

1996/2. Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the results of the International Conference on Population and Development and the adoption of the Programme of Action of the Conference,⁵ and taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994 on the report of the Conference, as well as Assembly resolution 50/124 of 20 December 1995 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference,

Having reviewed the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its twenty-ninth session,⁶

⁵ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 5 (E/1996/25)*.

Recalling the terms of reference and multi-year work programme of the Commission, endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55,

1. *Stresses* the need for all the reports prepared as part of the multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development to be based on comprehensive and reliable information, for the final version of the reports to take fully into account the observations of the Commission and for the reports to be widely disseminated in accordance with the terms of reference of the Commission;

2. *Also stresses* the need to ensure that the deliberations of the Commission fully reflect its updated and enhanced mandate, taking into account the integrated, multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

3. *Welcomes* the newly constituted Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, under the current chairmanship of the United Nations Population Fund, and requests the Task Force to make appropriate arrangements to ensure coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of all aspects of the Programme of Action of the Conference, as decided by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, and to continue to report thereon to the Commission;

4. *Requests* that a revised version of the report of the Secretary-General relating to the activities of the non-governmental sector in the area of reproductive rights and reproductive health be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-first session, in 1998, based on a more comprehensive survey of the sector and a clearer explanation of the selection criteria and categorization of the organizations consulted, and incorporating examples of cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations, in both developing and developed countries;

5. *Decides* to invite non-governmental organizations to participate, on an exceptional basis, in the thirtieth session of the Commission, in 1997, along the lines specified in Economic and Social Council decision 1996/208 of 9 February 1996;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for liaison between non-governmental organizations and the Commission and to ensure that existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations are fully utilized in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

7. *Requests* improved annual reporting on financial flows, including allocations/expenditures, based on consistent criteria and related to the costed elements of the Programme of Action of the Conference, including a clear account of levels and trends of funding by source (bilateral sources, multilateral sources (both core and non-core) and private funds, domestic allocations and the like);

8. *Encourages* the widest possible dissemination of reports on progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the Conference prepared by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including, wherever possible, their dissemination through electronic channels of communication, and welcomes the intention of the United Nations Population Fund to report on implementation in its annual publication *The State of World Population Report*;

9. *Proposes* that, in addition to their special coverage in the *World Population Monitoring* reports, main demographic trends be covered biennially, starting in 1997, in a complementary concise report prepared by the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the Secretariat, to be discussed under the agenda item concerning the work programme of the Division;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of information, education and communication as a strategy for furthering follow-up action on the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly in the areas of reproductive rights and reproductive health, and urges the Population Division to highlight the efforts of Governments in this regard in relevant reports prepared for the Commission;

11. *Welcomes* the encouraging evidence of actions being undertaken by Governments, international organizations and the non-governmental sector in response to the challenges of the Programme of Action of the Conference related to reproductive rights and reproductive health, and stresses the need for such action to be accelerated and widened, in particular the need to mobilize additional financial resources, as called for in the Programme of Action;

12. *Requests* the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All to coordinate the development of appropriate indicators, taking into account relevant research, so that progress in addressing reproductive health needs by individual countries can be assessed on a reliable basis;

13. *Requests* that evidence of further progress in achieving the goals of the Programme of Action of the Conference be communicated to the Commission on an annual basis through selected publications and documentation prepared by the Secretariat, including the Population Division, as well as publications and documentation prepared by other United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Population Fund, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies.

*37th plenary meeting
17 July 1996*