



## THE 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: *A Decade of Declining Funds*



**With the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the groundbreaking agreement reached in Cairo approaching, urge our government to honor its commitments and work with other nations to meet the goals set in Cairo. Your actions can help create a better future for people and the planet.**

### CONCERN FOR A CROWDED PLANET

Population growth over the last 50 years has exacerbated many environmental problems, including air and water pollution, loss of wildlife and their habitat, fisheries depletion, and climate change. These are global problems that transcend national boundaries. Across the developing world, rapid population growth intensifies the environmental challenges developing nations confront. For the first time in human history, one billion people are between the ages of 15 and 24 – just entering their reproductive years. The choices and commitments we make today will influence whether world population in 2050 reaches 11 billion or 8 billion, and determine the impact on our finite natural resources.

Voluntary family planning programs, including health and education for girls and women, are essential. These programs slow rapid population growth and provide critically needed development assistance to individuals and families worldwide. At the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, 179 countries adopted a Programme of Action to address population growth, development, and environmental quality, and to make family planning universally available by 2015.

### MAKING THE POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT CONNECTION

The Programme of Action adopted at ICPD reconfirms the relationship between population growth, development, and the environment. The program calls for:

- **Meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own.** "Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the *interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development* should be fully recognized, properly managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance." (Principle 6)
- **Implementing effective and responsive population policies in the context of the environment and family planning.** "Meeting the basic human needs of growing populations is dependent on a *healthy environment*... Implementation of effective population policies in the context of sustainable development, including reproductive health and family planning programs, require new forms of participation by various actors at all levels in the policy-making process." (Para. 3.24,27)

- **Providing universal access to reproductive health care.** "All countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015." (Para. 7.6)
- **Enabling personal responsibility.** "The aim of *family planning* programs must be to enable couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so and to ensure informed choices and make available a full range of safe and effective methods...The principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning programs." (Para. 7.12)
- **Ending unsustainable consumption and production.** "To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies, in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Principle 6)

## FULFILLING OUR CAIRO COMMITMENT

In Cairo, the international community agreed to the target goal of **\$18.5 billion for reproductive health programs, including family planning, by the year 2005**. Up to two thirds of family planning and related costs would be met by the developing countries themselves, with the remaining one third provided by the wealthier donor countries.

**Donor countries are not living up to their promises.** As of today, donor countries (including the U.S.) have been providing **less than 50 percent** of their promised one-third to over 140 countries, while the poorer nations have provided 80 percent of their funding target.

**In recent years, the U.S. has ranked last among the top 20 donor countries in its aid contribution relative to GNP.** At present the US spends roughly one-sixth of what it promised at Cairo.

**With the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cairo approaching, urge our government to honor its commitments and work with other nations to keep the promise of Cairo. Join us in creating a better future for people and the planet by signing onto *A Mother's Promise the World Must Keep- A campaign to reaffirm the commitments made in Cairo.***

If you would like to read the Programme of Action in full, please visit [www.unfpa.org/icpd/docs/icpd/icpd\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/docs/icpd/icpd_eng.pdf)



Courtesy of NASA

