of interests. He finds the Plan a paradox in that it reveals the "new look" of population issues as expressed at Bucharest, yet justifies present population activities. He observes, "What that means beyond present practice and in realistic programmatic terms (including resource allocation) remains, from the standpoint of implementing the Plan at the top of the post-Bucharest agenda."

United Nations. "Follow-Up of the World Population Conference." Population Newsletter, No. 20, (Summer 1974-75). New York: United Nations. The Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (74 pages).
 [Available from Population Division of the Department of Economics and Social Affairs, United Nations, United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017]

This newsletter provides details on: (1) legislative developments in the U.N. since the World Population Conference; (2) results of the Conference; (3) General Assembly affirmation of the World Population Plan of Action and Calls for Implementation; (4) Implications of the Conference and Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); (5) ECOSOC Resolutions and Decisions; and (6) Interagency Co-operation. The Annex of the Newsletter contains the text of the relevant resolutions adopted within the U.N.

Dobson, Wendy K. "Next Steps from Bucharest." Paper delivered to National Council for International Health, Reston, Virginia, October 16, 1974, (12 pages).

A participant of the World Population Conference describes from firsthand experience the events and meaning of Bucharest and suggests some future directions. She indicates that there were two agendas at the Conference: 1) convening for the first time of governmental representatives to approve an international strategy for dealing with population problems; and 2) calling attention to concern about reordering international economic relationships more in the interest of the developing nations. The latter agenda was generally not anticipated in Conference preparations, yet it accounted for much of the debate and revision of the Draft World Population Plan of Action. The author feels that the Conference broadened the policy options for dealing with rapid population growth even though it did not develop a global response to rapid growth. She points out that recognition of the problem is important in itself.

With respect to future steps no dramatic solutions or new directions are offered in this paper; however, three major areas for responding to

Bucharest are suggested. These involve organization, clarification and experimentation. Dobson indicates that 1) individual countries must now formulate their own policies and programs, and then *organize* to implement them; 2) *clarification* of what is meant by family planning and its impact as a demographic variable is needed; and 3) there is a need for more research and *experimentation* to implement the list of measures provided in the Plan of Action.

The author concludes that there were two major implications of the Conference: First, the emphasis was correctly placed on *self-reliance*--on diagnosis and prescription of population problems being made in and by the countries themselves. That is, the leadership, political will, major resources, organization and manpower within the countries themselves is essential. However, some international development assistance may be needed. The author indicates that such assistance will probably steadily be demanded, primarily under the aegis of the UNFPA which has proven itself a widely acceptable channel. The other main message of the Conference is that population problems must be tackled by an *integrated approach*, combining, not isolating, population and development programs. Dobson states, "Social and economic transformation in developing countries will not greatly influence fertility behavior unless the benefits are distributed to ensure that the standard of living of the average couple is raised. Only in that context will programs to supply modern contraceptives or abortions be demanded on the large scale needed to reduce rapid growth rates."

Erb, Guy F. and Valeriana Kallab, eds. Beyond Dependency: The Developing World Speaks Out. Washington, D.C.: Overseas Development Council, 1975, (239 pages).
[Available from Overseas Development Council, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20836]

This volume contains several essays written by developing country experts on important aspects of long-term North-South contention: the activities of multinational enterprises in the developing world, foreign investment and the transfer of productive knowledge, the establishment of

international monitoring of the use of resources of the sea, appropriate population policies, and the effectiveness of different development strategies.

The appendices contain complete texts of the major non-governmental statements and official declarations of 1974-75 that document the developing world's campaign for a "new international economic order."

United Nations. Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974. New York: United Nations, 1975, (147 pages).
 [Available from the United Nations Sales Section, New York or Geneva. Document No. E/CONF. 60/19. Sales No. E. 75. XIII. 3]

This report of the United Nations World Population Conference is a thorough review of decisions made at the meetings in Bucharest August 19-30, 1974. Conference preparations and proceedings are described in detail. Annexed to the Report is a list of documents prepared prior to the Conference and brief descriptions of associated activities and related events.

The Chapter titles of the Report follow: I. World Population Plan of Action. II. Resolutions and Recommendations. III. Preparations for the Conference. IV. Attendance and Organization of Work. V. Summary of the General Debate. VI. Reports of the Sessional Bodies and Action taken in Plenary. VII. Adoption of the Report of the Conference. VIII. Closing Ceremonies.

WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

from the

UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

BUCHAREST, AUGUST 19-30 1974

WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION*

The World Population Conference, having due regard to the human aspirations for better quality of life and rapid socio-economic development, taking into consideration the interrelationship of population situations and socio-economic development, decides on the following World Population Plan of Action as a policy instrument within the broader context of the internationally adopted strategies for national and international progress.

CHAPTER I. BACKGROUND TO THE PLAN

1. The promotion of development and the quality of life require co-ordination of action in all major socio-economic fields, including population which is the inexhaustible source of creativity and a determining factor of progress. 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 [Food and Agriculture Organization] Provisional Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development, the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme, the ILO's [International Labor Organization] 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 Pro-

*Approved by the conference on Aug. 30 without a vote (text from U.N. doc. E/CONF. 60/WG/L.55/Add. 3, draft report of the Working Group on the World Population Plan of Action, with subsequent corrections).

gramme of Concerted Action for the Advancement of Women, and, more comprehensively, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The declaration on the establishment of a new international economic order, and the Programme of Action to achieve it, adopted by the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly provide the most recent overall framework for international co-operation. The explicit aim of the World Population Plan of Action is to help co-ordinate population trends and the trends of economic and social development. The basis for an effective solution of population problems is, above all, socio-economic transformation. A population policy may have a certain success if it constitutes an integral part of socio-economic development; its contribution to the solution of world development problems is hence only partial, as is the case with the other sectoral strategies. Consequently, the Plan of Action must be considered as an important component of the system of international strategies and as an instrument of the international community for the promotion of economic development, quality of life, human rights and fundamental freedom.

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 at certain stages of development create additional difficulties for the achievement of sustained development. Policies whose aim is to affect population trends must not be considered substitutes for socio-economic development policies but integrated with

those policies to facilitate the solution of certain problems facing developing and developed countries and promote a more balanced and rational development.

3. Throughout history the rate of growth of world population averaged only slightly above replacement levels. 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. The inertia of social structures and the insufficiency of economic progress, especially when these do not involve profound socio-cultural changes, partly explains why in the majority of developing countries the decline in mortality has not been accompanied by a parallel decline in fertility. 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.

4. However, the consideration of population problems cannot be reduced to the analysis of population trends only. It must also be borne in mind that the present situation of the developing countries originates in the unequal processes of socio-economic development which have divided peoples since the beginning of the modern era. This inequity still exists and is intensified by the lack of equity in international economic relations with the consequent disparity in levels of living.

5. 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 a 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.

6. 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, poor economic conditions, social norms, 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, because of economic or biological factors, 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.

7. 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.

8. 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. Urbanization is generally an element of the process of modernization. Moreover, in certain countries this process is efficiently managed and maximum use is made there of the advantages accruing therefrom; in others urbanization takes place in an uncontrolled fashion and is accompanied by overcrowding in certain districts, urban unemployment, an increase in slums, deterioration of the environment, and many other social and economic problems.

9. In most of the developing countries, the high 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.

10. For some countries the external migration may, in certain circumstances, be an instrument of population policy. 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 countries both 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.

11. 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 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. The demand for educational services is expected to increase considerably, particularly in view of the existing backlog and the continuously increasing population of children which ought to enter and remain in schools, and therefore the supply of educational services must be increased. 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. Therefore, unless very high rates of economic development are attained, in many of these countries, particularly where levels of unemployment and under-employment are already high, the additional difficulties will not be overcome, at least until the end of this century. 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.

12. Declining birth-rates also result in a gradual ageing 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 ageing 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. There is an urgent need—in those countries where such programmes are lacking—for the development of social-security and health programmes for the elderly.

13. Because of the relatively high proportions of children and youth in the populations of less developed countries, declines 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 two 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. In 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, which will lead to a growing population for many decades to come, demonstrates that whatever population policies may be formulated, socio-economic development must accelerate in order to provide for a significant increase in levels of living. Efforts made by developing countries to speed up economic growth must be viewed by the entire international community as a global endeavour to improve the quality of life for all people of the world, supported by a just utilization of the world's wealth, resources and technology in the spirit of the new international economic order. It also demonstrates that countries wishing to affect their population growth must anticipate future demographic trends and take appropriate decisions and actions in their plans for economic and social development well in advance.

CHAPTER II. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

14. This Plan of Action is based on a number of principles which underly its objectives and are observed in its formulation. The formulation and implementation of population policies is the sovereign right of each nation. It is to be exercised in accordance with national objectives and needs and without external interference, taking into account universal solidarity in order to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world. National authorities have the main responsibility for national population policies and programmes. Nevertheless, international co-operation should play an important role in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The principles on which the Plan of Action is based are the following:

(a) The principal aim of social, economic and cultural development of which population goals and policies are integral parts is to improve levels of living and the quality of life of the people. Of all things in the world, people are the most precious. Man's knowledge and ability to master himself and his environment will continue to grow. Mankind's future can be made infinitely bright;

(b) True development cannot take place in the absence of national independence and liberation. Alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, racial discrimination, apartheid, neo-colonialism in all its forms, continue to be among the greatest obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of the developing countries and all the people involved. Co-operation among nations on the

basis of national sovereignty is essential for development. Development also requires recognition of the dignity of the individual, appreciation for the human person and self-determination as well as the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters and the elimination of discrimination in all its forms;

(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 internationally and nationally recognized human rights of individual freedom, justice and the survival of national, regional and minority groups;

(e) Independently of the realization of economic and social objectives, respect for human life is basic to all human societies;

(f) All couples and individuals have the basic human right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so; the responsibility of couples and individuals in the exercise of this right takes into account the needs of their living and future children, and their responsibilities towards the community;

(g) The family is the basic unit of society and should be protected by appropriate legislation and policy;

(h) Women have the right to complete integration in the development process particularly by means of an equal participation in educational, social, economic, cultural and political life. In addition the necessary measures should be taken to facilitate this integration with family responsibilities which should be fully shared by both partners;

(i) Recommendations in this Plan of Action regarding policies to deal with population problems must recognize the diversity of conditions within and among different countries;

(j) In the democratic formulation of national population goals and policies, consideration must be given, together with other economic and social factors, to the supplies and characteristics of natural resources and to the quality of the environment and particularly to all aspects of food supply including productivity of rural areas; the demand for vital resources increases with growing population and with growing *per capita* consumption; attention must be directed to the just distribution of resources and to the minimization of wasteful aspects of their use throughout the world;

(k) The growing interdependence among countries makes international action increasingly important to the solution of development and population problems. International strategies will achieve their objective only if they ensure that the underprivileged of the world achieve, through structural, social and economic reforms, a significant improvement in their living conditions;

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

(m) The objectives of this Plan of Action should be consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 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.

15. 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, *inter alia*, population growth, morbidity and mortality, reproduction and family formation, population distribution and internal migration, international migration, and consequently demographic structures;

(d) To advance national and international understanding of the complex relations among the problems of population, resources, environment and development, and to promote a unified analytical approach to the study of this interrelationship and to relevant policies;

(e) To promote the status of women and expansion of their roles, the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of socio-economic policy including population policies, and

the creation of awareness among all women of their current and potential roles in national life;

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

(g) To promote the development and implementation of population policies where necessary, 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;

(h) To encourage the development and good management of appropriate education, training, research, information and family health services, as well as statistics in support of the above principles and objectives.

CHAPTER III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Population goals and policies

1. Population growth

16. According to the United Nations medium population projections, little change is expected to occur in average rates of population growth either in the more developed or in the less developed regions by 1985. According to the United Nations low variant projections, it is estimated that as a result of social and economic development and population policies as reported by countries in the Second United Nations Inquiry on Population and Development, population growth rates in the developing countries as a whole may decline from the present level of 2.4 per cent per annum to about 2 per cent by 1985; and below 0.7 per cent per annum in the developed countries. In this case the worldwide rate of population growth would decline from 2 per cent to about 1.7 per cent.

17. 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 adopting population policies, within the framework of socio-economic development, which are consistent with basic human rights and national goals and values.

18. Countries which aim at achieving moderate or low population growth should try to achieve it through a low level of birth and death rates. Countries wishing to increase their rate of population growth should, when mortality is high, concentrate efforts on the reduction of mortality, and where appropriate, encourage an increase in fertility and encourage immigration.

19. Recognizing that *per capita* use of world resources is much higher in the more developed than in the developing countries, the developed countries are urged to adopt appropriate policies in population, consumption and investment, bearing in mind the need for fundamental improvement in international equity.

2. Morbidity and mortality

20. The reduction of morbidity and mortality to the maximum feasible extent is a major goal of every human society and should be achieved in conjunction with massive social and economic development. Where death and morbidity rates are very high, concentrated national and international efforts should be applied to reduce them as a matter of highest priority in the context of societal change.

21. 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 complex, mortality reduction may be a prerequisite to a decline in fertility.

22. It is a goal of this Plan of Action to reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the mortality level, particularly among children, as well as maternal mortality, in all regions of the world, and to reduce national and sub-national differentials in mortality levels. The attainment of an average expectation of life of 62 years by 1985 and 74 years by the year 2000 for the world as a whole would require by the end of the century an increase of 11 years for Latin America, 17 years for Asia and 28 years for Africa.

23. Countries with the highest mortality levels should aim by 1985 to have an expectation of life at birth of at least 50 years and an infant mortality rate of less than 120 per thousand live births.

24. 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) Eradication, wherever possible, or control of infectious and parasitic diseases, undernutrition and malnutrition; and the provision of a sufficient supply of potable water and adequate sanitation;

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

(f) Adoption of special measures for reducing mortality from social and environmental factors and elimination of aggression as a cause of death and poor health.

25. It is recommended that health and nutrition programmes designed to reduce morbidity and mor-

tality 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 improving the 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.

26. Each country has its own merits and experience in preventing and treating diseases. Promotion of interchange of experience in this regard will help to reduce morbidity and mortality.

3. *Reproduction, family formation and the status of women*

27. This Plan of Action recognizes the variety of national goals with regard to fertility and does not recommend any world family-size norm.

28. This Plan of Action recognizes the necessity of ensuring that all couples are able to achieve their desired number and spacing of children and the necessity of preparing the social and economic conditions to achieve this desire.

29. 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 recommended that all countries:

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

(b) Encourage appropriate education concerning responsible parenthood and make available to persons who so desire advice and means of achieving it;

(c) Ensure that family planning, medical and related social services aim not only at the prevention of unwanted pregnancies but also at elimination of involuntary sterility and sub-fecundity in order that all couples may be permitted to achieve their desired number of children; and adoption should be facilitated;

(d) Seek to ensure the continued possibility of variations in family size when a low fertility level has been established or is a policy objective;

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

(f) Increase their health manpower and health facilities to the level of effectiveness, redistribute functions among the different level of professionals and auxiliaries in order to overcome the shortage of qualified personnel and establish an effective system of supervision in their health and family planning services;

(g) Ensure that information about, and education in, family planning and 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.

30. Governments which have family planning programmes are invited to consider integrating and coordinating these services with health and other services designed to raise the quality of family life, including family allowances and maternity benefits, and to consider including family planning services in their official health and social insurance systems. As concerns couples themselves, family planning policy should also be directed towards promotion of the psycho-social harmony and mental and physical well-being of couples.

31. It is recommended that countries wishing to affect fertility levels give priority to implementing development programmes and educational and health strategies which, while contributing to economic growth and higher standards of living, have a decisive impact upon demographic trends, including fertility. International co-operation is called for to give priority to assisting such national efforts in order that these programmes and strategies be carried into effect.

32. 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 content 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 in order 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 wide participation of the population in development and a more equitable distribution of income, land, social services and amenities;

(d) The promotion of wide educational opportunities for the young of both sexes, and the extension of public forms of pre-school education for the rising generation;

(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.

33. It is recommended that governments consider making 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. The projections in paragraph 16 of future declines in rates of population growth, and those in paragraph 22 concerning increased expectation of life, are consistent with declines in the birth rate of the developing countries as a whole from the present level of 38 per thousand to 30 per thousand by 1985; in these projections, birth rates in the developed countries remain in the region of 15 per thousand. To achieve by 1985 these levels of fertility would require substantial national efforts, by those countries concerned, in the field of socio-economic development and population policies, supported, upon request, by adequate international assistance. Such efforts would also be required to achieve the increase in expectation of life.

37. In the light of the principles of this Plan of Action, countries which consider their birth rates detrimental to their national purposes are invited to consider setting quantitative goals and implementing policies that may lead to the attainment of such goals by 1985. Nothing herein should interfere with the sovereignty of any government to adopt or not to adopt such quantitative goals.

38. 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.

39. The family is recognized as the basic unit of society. Governments should assist families as far as possible to enable them to fulfil their role in society. It is therefore recommended that:

(a) The family be protected by appropriate legislation and policy without discrimination as to other members of society;

(b) Family ties be strengthened by giving recog-

nition to the importance of love and mutual respect within the family unit;

(c) 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, as feasible, and adapted to the changing social and economic conditions and with regard to the cultural setting;

(d) Marriages be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses;

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

40. (a) Governments should equalize the legal and social status of children born in and out of wedlock as well as children adopted;

(b) The legal responsibilities of each parent toward the care and support of all their children should be established.

41. Governments should ensure full participation of women in the educational, social, economic, and political life of their countries on an equal basis with men. It is recommended that:

(a) Education for girls as well as boys should be extended and diversified to enable them to contribute more effectively in rural and urban sectors, as well as in the management of food and other household functions;

(b) Women should be actively involved both as individuals and through political and non-governmental organizations, at every stage and every level in the planning and implementation of development programmes, including population policies;

(c) The economic contribution of women in households and farming should be recognized in national economies;

(d) Governments should make a sustained effort to ensure that legislation regarding the status of women complies with the principles spelled out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other United Nations Declarations, Conventions, and international instruments to reduce the gap between law and practice through effective implementation, and to inform women at all socio-economic levels of their legal rights and responsibilities.

42. Equal status of men and women in the family and in society improves the over-all quality of life. This principle of equality should be fully realized in family planning where both spouses should consider the welfare of other members of the family.

43. Improvement of the status of women in the family and in society can contribute, where desired, to smaller family size, and the opportunity for women to plan births also improves their individual status.

4. Population distribution and internal migration

44. Urbanization in most countries is characterized by a number of adverse factors—drain from rural areas through migration of individuals who cannot be absorbed by productive employment in urban areas, serious disequilibrium in the growth of urban centres, contamination of the environment, inadequate services and housing and social and psychological stress. In many developing countries, adverse consequences are due in large part to the economic structures resulting from the dependent situation of these countries in the international economic system and the correction of these shortcomings requires as a matter of priority the establishment of equitable economic relations among peoples.

45. 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 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 over-all social and economic development.

46. In formulating and implementing internal migration policies, governments are urged to consider the following guidelines, without prejudice to their own socio-economic policies:

(a) Measures which infringe the right of freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State that is 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 and more equitable regional development, particularly in the advancement of regions which are less favoured or developed by comparison with the rest of the country;

(c) In planning development, and particularly in planning the location of industry and business 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 costs and benefits involved as well as equity and social justice in the distribution of the benefits of development among all groups and regions;

(d) Population distribution patterns should not be restricted to a choice between metropolitan and rural life; efforts should be made to establish and strengthen networks of small and medium-size cities to relieve the pressure on the large towns, while still offering an alternative to rural living;

(e) Intensive programmes of economic and social improvement should be carried out in the rural areas through balanced agricultural development which will provide increased income to the agricultural population, permit an effective expansion of social services and include measures to protect the en-

vironment and conserve and increase agricultural resources;

(f) Programmes should be promoted to make accessible to scattered populations the basic social services and the support necessary for increased productivity, e.g. by consolidating them in rural centres.

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

48. In rural areas and areas accessible to rural populations, new employment opportunities including industries and public works programmes should be created, systems of land tenure should be improved and social services and amenities provided. It is not sufficient to consider how to bring the people to existing economic and social activities; it is also important to bring those activities to the people.

49. 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 experience are invited to share it with other countries. It is recommended that international organizations make available upon request co-ordinated technical and financial assistance to facilitate the settlement of people.

50. The problems of urban environment are a consequence not only of the concentration of inhabitants, but also of their way of life which can produce harmful effects, such as wasteful and excessive consumption and activities which produce pollution. In order to avoid such effects in those countries experiencing this problem a development pattern favouring balanced and rational consumption is recommended.

5. International migration

51. It is recommended that governments and international organizations generally facilitate voluntary international movement. However, such movements should not be based on racial considerations which are to the detriment of indigenous populations. The significance of international migration varies widely among countries, depending upon their area, population size and growth rate, social and economic structure and environmental conditions.

52. Governments which consider international migration as important to their countries, either in the short or the long run, are urged to conduct, when appropriate, bilateral or multilateral consultations, taking into account the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments, with a view to harmonizing their policies which affect these movements. It is recom-

mended that international organizations make available upon request co-ordinated technical and financial assistance to facilitate the settlement of people in countries of immigration.

53. Problems of refugees and displaced persons arising from forced migration, including their right of return to homes and properties, should also be settled in accordance with the relevant Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.

54. Countries that are concerned with the outflow of migrant workers and wish to encourage and assist their remaining or returning should make particular efforts to create favourable employment opportunities at the national level. More developed countries should co-operate, bilaterally or through regional organizations and the international community, with less developed countries, to achieve these goals through the increased availability of capital, technical assistance, export markets and more favourable terms of trade and choice of production technology.

55. Countries receiving migrant workers should provide proper treatment and adequate social welfare services for them and their families, and should ensure their physical safety and security, in conformity with the provisions of relevant ILO conventions and recommendations and other international instruments.

56. Specifically, in the treatment of migrant workers Governments should work to prevent discrimination in the labour market and in society through lower salaries or other unequal conditions, to preserve their human rights, to combat prejudice against them and to eliminate obstacles to the reunion of their families. Governments should enable permanent immigrants to preserve their cultural heritage *inter alia* through the use of their mother tongue. Laws to limit illegal immigration should not only relate to the illegal migrants themselves but also to those inducing or facilitating their illegal action and should be promulgated in conformity with international law and basic human rights. Governments should bear in mind humanitarian considerations in the treatment of aliens who remain in a country illegally.

57. Since the outflow of qualified personnel from developing to developed countries seriously hampers the development of the former, 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 communication of appropriate technological knowledge mainly from developed countries to the extent it can be properly adjusted and appropriately absorbed.

58. Developing countries suffering from heavy emigration of skilled workers and professionals should undertake extensive educational, manpower planning, investment in scientific and technical programmes, and other programmes and measures, to

better match skills with employment opportunities, to increase the motivation of such personnel to contribute to the progress of their own country, and also undertake measures to encourage the return of their scientists and skilled personnel to specific job situations where needed.

59. Foreign investors should employ and train local personnel and use local research facilities to the greatest possible extent in conformity with the policies of the host country. Subject to their consent, the location of research facilities in host countries may aid them to a certain extent in retaining the services of highly skilled and professional research workers. Such investment should, of course, in no circumstances inhibit national economic development. International co-operation is needed to improve programmes to induce skilled personnel to return to, or remain in, their own countries.

60. 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.

61. The flow of skilled workers, technicians and professionals from more developed to less developed countries may be considered a form of international co-operation. Countries in a position to do so should continue and increase this flow with full respect for the sovereignty and equality of recipient countries.

62. Countries affected by significant numbers of migrant workers are urged, if they have not yet done so, to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements which would regulate migration, protect and assist migrant workers, and protect the interests of the countries concerned. The International Labour Organisation should promote concerted action in the field of protection of migrant workers, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission should help, as appropriate, to ensure that the fundamental rights of migrants are safeguarded.

6. Population structure

63. All governments are urged, when formulating their development policies and programmes, to take fully into account the implications of changing numbers and proportions of youth, working age groups and the aged, particularly where such changes are rapid. Countries should study their population structure to determine their most desirable balance between age groups.

64. Specifically, developing countries are urged to consider the implications which the combination of their characteristically young age structure and moderate to high fertility have on their development. The fact of increasingly young population structures in many developing countries require appropriate development strategies, priorities being required for their subsistence, health, education, training and incorporation in the labour force through full employment as well as their active participation in political, cultural, social and economic life.

65. Developing countries are invited to consider

the possible economic, social and demographic effects of population shifts from agriculture to non-agricultural industries. In addition to fuller utilization of labour and improvements in productivity and the levels of living, promotion of non-agricultural employment should aim at such change in the socio-economic structure of manpower and population that would effect demographically relevant behaviour of individuals. All countries are invited to fully consider the appropriate support and assistance to the World Employment Programme and related national employment promotion schemes.

66. Similarly, the other countries are urged to consider the contrary implications of the combination of their aging structure with moderate to low or very low fertility. All countries should carry out as part of their development programmes, comprehensive, humanitarian and just programmes of social security for the elderly.

67. In undertaking settlement and resettlement schemes and urban planning, governments are urged to give adequate attention to questions of age and sex balances and, particularly, to the welfare of the family.

B. Socio-economic policies

68. This Plan of Action recognizes that economic and social development is a central factor in the solution of population problems. National efforts of developing countries to accelerate economic growth should be assisted by the entire international community. The implementation of the International Development Strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the new international economic order as adopted at the sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly should lead to a reduction in the widening gap in levels of living between developed and developing countries and would be conducive to a reduction in population growth rates particularly in countries where such rates are high.

69. In planning measures to harmonize population trends and socio-economic change, human beings must be regarded not only as consumers but also as producers. The investment by nations in the health and education of their citizens contributes substantially to productivity. Consequently, plans for economic and social development and for international assistance for this purpose should emphasize the health and education sectors. Likewise, patterns of production and technology should be adapted to each country's endowment in human resources. Decisions on the introduction of technologies affording significant savings in employment of manpower should take into account the relative abundance of human resources. To this end it is recommended that efforts should be intensified to determine for each country the technologies and production methods best suited to its working population situation and to study the relationship between population factors and employment.

70. It is imperative that all countries, and within them all social sectors, should adapt themselves to more rational utilization of natural resources, without excess, so that some are not deprived of what others waste. In order to increase the production and distribution of food for the growing world population it is recommended that governments give high priority to improving methods of food production, the investigation and development of new sources of food and more effective utilization of existing sources. International co-operation is recommended with the aim of ensuring the provision of fertilizers and energy and a timely supply of foodstuffs to all countries.

C. Promotion of knowledge and policies

71. 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

72. Statistical data on the population collected by means of censuses, surveys or vital statistics registers, are essential for the planning of investigations and to provide a basis for the formulation, evaluation and application of population and development policies. Countries that have not yet done so are urged to tabulate and analyse their census and other data in order to fulfil these objectives.

73. It is up to each country to take a population census in accordance with its own needs and capabilities. However, it is recommended that a population census be taken by each country between 1975 and 1985. It is also 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 quickly as possible, with an evaluation both of the quality of information as well as the degree of coverage of the census.

74. All countries that have not yet done so should be encouraged to establish a continuing capability for taking multi-subject household sample surveys and a long-term plan for securing statistics on various demographic and interrelated socio-economic variables on a regular basis. This is recommended particularly with regard to topics relating to the improvement of levels of living and the well-being and level of education of individuals, in view of the close relationship between these variables and the problems affecting population. All countries are invited to co-operate with the World Fertility Survey.

75. 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, the use of alternative methods is recommended, such as sample surveys, which provide up-to-date information on vital events.

76. Less developed 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.

77. 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

78. This Plan of Action gives high priority to research activities in population problems (including unemployment, starvation and poverty) and to related fields, particularly to research activities that are important for the formulation, evaluation and implementation of the population policies consistent with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedom as recognized in international instruments of the United Nations. Although research for filling gaps in knowledge is very urgent and important, high priority should be given to research oriented to the specific problems of countries and regions, including methodological studies. Such research is best carried out in the countries and regions themselves and by competent persons especially acquainted with national and regional conditions. The following research areas are considered to be 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 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 improvement of health, and especially for the reduction of maternal, 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 motivations of people to participate in the formulation and implementation of population programmes; the study of education and communication aspects of population policy; the analysis of population policies in their relationship with other socio-economic development policies, laws and institutions, including the possible influences of the economic system on the social, cultural and economic aspects of population policies; 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) Basic biological and applied research on the assessment and improvement of existing and new methods of fertility regulation; the evaluation of the impact of different methods of fertility regulation on ethical and cultural values and on mental and physical health, both in short-term and long-term effects; and the assessment and study of policies for creating social and economic conditions so that couples can freely decide on the size of their families;

(j) The evaluation of the impact of different methods of family planning on the health conditions of women and members of their families;

(k) The interrelationships among patterns of family formation, nutrition and health, reproductive biology, and the incidence, causes and treatment of sterility;

(l) Methods for improving the management, delivery and utilization of all social services associated with population, including family welfare and, when appropriate, family planning;

(m) 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;

(n) The interrelations of population trends and conditions and other social and economic variables, in particular the availability of human resources, food and natural resources, the quality of the environment, the need for health, education, employment, welfare, housing and other social services and amenities, promotion of human rights, the enhancement of the status of women, the need for social security, political stability, discrimination, and political freedom;

(o) The impact of a shift from one family size

pattern to another on biological and demographic characteristics of the population;

(p) Research should be undertaken on the changing structure, functions, and dynamics of the family as an institution, including the changing roles of men and women, attitudes toward and opportunities for women's education and employment; the implications of current and future population trends for the status of women; biomedical research on male and female fertility, and the economic, social and demographic benefits to be derived from the integration of women in the development process;

(q) Research dealing with social indicators, to reflect the quality of life as well as the interrelations between socio-economic and demographic phenomena, should be encouraged. Emphasis should also be given to the development of socio-economic and demographic models.

79. Their national research requirements and needs must be determined by governments and national institutions. However, high priority should be given, wherever possible, to research that has wide relevance and international applicability.

80. 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 ongoing research projects.

8. Management, training, education and information

81. There is a need for the development of management in all fields related to population, with national and international attention and appropriate support given to programmes dealing with its promotion.

82. 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.

83. 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.

84. Training in the various aspects of population activities, including the management of population programmes, should not be restricted to the high levels of specialization but should also be extended to personnel at other levels, and, where needed, to medical, paramedical, traditional health personnel, and population programme administrators.

85. Training in population matters should be extended to labour, community and other social leaders,

to senior government officials, with a view to enabling them better to identify the population problems of their countries and communities and to help in the formulation of policies relating to them. Such training should impart an adequate knowledge of human rights in accordance with international standards and awareness of the human rights aspect of population problems.

86. Owing to the role of education in individuals' and society's progress and its impact on demographic behaviour all countries are urged to further develop their formal and informal educational programmes; efforts should be made to eradicate illiteracy, to promote education among the youth and abolish factors discriminating against women.

87. Educational institutions in all countries should be encouraged to expand their curricula to include a study of population dynamics and policies, including, where appropriate, family life, responsible parenthood and the relation of population dynamics to socio-economic development and to international relations. Governments are urged to co-operate in developing a world-wide system of international, regional and national institutions to meet the need for trained manpower. Assistance to the less developed countries should include, as appropriate, the improvement of the educational infrastructure such as library facilities and computer services.

88. Governments are invited to use all available means for disseminating population information.

89. Governments are invited to consider the distribution of population information to enlighten both rural and urban populations, through the assistance of governmental agencies.

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

91. International organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, should strengthen their efforts to distribute information on population and related matters, particularly through periodic publications on the world population situation, prospects and policies, the utilization of audio-visual and other aids to communication, the publication of non-technical digests and reports, and the production and wide distribution of newsletters on population activities. Consideration should also be given to strengthening the publication of international professional journals and reviews in the field of population.

92. In order to achieve the widest possible dissemination of research results, 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 strongly recommended.

93. The information and experience resulting from the World Population Conference and the World Population Year relating to the scientific study of population and the elaboration of population policies should be synthesized and disseminated by the United Nations.

4. Development and evaluation of population policies

94. Where population policies or programmes have been adopted, systematic and periodic evaluations of their effectiveness should be made with a view to their improvement.

95. Population measures and programmes should be integrated into comprehensive social and economic plans and programmes and this integration should be reflected in the goals, instrumentalities and organizations for planning within the countries. In general, it is suggested that a unit dealing with population aspects be created and placed at a high level of the national administrative structure and that such a unit be staffed with qualified persons from the relevant disciplines.

CHAPTER IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A. Role of national Governments

96. The success of this Plan of Action will largely depend on the actions undertaken by national Governments and Governments are urged to utilize fully the support of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

97. 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.

98. 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.

99. 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.

B. Role of international co-operation

100. International co-operation, based on the peaceful co-existence of States having different social systems, should play a supportive role in achieving the goals of the Plan of Action. This supportive role could take the form of direct assistance, technical or financial, in response to national and regional requests and be additional to economic development assistance, or the form of other activities, such as monitoring progress, undertaking comparative research in the area of population, resources and consumption, and furthering the exchange among countries of information and policy experiences in the field of population and consumption. Assistance should be provided, as far as possible, with the assurance of support consistent with the national plans of recipient countries. Assistance should be provided on the basis of respect for sovereignty of the recipient country and its national policy.

101. The General Assembly of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UNDP/UNFPA [U.N. Development Program/U.N. Fund for Population Activities] 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.

102. Countries sharing similar population conditions and problems are invited to consider jointly this Plan of Action, exchange experience in relevant fields and elaborate those aspects of the Plan that are of particular relevance to them. The United Nations regional economic commissions and other regional bodies of the United Nations system should play an important role toward this end.

103. There is a special need for training in the field of population. The United Nations system, governments and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations are urged to give recognition to this need and priority to the measures necessary to meet it, including information, education and services for family planning.

104. More developed countries, and other countries able to assist, 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, in view of the magnitude of the problems and the consequent national requirements for funds, that considerable expansion of international assistance in the population field is required for the proper implementation of this Plan of Action.

105. It is suggested that the expanding, but still insufficient, international assistance in population

and development matters requires increased co-operation; UNFPA is urged, in co-operation with all organizations responsible for international population assistance, to produce a guide for international assistance in population matters which would be made available to recipient countries and institutions and be revised periodically.

106. International non-governmental organizations are urged to respond 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, and, when requested, by supporting national and private institutions and organizations dealing with population questions.

C. Monitoring, review and appraisal

107. It is recommended that monitoring of population trends and policies discussed in this Plan of Action should be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of the United Nations 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.

108. A comprehensive and thorough review and appraisal of progress made towards achieving the goals and recommendations of this Plan of Action should be undertaken every five years by the United Nations system. For this purpose the Secretary-General is invited to make appropriate arrangements taking account of the existing structure and resources of the United Nations system, and in co-operation with Governments. It is suggested that the first such review be made in 1979 and be repeated each five years thereafter. The findings of such systematic evaluations should be considered by the Economic and Social Council with the object of making, whenever necessary, appropriate modifications of the goals and recommendations of this Plan.

109. 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.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Following are names and addresses of some organizations that publish materials about population and family planning. Materials can be obtained (often at little or no cost) by writing directly to them.

East-West Population Institute
East-West Center
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 USA

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Clearing House and Information Section, Population Division
Sala Santitham
Bangkok, Thailand

The Ford Foundation
Population Office
320 East 43rd Street
New York, New York 10017 USA

Foreign Area Materials Center
State Education Department
60 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017 USA

The International Association of Schools of Social Work, Inc.
345 East 46th Street
New York, New York 10017 USA

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
18-20 Lower Regent Street
London SW1Y 4PW, England

International Program for Population Analysis
Interdisciplinary Communications Program
Smithsonian Institution
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA)
1860 - 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009 USA

Overseas Development Council
Suite 501
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
Department of Health and Population Dynamics
525 23rd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 USA

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
515 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022 USA

The Population Council
245 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017 USA

UNESCO Radio and Visual Information Division
Office of Public Information
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris, France

United Nations
Commission on the Status of Women
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017 USA

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017 USA

United Nations Fund for Population Activities
485 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017 USA

World Education
1414 Sixth Avenue
New York, New York 10019 USA

World Health Organization
CH-1121
Geneva, Switzerland

World Population Society
P.O. Box 106, Eagle Station
Washington, D.C. 20016 USA