

INTRODUCTION

The International Conference on Population and Development took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 5 to 13 September 1994. Preceded by population conferences in Bucharest (1974) and Mexico City (1984), it was the third high-level intergovernmental meeting on population to be organized by the United Nations, and also the largest and most recent. A total of 179 countries adopted the Cairo Programme of Action, a document that put people at the centre of the debate over sustainable development and offered a road map of practical policies and programmatic actions covering a wide array of population and development issues. Mandated by Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, and in preparation for the Cairo Conference, the United Nations regional commissions had organized meetings and conferences, both to review population policies and programmes in their respective regions and to propose future action.

Leading up to the 20-year review of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly in its resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010, decided “to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives”. The Assembly also decided “to convene a special session during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives”. It encouraged “Governments to undertake reviews of the progress achieved and the constraints faced therein in the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels, particularly at the national level and at the level of international cooperation”.

In response, the five United Nations regional commissions, in collaboration with partners in the field, held regional conferences in 2013 to prepare for the 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The present publication is a compilation of the outcome documents from these regional conferences, including brief summaries of each conference.