

International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and of Social Development
(IMPPSD)

Copenhagen Statement On Population and Social Development 4-5 March 1995
Copenhagen, Denmark

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on
Population and Social Development

We, the parliamentarians attending the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD), held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 4 and 5 March 1995, in addressing ourselves to the interrelated issues of population and social development,

-Recognize that the World Summit for Social Development is an integral part of the development dialogue currently under way in the series of major international conferences either taking place or having taken place, including, inter alia, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women;

-Recognize further, in this regard, that population, sustained economic growth, social development, sustainable development, security and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, as are efforts to slow down rapid population growth, eradicate poverty, protect the environment, create jobs and reduce unemployment, and promote social integration whereby all people, and in particular women, as well as people with disabilities, participate equally and fully in all spheres of social, cultural, economic and political life;

-Accept therefore the responsibility to support legislative initiatives, demonstrate political will, and help mobilize government and public support to address these interdependent and mutually reinforcing issues;

-Acknowledge that social development is primarily a national responsibility, one requiring individual and societal action as well as international commitment;

-Note with concern that poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, ethnic and other conflicts and social disintegration continue to afflict many countries and are disproportionately affecting women and children;

-Recognize that servicing of debt and lack of easy access to external markets by developing countries and by former socialist countries in transition are contributing to the

persistence of poverty; and thus urge the international community to review their policies in this regard;

-Recognize further the importance of achieving sustainable agricultural production, including food self-sufficiency wherever appropriate;

-Acknowledge the need to create a social and economic environment that permits and promotes a more equitable access for all people to employment, income, food security, water and sanitation, resources, and social services;

-Acknowledge further that humankind is confronted with global issues such as, inter alia, international migration, the impact of the development process on the environment, and international drug trafficking, the root causes of which need to be addressed through international understanding and collaboration at all levels;

-Acknowledge also, in this regard, the need to promote universal access to education and to health-care services, including reproductive health-care and family planning services, and to promote equal partnership between men and women in the family, in the economy, and in society;

-Affirm the need to re-orient national budgets and national priorities to address the basic needs of people and to reduce inequities between and among them; affirm further that the 20/20 principle concerning social development is a useful concept in the fight against poverty and in development cooperation.

-Affirm also the unique and important role of parliamentarians in this respect and, correspondingly, the need to develop networks among parliamentarians at the national, regional and interregional levels, not only to create awareness and understanding of the interdependence of social and economic issues, but also to exchange experiences and to enhance and expand cooperation in addressing such issues;

-Emphasize, in this context, the importance of building up national capacity, both governmental and non- governmental, to establish a people-centered framework for social development and to respond to the material and spiritual needs of all individuals, and in this regard, of promoting national and international cooperation, and in particular South-South cooperation;

-Emphasize further that empowerment of women and creation of easy and equal access for

women to education, health, employment, political participation, assets and credit, etc., are fundamental in seeking a lasting solution to the interrelated issues of sustainable development, sustained economic growth, social development and population.

We therefore declare our firm commitment to implement the actions set forth in the Programme of Action once adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, particularly those related to the principles and objectives of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, and call upon parliamentarians everywhere to redouble their efforts to secure the necessary resources to implement the activities set forth in both programmes of action. In this regard, countries should strive to achieve the fulfillment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for overall Official Development Assistance, as soon as possible and are invited to examine further their priorities of distribution to achieve the maximum benefit to developing countries.