



International Union for the Scientific Study of Population ■ IUSSP  
Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population ■ UIESP

## Forty-Seventh Session of the Commission on Population and Development

### Item 4

General debate on national experience in population matters: assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Statement by Anastasia J. Gage, President of the  
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

9 April 2014

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) is a global association of over 2000 population scientists from 130 countries.

IUSSP has long been a partner of the United Nations in providing substantive backing for the intergovernmental conferences on population. In 1994 in Cairo, the IUSSP organized a parallel event where its members discussed in depth the key topics that were the focus of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Last year, the IUSSP held its 27<sup>th</sup> International Population Conference in Busan, Republic of Korea, with the support of the Government. Some of the key messages emanating from the Conference include:

- The urgency of reducing population growth in sub-Saharan Africa, where fertility decline has been slower than expected and there are still major gaps in the adequate provision of reproductive health services, including effective family planning, for large sectors of the population.

- The importance of extending sexual and reproductive health services to adolescents, irrespective of their marital status, in order to preserve the maternal health of young mothers and ensure the survival of their children or to assist young people to postpone childbearing and thus be able to pursue other goals, including improving their educational attainment or gaining work experience.
- The urgency of advancing women's empowerment and attaining gender equality.
- The importance of benefitting from the opportunities that arise as a population ages by ensuring productive employment for the increasing number of workers and by promoting savings to pay for retirement.
- The need to rethink employment and retirement policies as a population ages, and lastly,
- The importance of planning for the continued growth of the urban population and the necessity of providing adequate services for cities of all sizes.

The Conference also concluded that population trends and characteristics were relevant in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, continued high rates of population growth in the poorest countries of the world are an obstacle for achieving certain key goals, such as that of providing universal primary education to an ever increasing number of children.

It bears stressing that funding for demographic research and training has not kept up with demand for information relating to population and development. Just when a premium is being put on the use of evidence to guide policy and assess advances made, the data available in the least developed countries continue to be limited and the research capacity in many of those countries remains weak. This is particularly the case in Francophone Africa, where many countries are still experiencing high fertility, low rates of use of family planning, high rates of child marriage, low education, and extreme poverty. In suggesting actions to implement the post-2015 agenda, we urge the Commission to take account of these training and research needs and to request that adequate funding be channeled to satisfy them.

Thank you, Mr. President.