

**Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Thirty-second session, March 1999**

As written

**STATEMENT BY DR. RAJ KARIM
CHAIRMAN OF THE 31ST SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT
ON REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT AT ITS INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING
HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
ON 28 & 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1998**

MONDAY, 22ND MARCH 1999

NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

I have pleasure in presenting the report of the intersessional meeting of the bureau of the Commission on Population and Development at its 31st Session held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 28 and 29 September 1998. The meeting was attended by 3 members of the Bureau, that is, Belgium, the Niger and Malaysia. Members from Peru and Ukraine were unable to attend. The Bureau was privileged to have the participation and guidance of Dr. Nafis Sadik throughout the meeting and the efficient Secretariat support and documentation prepared by the UN Population Division.

The report of the intersessional meeting is tabled in the paper **E/CN.9/1999/CRP.2**.

Mr. Chairman, the bureau addressed the following issues:-

(i) The proposed agenda and organisation of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its 32nd regular session;

(ii) The proposed agenda and organisation of work of the Commission acting as a Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementations of the Programme of Action of the ICPD;

(iii) Review of the functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council with specific responsibilities for the follow up to the major United Nations Conference; and integrated and coordinated implementation and follow up of major United Nations Conferences and Summits;

(iv) Work of the Commission on Population and Development in the next 5 years;

(v) Preparation of the 5 year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD;

- (vi) Substance and organisation of work of the Population Division and other matters.

The recommendations of the Bureau on the above items are contained in Annex III of the report.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to highlight some of the recommendations which would have a bearing on the work of this Commission.

(i) The Bureau suggested that a discussant introduces the debate on Population Monitoring and that a technical panel be convened to discuss the theme of Population Growth, Structure and Distribution. However, although useful, the Bureau, through the Population Division, has suggested that this be cancelled due to the time constraint and the short duration of the Commission.

(ii) The Bureau recommended the following themes for the next 5 years after considering the work of the other functional **Commissions**:-

- 33rd Session year 2000 - Population, Gender and Development
- 34th Session year 2001 - Population and **Socio-Economic** Differentials within and among countries
- 35th Session year 2002 - Population and the Environment
- 36th Session year 2003 - Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health
- 37th Session year 2004 - No special theme - Second quinquennial review of Programme of Action of ICPD

(iii) Due to the time constraint and possibility of delay in formation of the new bureau, the intersessional bureau meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare the draft resolutions. This has been prepared and will be circulated to delegates shortly.

(iv) In line with recommendations of the Economic Council for Social Development on integrated and coordinated follow up of the work of functional Commissions especially on common themes or cross cutting issues, the bureau and Secretariat have exchanged information on the work of this Commission with other functional bureaus. In the capacity as Chairperson of the Bureau of the CPD at its 31st Session, I presented the work of the Commission at a panel with chairpersons of other functional Commissions at a special meeting convened by the ECOSOC in May 1998. The report of the intersessional meeting has also been circulated to other Commissions and responses obtained from the Commission on Social Development and Commission on Status of Women.

(v) The Bureau found the intersessional meeting to be very useful and effective in maintaining follow up and continuity of the work of the bureau; in facilitating exchange with other functional Commissions in the integrated and coordinated follow up of major Conferences and Summits; and in making the necessary preparations for the work of the following Commissions. Hence, the bureau would like to recommend that this machinery continues.

Finally, as Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Commission on Population and Development, I take this opportunity to express my **heartful** thanks to all the members of the bureau for their cooperation and harmonious manner in which the bureau functioned. The bureau would also like to record its appreciation to Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director of UN Population Division, to Ms. Birgitta Bucht, the Assistant Director, all the team members of the Population Division for their hard work and dedication in facilitating the meeting and preparation of the necessary documentations. **Last** and not least, the bureau would like to acknowledge the personal contribution of Dr. Nafis Sadik for her leadership and insight in guiding us especially through the processes for the quinquennial review of the Programme of Action of ICPD and to UNFPA for their continued technical support and cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. chairman.