

As written

GERMAN
PRESIDENCY OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION



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ALLEMANDE DE
L'UNION EUROPEENNE

EU-Statement

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1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. At the outset, we would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, to your election, as well as the other members of the Bureau. We are convinced that under your guidance **we will** be able to finish our regular work in the much shorter time allotted this year, and be ready to act in open-ended session as Preparatory Committee for the UN General Assembly Special Session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. We thank the Population Division and UNFPA for having provided the documentation well ahead in time.
2. Though the upcoming PrepCom even now occupies **our minds to some extent, this present 32nd** session of the Commission is part of our topic-oriented multi-year **work** programme, and thus contributes substantially to the **ICPD+5** process. Indeed, all four topical studies undertaken by the CPD from 1998 up to now are themes of the quinquennial review and appraisal of the **ICPD Programme** of Action. The topic for 1999 is „**Population** growth, structure and distribution, **with** special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education“. The report on **world** population monitoring 1999, which we have before us both in concise and full version, covers the topics “Population growth and its components”; “Changing population age structures”; “Population distribution, urbanisation and internal migration”; and “Population growth, poverty, food provision and the environment“. The one subject matter missing is education. Since education is a major factor of women’s empowerment, in attaining the sexual and reproductive health goals, of population **change** and definitely of social and economic development, we ask that education should be a focal point of analysis in the preparation of next year’s monitoring report on the topic of “Gender, population and development“.
3. The monitoring report on “Population growth, structure and distribution” contains a wealth of information on past and present trends of demographic change. It is particularly pertinent to the Cairo + 5-perspective that major demographic trends cover the period from the World Population Conference 1974 in Bucharest to the present and into the future up to the year 2050, based on the 1998 Revision of the UN population estimates and projections. The report also includes Governments’ views on population change.

4. The monitoring report also offers some remarks on the determinants of fertility and mortality change, highlights the issue of urbanisation, and discusses quite thoroughly the socio-economic implications and challenges of population ageing. The fact that the older population is increasing at a substantially faster rate in the less developed than the more developed regions with the group of the oldest-old persons aged **80+ growing** the fastest, is highly relevant. We will soon be not alone in trying to cope **with** the consequences of ageing. The conclusion of the monitoring report „...as developed countries have **shown**, despite prolonged ageing, adjustment to ageing is not smooth.“ underlines the importance of this phenomenon. The member countries of the European Union are offering to enter into an exchange of experience on adaptation to ageing with all interested countries. The European Union believes that population ageing and intergenerational solidarity are important issues to be considered in the further review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the ICPD in 2004.

5. The chapter on “Population growth, poverty, ‘food provision, and the environment” assesses the state of art on these very important interdependencies. We note the conclusions with great interest. „Government policies that promote income growth, empower the poor **with** education and health, and provide incentives to behave prudently in the allocation of resources . . . can lead to „virtuous circles” In such a situation, children are less likely to be seen as producing agents, women’s and men’s roles change, and the demand for reproductive health services increases.“ These are the type of studies of great relevance to policy-makers. The European Union commends the Population Division on the quality of its work and hopes that this **will** be pursued constantly over the next years.

6. Concerning the future work programme of the Population Division it is already decided that the topic of 2000 **will** be „Gender, population and development“. Here the European Union only repeats its **wish** to extensively deal **with** education when preparing the monitoring report 2000. It is also desirable that issues of male identity and responsible fatherhood should be covered. Concerning the topics for the years 2001-2004 the European Union agrees in principle with the recommendations of the Bureau of the CPD at its inter-sessional meeting, but believes that a thorough discussion of the fields to be covered in 2002 to 2004 should take place at the next meeting of the CPD in the context of a wide-ranging review of the mode of operation of CPD. An assessment of the contribution to date made by CPD to monitoring ICPD and how this might be enhanced to achieve the goals of ICPD has also to be made. As to the coverage **we** tentatively offer a few comments:

- . 2001: „Population and socio-economic differentials within and among countries“ (This is a topic highly relevant for the CPD to study inter-linkages between population and development, **with** special consideration of the poor and the elderly, also considering differentials in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS)
- . 2002: „Population and environment“ (This topic has to be seen in relation to the Rio+5-process where population change is not sufficiently addressed)
- 2003: „Reproductive rights and reproductive health“ (This core theme **will** be analysed a second time -after 1996- by the CPD to assess progress made since Cairo. It is essential that by then more and reliable and internationally comparable data, including measurable indicators are available. It should be an integrated presentation covering issues of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents, safe motherhood and the prevention of HIV.)
- 2004: the next quinquennial Review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, **without** a special topic.

7. The European Union believes that a thorough discussion of the quinquennial review and appraisal presented to us by the Population Division should be one of the major tasks of the CPD, and we regret that there is not sufficient time to go into an in-depths discussion of this document, which should not be seen as only a background document for the PrepCom. The European Union proposes therefore that the Commission in 2004 should concentrate on discussing the then to be presented next review and appraisal which then would cover all the chapters of the ICPD Programme of Action, including newly emerging issues. We also hope that a broader and more reliable set of data and indicators will be available by then to substantiate progress made.