



Update on NGO Plans for the 10th Anniversary of ICPD, 2004

Countdown2015: Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights for All

Background

At the watershed International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, governments and the international community made a commitment to advance the reproductive health and rights of the world's women, pledging to make basic reproductive health services available to all by 2015.

As the ten-year anniversary of the ICPD approaches, and with strong encouragement from the European Commission (EC) and other donors, a coalition of international sexual and reproductive health and rights organizations are developing and implementing plans for an NGO-led programme of activities focusing on ICPD and the half-way point of the Programme of Action (PoA). Begun as an initiative of Family Care International (FCI), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Population Action International (PAI), *Countdown 2015* now involves a wide range of NGO and other partners committed to making the ICPD vision a reality"

These plans include:

- ? An International Roundtable to be held in London, 31 August – 2 September 2004, preceded and followed by a series of six regional meetings to be organized jointly by IPPF Regions in partnership with other NGOs and networks;
- ? A Report Card assessing country performance on ICPD commitments and supplementary advocacy documents such as a policy brief and fact sheets, to be launched at the Roundtable; and
- ? A communications campaign aimed at refocusing attention on the importance of the goals of the ICPD and at generating media coverage of the NGO-organized events taking place in 2004.

This is not a "+10" UN inter-governmental process, but rather a timely and strategic review by civil society of country performance, progress and programmatic successes; a structured exploration of future directions; and an opportunity to identify new leadership and welcome new allies to the sexual and reproductive health and rights field. Young people will be active players throughout the process.

This Update is one of a series of communications that will be made available to the NGO community, stakeholders, and other interested parties and posted online at www.Countdown2015.org (presently available but interim). [For more information, please contact Hilikka Vuorenmaa, ICPD at Ten Coordinator, at HVuorenmaa@ippf.org.]

Global Roundtable

The International Roundtable will convene at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London on August 31-September 2, 2004. A preparatory programme for youth participating in the Roundtable will take place the day before, on August 30. While attendance at both events will be limited and by invitation only. The deadline for applying has already passed. A conscientious effort is being made to ensure that all identified stakeholder groups are represented at the meeting.

Roundtable Programme

Planning for the Roundtable Programme is well underway, aimed at addressing the LINKAGES of ICPD to three key areas: health, human rights and the broader development agenda. The Roundtable will also focus on CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES faced by those advancing the ICPD agenda — such as fundamentalisms, youth, health, rights, and future leadership; resource mobilization and utilisation; and building leadership, partnerships, and alliances.

The programme will have a strong emphasis on assessing the progress made toward the achievement of ICPD and to help determine what action is needed to realize the goals of ICPD by 2015. It will also focus on outcomes aimed at answering such questions as how can we scale up and build on our successes, reach a wider constituency, reduce inequality and address marginalized and socially excluded people.

Not just your ordinary Roundtable the programme is divided into two main parts: morning Plenary conversations among leading experts from the fields of politics, culture (including religion), science (including health) and technology. In the afternoon portion of the programme, a set of ten working groups — organized around specific themes — will meet over a three day period. Convened by international and local leaders in their respective fields, the working group sessions will address such issues as youth, abortion, HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation, resource mobilization and utilisation, access to services, and women's rights.

Roundtable Objectives

In recognition that fulfilment of human rights, development and public health goals and achievement of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) require the full implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), this Roundtable meeting will gather activists and potential allies to:

- ? ? Develop strategies and move forward the ICPD vision towards more effective implementation of the Programme of Action
- ? ? Broaden the constituency of key stakeholders
- ? ? Foster new leadership and activism
- ? ? Educate and inform the public

Roundtable Steering Committee

A Steering Committee (SC) was established at the end of 2002 to provide guidance and expertise for the International Roundtable Meeting (a listing of organizations and networks represented is at the end of this Update).

Regional NGO Meetings/Events

Regional events or meetings will be held, co-organized by IPPF Regional Offices in partnership with other regional networks and partners. These will provide opportunities for significant NGO participation and are a critical adjunct to the Roundtable itself. Please see separate Update and visit www.Countdown2015.org for plans by region.

Global Report Card

Another important element of the *Countdown 2015* initiative is a Global Report Card that will rank at least 80 Northern and Southern countries in terms of their performance on a set of indicators, highlighting those countries making either significant progress or little or no progress toward achieving the outcomes agreed at ICPD and at the UN Special Session in 1999. Together with a policy brief and fact sheets, regional reports and other materials, the Report Card will complement discussions at the 2004 Roundtable where it will be launched.

An Advisory Group for the Global Report Card is now in place, comprised of John Cleland, Mahmoud Fathalla, Geeta Rao Gupta, Elizabeth Lule, Allan Rosenfield, Jeffrey Sachs, Fred Sai and Susheela Singh. This group is responsible for early review of the report card outline, including indicators, review of data and trends, and for providing input on and reviewing texts on the implications of the findings and subsequent recommendations.

Key issues to be addressed in the Report Card include:

- ? The linkages between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, human rights and poverty reduction;
- ? The critical importance of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and gender equality in terms of both rights and health;
- ? The importance of universal access — and achievement of ICPD/ICPD+5 goals — to overall development, with particular reference to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and efforts to reduce poverty; and
- ? The need for resources and capacity — financial, human and systems.

UN Regional Meetings

There remain four UN Regional Economic Commission meetings to review ICPD in 2004. A number of efforts are underway to ensure the fullest possible participation by NGOs. More information and updates on UN-sponsored activities can be found at www.unfpa.org.

Dates are as follows:

The Arab Region - ESCWA

? ? Arab Population Conference, 6-8 April 2004, Beirut, Lebanon

Africa - ECA

? ? Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of DND/ICPD, 12-16 April, 2004, Dakar, Senegal

Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC

? ? Open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population & Development, 10-11 March 2004, Santiago de Chile

? ? Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population & Development, 29-30 June 2004, Puerto Rico.

* Members of the Roundtable Steering Committee include representatives of FCI, IPPF, PAI (co-chairs) and African Population Advisory Council; AMANITARE/RAINBO; Amnesty International; Asia Pacific Alliance (APA); Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW); Centre for African Family Studies; Catholics for a Free Choice; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); The European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGO); Federation for Women and Family Planning (ASTRA); The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Inter-European Parliamentary Forum for Population and Development; International HIV/AIDS Alliance; IPPF Africa Region; IPPF South Asia; IPPF Western Hemisphere Region; International Women's Health Coalition; Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP); Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN); Latin American & Caribbean Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (REDLAC); Women's Health Improvement Association of Egypt; Youth Coalition; and Youth of Yugoslav Association Against AIDS – Youth of JAZAS.