



Forty-Third Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Item 4.

Statement by Peter MacDonald, President of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

April 13, 2010

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population or IUSSP, I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the Commission.

IUSSP is the global association of population specialists. Among its 2400 members are academics, researchers, policymakers, statisticians and experts on reproductive health from 134 countries. The Union has a long history of cooperation with the United Nations. In particular, it was the co-organizer of the first two major World Population Conferences held by the United Nations in 1954 and 1965.

The key objectives of the Union are to:

- Stimulate and consolidate research on pressing population issues by convening scientific seminars and conferences;
- Disseminate the results of its work to the scientific community, policymakers and the public;
- Build research capacity by supporting the development of training materials and by the inclusion of young scholars in its activities;
- Encourage engagement between research and policy by collaborating with international, regional and government institutions as well as with other NGOs.

Once every four years, the IUSSP organizes an International Population Conference where experts from all over the world present the latest findings in all areas of population research. In 2009, the 26th IUSSP International Population Conference was held in Marrakech, Morocco with the support of the Government of Morocco. It was the most successful Conference so far, attracting nearly 2000 participants and presenting an opportunity for them to discuss cutting edge research findings and to

network. The IUSSP is grateful to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Conference and making it such a success. We are also grateful to the Government of the Republic of Korea, which has accepted to host the 27th International Population Conference in Pusan in 2013. The Commission may wish to take note of this event because, being close to the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, it may provide an opportunity to request the academic community to contribute to the assessment of its implementation.

In addition to organizing international conferences, the IUSSP has a programme of research activities conducted through its Scientific Panels. There are 20 such panels in operation at present and, in total, they will hold about 30 scientific meetings during 2010-2013. Five Panels are especially relevant to the deliberations of this session:

- Population and Poverty
- Social and Biological Determinants of Longevity
- Demographic Impacts of Health Interventions
- Bio-indicators and Genetics of Demographic Behaviour
- The Demography of Armed Conflict

Furthermore, Prof. Eduardo Rios-Neto, a member of the Bureau of the Commission, has accepted to chair a new panel on New Challenges in Population and Development that is charged with exploring the issues of global population relevance for the next decade. We expect that the results of the deliberations of such a panel will be useful for the Commission's future work.

With funding from UNFPA, IUSSP has embarked on a project to assist with capacity development in demographic analysis via a web-based platform for the dissemination of training materials. The platform is aimed at supporting the analysts of the 2010 round of censuses in developing countries. We are in negotiations with the United Nations Population Division to be able to use parts of the series of technical manuals that the Division has developed over the years. But we are also building on these and other useful materials to ensure that the elements of the platform are as up-to-date as possible. We will be making all materials available free of charge for use by national statistical offices, research institutes and training programs in developing countries.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that IUSSP has set up a Council Committee to liaise with United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and with intergovernmental bodies, such as this Commission. I chair that Committee in my capacity as President of IUSSP. The Committee will look for opportunities to showcase the work of IUSSP in United Nations events and we hope thereby to ensure that the importance of population processes for development gets the attention it deserves.