

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

As written

Statement

by

**M. Nizamuddin
Director, Technical and Policy Division
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

on

Agenda Item 3

**Report of the Secretary-General
The Flow of Financial Resources for Assisting in the Implementation of the
Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and
Development**

E/CN.9/1999/4

**Commission on Population and Development
Thirty-second Session**

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Members of the Commission,

I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Secretary-General on “The Flow of Financial Resources for Assisting in the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development” (E/CN.9/1999/4). The document responds to a request by the Commission on Population and Development (E/1995/27) for an annual report on financial flows to support the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

UNFPA has been collecting data on external flows for population assistance since 1987, publishing its findings in the annual Global Population Assistance Report. The Reports provide information on the levels and trends of international population assistance, focusing on the flow of funds in the form of grants or loans from developed countries to support population and reproductive health programmes in developing countries.

Recently, UNFPA also began collecting data on domestic resource flows in response to a request by the Commission on Population and Development. This has been accomplished with the collaboration of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and the cooperation of donor countries and institutions as well as developing countries and UNFPA field offices.

Data are gathered with the use of a survey instrument mailed to developed countries and organizations that provide population assistance and UNFPA field offices which in turn coordinate this effort through appropriate Government institutions and NGOs in developing countries.

The report analyzes international and domestic financial resource flows for population activities that are part of the “costed population package” as specified in paragraph 13.14 of the ICPD Programme of Action: family planning services; basic reproductive health services; sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)/ HIV/AIDS prevention activities; and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis.

The Programme of Action estimated that the implementation of this population and reproductive health package in developing countries and countries with economies in transition would cost US\$17 billion per annum by the year 2000. Approximately two thirds of the projected costs is expected to be mobilized from domestic sources and one third, or \$5.7 billion, from the international donor community.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to briefly highlight the major points in the report.

External Assistance

- In 1997, external assistance for population activities - from developed countries, multilateral sources, foundations and development banks - totalled US \$1.9 billion. This figure is the first decrease in international assistance for

population activities in the post-ICPD period - down from \$2 billion in 1996. It represents 33 per cent of the \$5.7 billion target agreed upon in Cairo as the international community's share in financing the Programme of Action by the year 2000.

- A number of large private foundations have announced plans to increase funding for population activities, including the William H. Gates Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust. We know that there are several private foundations out there whose contributions to population activities go unrecorded because they do not respond to our surveys. Every effort is being made to include them in our figures.

Domestic resource flows

- UNFPA estimated roughly the global domestic resource flows for population activities based on information obtained from 83 countries responding to its survey of 1997 Government and NGO expenditures for population, together with supplementary data for a few large countries that either had not responded or provided incomplete data. This estimation exercise yielded a crude global figure of under \$7 billion spent in 1997 on activities that are part of the "costed population package" (para. 13.14) of the ICPD Programme of Action. A third major source of domestic funding, the private sector (individuals and households), was estimated at a further \$1 billion, thus bringing the estimated total resource flows from domestic sources in 1997 to under \$8 billion. This figure is a crude estimate and should be treated with caution.

- **As most of the domestic resource flows originate in a few large countries, many countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries, are unable to generate even one half of the necessary resources to cover the cost of their own national population programmes. They will require significant external assistance to implement the goals of the ICPD in the near future.**

We hope that the ICPD+5 process will re-invigorate efforts on the part of both donor and developing countries to mobilize the necessary resources to meet the targets agreed to at Cairo.

Thank you.