

2nd Annual Conference on “Implementing the ICPD Agenda”

Five Years after Cairo: Where are we now?

Meridien President Hotel, Dakar, Senegal

April 19th, 20th and 21st

Conference Report

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BACKGROUND OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a membership organization for national legislators from around the world. Initiated in 1979 by a group of concerned parliamentarians, PGA members take joint action on global problems that cannot be solved by any one government. With a network of over 1,200 political leaders, Global Action has a unique role to play in catalyzing the development of policies to implement the Programme of Action ratified at the UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (1994). The primary focus of PGA has always been on achieving political action, and it is in the aftermath of Cairo and Beijing that action is most needed. Parliamentarians, as the direct representatives of the people and the nexus of governments and civil society, are best placed to secure and build upon the positive results of the conference.

PROGRAM GOALS OF The Sustainable Development & Population Programme

The Goal of PGA's Sustainable Development and Population Programme: The goal of PGA's Sustainable Development and Population Programme is to galvanize leadership at the international and national levels to meet the pressing concerns of sustainable development and population. In order to meet this goal, PGA seeks to mobilize and assist parliamentarians to create a favorable environment for global sustainable development through the development of effective reproductive health and population-related policies and programs.

As a direct result of the ideas developed in the process of preparing for and participating in Cairo, PGA initiated a pilot population program in West Africa that focuses on enhancing and strengthening the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the ICPD. In addition, the program brings together Anglophone and Francophone Africa. According to Dep. Ibrahima Fall, MP (Senegal), *"the subdivision of the region into Anglophone and Francophone West Africa hampers development and political cooperation. There is a need to break across artificial barriers of colonial borders and languages, we need to bring our brothers and sisters together across these lines in order to regenerate the region."*

The goal of the pilot population program: The PGA Pilot Population Programme uses the resources of PGA's network of 1,200 national legislators to mobilize and assist parliamentarians to implement the ICPD Programme of Action on a national level in cooperation with a strategically selected neighboring country. This programme was initiated in 1996, when PGA started working closely with the leaders of the Parliamentary Population Caucuses in Ghana and Senegal. Through the programme, PGA works with the two caucuses to strengthen their capacity, create and implement a concrete plan of action, develop relationships with local and international NGOs and create a bridge of communication between Anglophone and Francophone West Africa. At the same time, PGA promotes understanding among donor country MPs of the situation regarding population-related policies and activities in West Africa. This understanding lays the foundation for a discussion of increasing donor commitments in the region.

"Implementing the ICPD Agenda"
Five Years After Cairo: Where are we now?
The Meridien President Hotel in Dakar, Senegal, April 1999

In order to bring together the Senegalese and Ghanaian parliamentary committees on population and development and develop an appropriate course of action, PGA and the Parliament of Senegal organized the 2nd Annual "Implementing the ICPD Agenda" on the theme *Five Years After Cairo: Where are we now?* The workshop, which consisted of 80 participants, including 32 parliament members representing five different countries, was hosted by the Parliament of Senegal in Dakar, Senegal on April 19th, 20th and 21st 1999.

Monday 19th of April 1999

Opening ceremony:

Chairman: Mr. Cheikh Adboul Khadre CISSOKHO, National Assembly of Senegal, Speaker

Address and Introduction:

Mr. Moustapha Ka, Deputy Speaker of the Senegalese Parliament and President of the Organizing Committee

After welcoming the members of Parliament from Ghana and the various participants to the symposium, Mr. Moustapha KA especially thanked the UNFPA, the Rockefeller Foundation, IPPF and PGA, as well as the members of parliament from Ghana, Chad, Tunisia and Uganda. Mr. KA emphasized the purpose of the meeting, which is to assess the progress made by the Parliamentarians on the ICPD Programme of Action, particularly on the issues associated with maternal mortality, access to quality reproductive health services, AIDS and discrimination against women.

Address: *Mr. Alaji Abdallah SALIFU, Member of Parliament (Ghana) Chair, Population Caucus,*

Many thanks were addressed to the organizers and the participants of the conference. The purpose of the meeting was reasserted: to assess and advance the implementation of the Parliamentarians Action Plan on the ICPD Programme of Action.

Address: *Ms. Shazia RAFI, Secretary General, Parliamentarians for Global Action*

Ms. Rafi gave a brief description of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) - a network of parliamentarians that mobilizes the political will required to deploy national efforts to resolve world issues such as poverty, degradation of the environment, conflicts, wars, population and crimes against humanity. Ms. Rafi articulated the following objectives of the conference:

- To advance PGA's first national level pilot programme, which is a model for PGA work in the future as the organization increasingly focuses on national

- implementation of the global agreements.
- To mobilize the political will necessary at all levels to implement the resolutions of the world conferences on gender and democracy
 - To develop working relations between parliament and civil society
 - To promote government/opposition relations by bringing all partners together to work on a social development project.
 - To facilitate communication between Ghana and Senegal: Anglophone and Francophone Africa.

Address: *Dr. Sara SEIMS, Associate Director, Population Sciences, Rockefeller Foundation*

Dr. Sara SEIMS pointed out that the role of parliamentarians should go beyond financial issues. They should play a major part as the conscience of society. In particular, they should get more involved in:

- Explaining the importance of the Cairo Agenda, in particular focusing on reproductive health and the rights of women;
- Taking into account the objectives of Cairo when negotiating with sponsors and dealing with budgets.

“When people ask me where I went to school, I often answer that I went to school in Senegal, for it was here that I learned some basic lessons of development. I learned that even in situations of dire poverty, there is human dignity, even when all the energies of a family need to focus on putting food on the table, there is still room for creativity and culture. I learned that in many cases the most important way to help someone is to treat them with respect, listen to what they have to say and learn from their words. I also learned that lack of money isn’t the only impediment to good health. You can pour money on health problems but they won’t go away unless people have basic knowledge about their bodies, have the confidence to ask questions about what they do not understand, are treated with courtesy by health personnel and where health personnel are available, trained and equipped. In turn, the health personnel need to have both knowledge, confidence and feel they are respected by their superiors in the hierarchy.

- Ms. Sara Seims, Rockefeller Foundation

She continued on to describe certain important elements in the role of parliamentarians on population issues and outlined the following eight main points:

- To strengthen creativity and culture in the development of reproductive health policies;
- To empower health workers;
- To ensure stable economic development (according to the Cairo Action Plan);
- To encourage the development of rational policies that will be implemented;
- To direct the action donor assistance towards reproductive and sexual health (and not only towards infrastructures);
- To adopt efficient legislation for the protection of reproductive health;
- To promote ethics in the management of assigned funds;
- To take into consideration the social reality.

Address: *Mr. Francis Mawouena EKON, Chair, Central Council of IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation)*

After thanking the organizers and participants to this symposium, Mr. Ekon outlined the objectives of the IPPF that play a role in the protection of women inside the family and in

sexual and reproductive health. He emphasized the following needs to the Parliamentarians:

- To reduce maternal mortality;
- To empower couples in their sexual and reproductive health choices;
- To help women and couples have easier access to reproductive health techniques and means;
- To eliminate discrimination and differences to women's right to education and information (for example: how to avoid early pregnancies);
- To empower women and to promote parity among policy makers;
- To develop legislation to guarantee free access to information and education;
- To facilitate equal access for all to health care services;
- To promote coordination between Government (Public Sector), NGOs and the Private Sector.

Mr. EKON congratulated Senegal and Ghana for their efforts to lift legal and budget restrictions for NGOs, encourage the effective participation of the NGOs, promote equal access to education for women and the penalization of excision. On the other hand, he highlighted the fact that the real impediment to efficient and effective action is the limited access for adolescents to health care and reproductive health. Mr. EKON also underscored the need for the AIDS epidemic to be given priority.

Keynote Address: *Dr. Nafis SADIK, Executive Director, UNFPA*

Dr. SADIK recalled the obstacles to reproductive and sexual health underscored by the Parliamentarian International Forum in The Hague:

- Inadequate human and financial resources to meet the needs of reproductive health;
- Lack of education among women;
- Refugee and civil war issues;
- Increasing urbanization (in 2025 half of the African population will live in cities without proportionally developing the agriculture);
- Unequal access for all to social services;
- Continuous population growth and maintaining women and girls in their traditional roles.

"Access means more than simply making services available. There has to be a supporting environment, in which women especially feel they can use the services with confidence. For this the support of men is needed, as husbands and fathers, as community leaders, as policy makers and as legislators."

- Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA

According to Dr. SADIK, reproductive health issue is a "public health" issue and it is of the

"As the two pilot countries for the West African region, it is important for you to document your programme planning and implementation process so that the experiences can be shared with other countries. For our part, UNFPA stands ready to assist you in your efforts to implement the Programme of Action."

- Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA

utmost importance to encourage men, husbands and community leaders to support women. Furthermore, the measures taken must be representative of a global approach to population

issues that addresses such issues as the disparity between sexes, a secure food supply and exponential population growth. Specifically, countries should:

"Implementing ICPD calls for the greater involvement of parliamentarians in drawing a wide spectrum of civil society into population and development work. Non-governmental organizations and the private sector are both needed in policy formulation, information and service programme development . . ."

- Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA

- Reinforce the international consensus reached on the positive and negative values of the modern universal society, especially in preparing for the General Assembly of the United Nations to take place in July 1999;
- Involve parliamentarians, in consensus with civil society and NGOs;
- Mobilize international resources;
- Adopt appropriate legislation;
- Reach the objective of the ICPD: global coverage of reproductive health by 2015.

Address: Mr. Ibrahima SALL, Deputy Minister, Economy, Finance and Planning

Mr. Sall discussed Senegal's adoption of a Declaration on Population in 1988 as the foundation for a global approach to population issues, through the incorporation of three key components:

a) reproductive health, b) sexual health and c) family planning. Mr. Sall sees the PGA conference as a confirmation of the "adoption of a modern parliament through developmental action;" emphasizing that it is imperative and urgent to find solutions for reproductive and sexual health issues in the framework of human sustainable development. In achieving this goal, action needs to take place at the local and regional levels. In addition, legislation pertaining to such areas as family law, social law and criminal law, needs to be revised in conformity with the objectives for reproductive and sexual health.

Due to the various deadlocks and obstacles, as were evident during the recent summit in The Hague, four factors should be strengthened:

- Greater involvement of the population;
- Increase of the role of civil society;
- Application of international instruments to the development of reproductive and sexual health;
- Promotion of the role of young people.

The parliamentarians who deal with these challenges will be recognized as "actors of unavoidable social mutations."

Address: Mr. Abdoul Khadre CISSOKHO, President, National Assembly of Senegal.

Mr. CISSOKHO thanked and congratulated PGA for the implementation of the Ghana/Senegal Pilot Project and urged them to carry on with their work. He also thanked UNFPA and the Rockefeller Foundation and

"...I dream of ...an Africa where the women no longer die in giving birth to another human life, where youth can find a quality job that assures their future ..."

- Mr. Abdoul Khadre Cissokho, President, National Assembly of Senegal

reaffirmed the Senegalese Parliament's involvement in the PGA Project, promising to pursue its constant and determined efforts to make population policies succeed in Senegal.

**Walk Through the Exhibition of NGOs in the Hall of the Meriden-President Hotel:
Led by Mr. Cissokho, Dr. Nafis Sadik and Dr. Sara Seims**

The Exhibition of NGOs consisted of over 25 Senegalese NGOs working in population and development. The NGOs displayed information on their work and maintained representatives at each booth to discuss current obstacles and achievements in the field.

Session I: Reflections on the PGA Pilot Population Programme in West African
Chair: Moustapha KA, President, Organizational Committee

Aims, Modalities & Objectives of Conference Program: *Dep. Ibrahima FALL, Executive Committee Member, Parliamentarians for Global Action*

*"This [process] has been a major discovery for me . . . I wish that this cooperation with NGOs continues . . .
- Mr. Ibrahima Fall, MP (Senegal)*

Mr. Fall discussed the importance of the process leading to this moment. The work began in September of 1998, with a meeting of representatives from the Senegalese Parliamentary Network on Population, the Women's Caucus, ministries, NGOs,

*"Each member of Parliament is a leader . . .
- Mr. Ibrahima Fall, MP (Senegal)*

universities and multilateral organizations. It is the first time these institutions have cooperated closely over an extended time period and he hopes that it will continue. Mr. Fall emphasized the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Each member can have significant influence in leading public opinion and behavior.

Message from Dr. Fredrick T. Sai, Senior Advisor, PGA Pilot Population Programme:
Delivered by Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana)

Dr. Sai sent his greetings and sincere appreciation to PGA for organizing the conference and programme. He wished to emphasize the importance of cooperation between NGOs and MPs and encourages them to continue to consult frequently, as they have started to do in Senegal. If, for example, an MP is going to talk about a law he/she should consult with the NGOs in the process. He is looking forward to seeing the conference result in a strong, workable Plan of Action, with concrete practical objectives for the year.

Five Years After Cairo: Where are we now?:

- 1) *Mr. Momar LO, MP (Senegal) Coordinator, Senegalese Parliamentarian Network on Population and Development*
- 2) *Mr. Alhaj Abdullah SALIFU, MP (Ghana), President, Ghanaian Caucus on Population and Development*

Senegal

Mr. LO discussed implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in Senegal since Cairo. He presented various constraints affecting the implementation of the Cairo Agenda such as:

- Socio-economic factors (lower income, widespread poverty: 33% of Senegalese live below

- the poverty line);
- Constraints due to socio-demographic indicators (low rates of school enrollment: 59%, inadequate legal framework and regulations).

Since Cairo 94, a series of actions have been undertaken.

A) At the institutional level

- Creation of a Ministry for the Family;
- Creation of adequate structures for the implementation of DPP (CONAPORH, COREPORH);
- Integration of the variable population in the development planning;
- Creation of networks for advocacy and awareness.

“NGOs should keep their independence to assume their role and be considered as full partners and not as rivals . . . Their actions must be in partnership to those of the State, have a legal framework that will help them develop their powers financially and technically . . .
- Mr. Momar Lo, MP (Senegal)

B) At the legal level

“We need to accept people’s right to have children according to choice and establish the conditions for arresting pregnancy when it is by rape and incest.”
- Mr. Momar Lo, MP (Senegal)

- Adoption of legislation against violence;
- Integration of the variable population in the development planning (Priority Investment Action Program);
- Development of a second PAIP (Priority Investment Action Program), national plans

for the

reproductive health of women.

C) Perspectives or main guidelines for Parliamentary Action

- Cooperation with UNFPA, USAID;
- Proposals for new legislation;
- Development of a plan of action (objective of this symposium);

Ghana

Mr. Alhaj Abdullah SALIFU presented the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in Ghana since Cairo in 1994.

A. The successes since the ICPD include:

- Official recognition of the Parliamentary Caucus on-Population issues;
- The Caucus has become more efficient;
- Official recognition from UNFPA, UNDP, The National Population Council, the PPAG, UNICEF and NGOs of the Caucus;
- Setting up of administrative staff for the Caucus;

- Adoption of amendments to the criminal code improving the status of children;
- Adoption of legislation punishing rape;
- Program to reduce poverty (for example giving revenues to vulnerable groups in order to start new income generating activities);
- Establishment of roles for the various players.

B. Results: 5 years after Cairo

- Adoption of a Declaration on population that aims to integrate population variables into development planning and strengthen the role of the local authorities;
- Improvement of the legal environment on equity, gender equality and the responsibility of women;
- Action to educate girls;
- Representation of women in the management of public affairs;
- Integration of reproduction rights and sexual health in most of the health care centers;
- Higher immunization coverage rate, prenatal coverage, HIV/Aids coverage;
- Better acknowledgement of the Cairo, Beijing and The Hague's objectives in projects, programs and policies.

Focus on HIV/AIDS . . .
"Our meeting with the Country Director of the UNFPA centered on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Recent figures released by the Ghana Ministry of Health were rather disturbing and it was agreed that many more prominent people should be speaking to the public about it, not least the MPs. We agreed that when Parliament resumes sitting in May a strong statement (backed by statistics) should be made on the floor of the House (Parliament) to draw public attention to this time-bomb on which we are sitting."
 - Mr. Alhaj Abdullah Salifu, MP (Ghana)

C. Plans for the Future

- A Seminar will be held for Parliament to educate members on the population situation in Ghana and its implications for development;
- Seminars will be held to educate District Assemblies (local authorities) on population programmes;
- Monitoring and evaluation will be on-going activities, in conjunction with issue-specific coalitions;

Working in Coalition . . .
"The Speakers Breakfast Meeting is one great opportunity for groups and individuals to highlight a national or international issue and have it covered widely by both the print and electronic media. The Speaker has accepted to host all those agencies that were at The Hague so that their messages can be put across to the nation."
 - Mr. Alhaj Abdullah Salifu, MP (Ghana)

- Collaboration with parliamentary groups in West African and the rest of the world;

D. Analysis of Needed Actions

- To go beyond the international and national issues and concentrate on the local issues;
- To develop realistic actions that will result in conservation of energy;

- To allocate and mobilize more resources within budgets for population policies;
- To develop the legal framework of women’s rights in relation to information pertaining to these rights;
- Accurate statistics on gender;
- To use modern communication means (ex. Internet);
- To develop the CEDAW and the Convention on the rights of the child.

Points of Discussion:

- The discussions underscored the importance of the Ghana-Senegal Pilot Project of the PGA.
- Population growth and economic development are inter-related.
- Language should not be an impediment to make use of the experiences and the reforms undertaken in each country regarding reproductive health, development of objectives, programs, and partnerships.
- It is strongly recommended that the Senegalese leaders in charge of population policies come to Ghana to look at the achievements.
- It is also necessary to set up a system allowing other countries to take advantage of the experience of Senegal and Ghana.
- Cooperation must be intensified and carried on.

“Are laws really effective [referring to laws against FGM] . . . in respect to passage of law in Ghana, only a few cases have been reported . . . This does not mean it’s not taking place . . . we need serious cross-border cooperation.”
 - Mr. Kenneth Dzirasah, 1st Vice President, National Assembly of Ghana

Lunch Session
 Chair: Hon. K.DZIRASAH, Vice President, National Assembly of Ghana

From The Hague Onwards: Where do we go from here?: Ms. Margaret CATLEY-CARLSON, Former President of The Population Council

Ms. Catley-Carlson discussed the role of Parliamentarians in the ICPD. Population policy is a long- term job. The ICPD +5 PrepCom showed the world that there are many institutions

“Parliamentarians have a special task - to know where the money goes . . . and how much money really arrives”
 - Ms. Maragaret Catley-Carlson,
 Former President, The Population Council

and organizations that wish to take the international community back to conservative traditions. She outlined some major areas of cooperation between Ghana and Senegal: a)Decentralization, b)Mobilization of resources, and c)Partnership.

Ms. Catley-Carlson emphasized the two responsibilities of parliamentarians: 1) to touch the other parliamentarians and ministers and 2) to continue to be the opinion leaders for the country. She estimated that if each year there were adoption of basic legislation from the Cairo Agenda, in 10 years the situation would have tremendously improved. She

“It isn’t enough to make laws, you have to check, update and monitor . . . use the NGOs, individuals, community groups and media . . . ”
 -Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Former President
 The Population Council

strongly recommended the need for more communication between parliamentarians and their constituents. MPs are in a unique position to identify resources in the communities. The question is not to stop anyone from having the number of children they want, when they want them but to work for the welfare of women and children in Africa.

Session II: Reproductive Health Issues in West Africa

Chair: *Hon. Grace Coleman, MP (Ghana)*

The Population Council's Operations Research Activities in Ghana and Senegal: *Mr. Timothy GANDAHO, Population Council Area Director, The Population Council*

Mr. Gandaho explained the mission of The Population Council. The Council is an NGO that aims to improve the welfare and reproductive health of present and future generations throughout the world and to help establish an equitable and sustainable human balance between populations and resources.

The Council's programs include:

A) ~~In Senegal~~

- The Operations Research and Technical Assistance project, that aims to increase understanding of different strategies for improving family planning programs and other reproductive health services;
- The Expansion Program on Contraceptive Choices, that implements clinical research for the introduction of new contraceptive technologies;
- The Program on Gender, Family and Development, that addresses development and its relation to women, gender and family.

Key Population Council Achievements in Senegal:

- 1) *Study on how the quality of the family planning services offered at regional health centers impact the clients' continuing use of the clinics*
- 2) *Introduction of emergency care services for clients suffering from post-abortion complications at the Aristide Hospital*
- 3) *Study on the constraints and barriers to the use family planning services by women and adolescents*
- 4) *Assistance on the development of the Program of Action on Women - 1997 to 2001*

- Mr. Timothee Gandaho, The Population Council

B) ~~In Ghana~~

Key Population Council Achievements in Ghana:

- 1) *Implementation of the Navrongo Project with the Ministry of Health, a rural community-based station created to research and develop community appropriate reproductive health services*
- 2) *Survey on young people's awareness of reproductive health issues*
- 3) *Strengthened the capacity Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana to evaluate programs using operations research methods*
- 4) *Study on the issues surrounding female genital mutilation*

- Mr. Timothee Gandaho, The Population Council

- Operations Research and Technical Assistance Project, a program that works through the Community Health and Family Planning Project in Navrongo to evaluate the demographic impact of community health and family planning services in a traditional rural region of

- Ghana;
- National technical assistance to the Ghanaian governmental institutions and major NGOs working in reproductive health.

The Population Council's Experience in Ghana - The Navrongo Project: *Mr. Alex NAZZAR, Director, The Navrongo Project, Ministry of Health in Ghana*

Mr. Nazzar discussed the Navrongo experience on reproductive health and population monitoring. In analyzing the health and culture of the people living in northern Ghana, various strategies were created to address their health needs:

- Development of a proximity policy:
 - 1) Request for advice and services from the traditional chiefs;
 - 2) Organization of public forums to create awareness among the populations;
 - 3) Organization of a volunteer system for the implementation of the programs;
 - 4) Involvement of District Assemblies in the management;
 - 5) Information drawn from the populations.

- Preventive strategies and intervention:
 - 1) Weaken the patriarchal system;
 - 2) Finance women through micro-credit.

- Components of reform policies
 - 1) Improve reproductive health
 - 2) Reduce the mortality rate related to reproductive and sexual health issues.

"When we talked with the people we came to understand that men had two fears [about family planning]:

- 1) *That women would refuse to fulfill their reproductive responsibilities*
- 2) *That they would lose control of their wives [as pregnancy is an indication of infidelity] . . .*

The women also had fears:

- 1) *That they would be physically abused by their husbands, or experience some other hostile reprisal*
- 2) *That their husbands would divorce them. . .*

We realized we needed to put the men at ease and support women's autonomy [through micro-credit and allowing women the space to speak].

- Mr. Alex Nazzar, The Navrongo Project, Ministry of Health (Ghana)

Comments from the Perspective of a Planned Parenthood Affiliate in Senegal: *Ms. Tamaro TOURE, President, ASBEF (Senegalese Association for Family Welfare)*

Ms. Toure presented the objectives, Organization and the activities of ASBEF. The association's main objective is to promote reproductive health through:

- Information, education and

"We envision a system that emphasizes, first of all, information . . . we have to guarantee that women have a chance to take care of their own needs."

- Ms. Tamaro Toure, Association Pour le Bien Être de la Famille

communication to inform and create awareness of family planning and reproductive health services;

- The supply of services for people who require reproductive health services and counseling;
- Promotion and protection of the family.

Colonel Adama NDOYE was not able to attend. He is the Director of the Planned Parenthood Program in Senegal. He sent a communication to the conference participants (see annex).

Points of Discussion:

- It is time to talk about paternity leave for men. This is already done in Sweden, which shows it is very possible.
- The Ghanaian Planned Parenthood Affiliate had a "Daddy's Club" that promoted men's involvement with children and reproductive health issues.
- Senegal needs a cultural approach to family planning.
- Uganda is not just giving information, they are always implementing activities in accompaniment with poverty alleviation work.
- Women use the injection method of birth control because the husband won't know, is this sustainable?

"... at least two weeks [of paternity leave] for the men to also experience the child, to have fun with the child, it will go a long way."

- Ms. Grace Akello, MP (Uganda)

"Local personnel needs to be mobilized . . . in Senegal very often the people are motivated in the beginning, but the problem is the lack of financial motivation."

- Ms. Fatou Dimé, Community Health Activist, Senegal

- Senegal needs to alleviate domestic chores.
- Traditionally in Navrongo, if you have a boy you wait x number of years, if you have a girl you wait x number of years . . . the woman moves to the parents' home . . . but that system is breaking down.
- Our main concern is the development of our societies . . . it is very important to have children,

whether it is two or twenty.

Video Message: Ms. Cynthia McKinney, Representative, United States/ Ranking Minority Member, House International Relations Committee

Ms. McKinney, who co-sponsored a bill for the U.S. to make a payment to the United Nations Fund on Population, sent video greetings to the conference participants and expressed her wish that she could have attended the workshop. At the same time she announced a bill she has introduced to the United States Congress for debt relief in highly indebted countries.

"People of Africa spend four times more on debt than on the health of their children."

- Ms. Cynthia McKinney, Rep.
United States

Session III: NGOs Working for Population and Development in Ghana & Senegal
Chair: Ms. Rokhaya SENE, Department of Planning and Reproductive Health, Ministry of

Parliamentary and NGO Cooperation in Ghana: *Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana)*

Ms. Ameley-Tagoe discussed the nature of collaboration between the parliament and NGOs Ghana:

- Good and open cooperation;
- Frequent discussions with NGOs on the problems they face;
- Adoption of legislation is achieved in consultation of the NGOs;
- Information on legal issues at two levels;
- NGOs invite MPs to all events and organize seminars for them;
- MPs automatically have a seat on the district assemblies;
- USAID, UNDP, UNFPA foster cooperation through a myriad of basic seminars.

“Once a month the MPs, NGOs and universities meet to discuss issues . . . the Parliamentary Population Caucus has realized that we cannot work without the NGOs.”

Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana)

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Communication on the Relationship of Parliament and NGOs in Senegal: *Mr Amadou CISSE, President, CONGAD*

Mr. Cissé reminded conference participants of the number of NGOs working in HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. The Council of NGOs in Support of Development (CONGAD), the umbrella association of NGOs working in the field, is comprised of over 70 NGOs. He also emphasized that NGOs have never abandoned southern Senegal, there are a number of NGOs active at the grass-roots level. All projects and policies must take into account gender equality and local socio-cultural realities. In spite of the existence of a favorable framework, there remain several constraints to making progress on the ICPD Programme of Action:

- Marginal presence of the NGOs in the peripheral areas
- Lack of contribution from the State and development partners;
- Low participation of NGOs in the development of policies;
- Lack of communication channels between NGO and State;
- No dissemination of information;
- Lack of popularization of results achieved by NGOs;
- Weakness of available resources;
- Financial and administrative constraints imposed by the public authorities.

“There should be a West African network that will involve civil society and NGOs . . . this conference has brought the MPs from Ghana and Senegal together, but it should be extended to the NGOs of both countries.”

- Mr. Amadou Cissé, Council of NGOs in Support of Development

A. ~~Action perspectives:~~

It is necessary to create:

- A partnership taking into account the autonomy of the NGOs;
- The establishment of an ad-hoc committee to assess the Action Plan of The Hague;
- An African network for the NGOs.

The discussions covered the necessity of strengthening the existing partnerships. We also must monitor their application.

Recommendations:

- NGOs should work with local level government especially at the area council level;
- Develop cooperation between the young people and parliamentarians;
- Emphasize the acceptability of legislation at the socio-cultural level;
- Promote transparency and honesty in the partnerships between State and NGOs, between State and local populations and between NGOs and local population;
- Government should work to facilitate the work of the NGOs.

Points of Discussion:

- Members from Ghana asked if there exists in Senegal a regulatory framework for NGOs. The government tried to institute a regulatory framework to register and control the activities of NGOs but the measure failed under resistance from the NGOs.
- Senegalese MPs feel NGOs are very suspicious of

*"I am of the view that we have a lot of work to do to change the atmosphere of suspicion between NGOs and MPs . . . we need to define the axes that will allow us to cooperate."
- Mr. Ibrahima Fall, MP (Senegal)*

*"We've tried to get informed on the work of the MPs . . . I believe the programs should come from the people who use them . . . many policies are proposed for the youth, but not by the youth themselves."
- Representative, Youth Network, Senegal*

- them and do not want them to participate in their activities.
- In Africa actions are always identified with an individual, this impedes the development of a trusting relationship.
- In Senegal, the MPs should talk of the dynamism of the youth associations.
- In Senegal many policies are proposed for the youth, but not by the youth themselves

- MPs need to go to the grass-roots, discuss these issues with the population and see what solutions they advocate.
- MPs should put more attention on the environmental issues of Northern Senegal
- Senegalese MPs and NGOs should go to Ghana to study the mechanisms in place to facilitate work between the NGOs and MPs.
- NGOs in Senegal are too timid, they should come forward.

*"MPs too often get in touch with NGOs only at election time."
- Mr. Ibrahima Sall, Ministry of Economy, Finance & Planning*

*"In Ghana, 5% of the common funds given to the District Assemblies is allocated to the MP in the region to be used for development activities."
- Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana)*

- NGOs are complementary to the government in Ghana, when there is a gap they fill it.
- In Ghana when the youth want something, they come to us and tell us what they want.

- In Senegal it's easier to set up a trade union or a private business, than an NGO – this is where the regulatory environment comes in.
- Senegal tends to look at France and Europe, it needs to look around in its own region.

Tuesday 20th of April 1999

Session IV: Mobilizing Parliamentarians on the Problem of HIV/AIDS

Chair: Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana)

HIV/AIDS in Senegal: *Dr. Ibra N'DOYE, President, National Committee against AIDS/Senegal*

Mr. N'Doye began by noting that the challenge of "Health for All by the Year 2000" was jeopardized since 1980 by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. He presented statistics on the impact of the evolution of the disease in the last years. The AIDS issue has gone beyond a mere health issue; it is a global and sustainable development issue. The discovery of a vaccine seems to be a dream, faced with the complexities of HIV/AIDS types and sub-types. AIDS is a heavy burden on the future of public policies because of its social consequences.

Mr. N'Doye presented figures which represent the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic in the African countries:

A. Desperate figures

- 16, 000 new persons per day are infected in the world;
- 33 million of people are infected with 22.5 million in sub-Saharan Africa;
- By the year 2000, 40 million of people will be affected, out of a population of 213 million;
- Each year there are 1.7 million new HIV cases among the young people in Africa.

B. Demographic consequences

- Deaths due to VIH/AIDS in 1998 are estimated at 2.5 million in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- The infant mortality rate is going to double by 2010;
- Life expectancy is declining;
- Mortality for "15-49 years old" is on the rise;
- Poverty is spreading;
- External migration is increasing.

C. Action taken by Senegal

Specific actions taken by Senegal in the prevention of and fight against AIDS

- Creation of a strong infrastructure to fight AIDS (Existing transfusion policy, sanitary control, law against female genital mutilation);
- Political involvement as soon as the virus appeared (with the introduction of a resolution to fight AIDS in 1992 by President Abdou DIOUF at the OAU Summit) - explains the low prevalence.

D. Future Plans

- Mobilization of united support to strengthen health policies;
- The integration of AIDS in planning for nation's development;
- The maintenance and reinforcement of financial and technical support given by the partners in response to this epidemic;
- The strengthening of international advocacy for financing the prevention and treatment of AIDS.

Testimony of a Person Living with HIV: *Mr. Andre Mackrill, Greater Involvement of People Living with AIDS (GIPA)/ Chief Community Liaison Officer, S. African National Department of Health*

Mr. Mackrill, a field worker of the Greater Involvement of People Living with AIDS Project (GIPA), urged participants to involve HIV positive people in policy decisions and recognize their right to live their life without discrimination.

"People living with AIDS essentially want to enjoy a margin of acceptance and be respected as ordinary citizens. And more – especially to be respected as a productive part of society capable of making a valuable contribution within the community."

- Mr. André Mackrill, GIPA/S. African Department of Health

Society must empower HIV positive people, he stated. GIPA, for example, is a South African organization that works to involve people who have the disease in programme implementation and policy-making. Mr. Mackrill works for the South African National Department of Health to stimulate interaction between various national, international and provincial groups. The organization relies on HIV positive people who are working in the field,

already collaborating with organizations dealing with HIV/AIDS. Mr. Mackrill suggests counseling for any person wishing to reveal his/her disease, in order to prepare them to handle the possible consequences.

"The key issue is love, compassion and caring . . . this is something we can mobilize without financial resources . . . the issue of treatment is out."

- Mr. André Mackrill, GIPA/S. African Department of Health

The South African government is committed to action on HIV/AIDS at the highest level, this is evident in the Government AIDS Action Plan. This plan is not just lip-service: the different groups meet monthly for evaluation, progress reports and planning. The involvement of all players, and in particular the People Living with AIDS groups, ensures greater acceptance among a broader section of the community.

He also urged the conference participants to treat the people concerned with compassion. In fact, 5 basic rights should be considered:

"The Deputy-President's office coordinates a high-profile Government AIDS Action Plan, through the Inter-Ministerial Committee. This plan requires that each individual parliamentary portfolio and especially every ministerial portfolio have an AIDS policy and an active program."

- Mr. André Mackrill, GIPA

- 1) Right of infected persons to be respected;
- 2) Right to social integration;
- 3) Right to be heard and right to speak;
- 4) Right to be protected by the State;
- 5) Right to be treated fairly and not discriminated against.

A Regional Perspective on HIV/AIDS and the Role of Parliamentarians: *Dr. Roland MSISKA, Director, Regional Project on HIV and Development, UNDP*

"I come from a country where it is no longer a surprise to hear that a parliamentarian has died or that a case has been delayed because a judge is sick . . . 20% of MPs are out because of death."

- Dr. Roland Msiska, UNDP

Dr. MSISKA noted the challenge in confronting the epidemic lies in the two taboo issues it brings up for society to discuss: sex and death. It is important that Parliamentarians understand that AIDS is not

an individual's problem, but a set of policies.

Parliament should act in four (4) key areas:

- Mobilization of the community (opinion leaders should initiate the debate at all meetings);
- Mobilization of financial resources (be more convincing when asking for funds);
- Creation of an appropriate legal and political environment;
- Initiation of a national dialogue.

" . . . in any given meeting that you have you address the topic of how this policy or decision will affect the spread of HIV and how it will affect families . . ."

- Dr. Roland Msiska, UNDP

The following requirements were highlighted:

- Global, holistic approach to health;
- Integration of AIDS in the development planning of countries;
- Effective involvement of governments;
- Maintenance and reinforcement of financial and technical support given by international organizations in response to this epidemic;
- Reinforcement of international advocacy for the financing of the prevention and treatment of AIDS.

Points of Discussion:

- A representative from the Senegalese Ministry of Planning asked Mr. N'Doye to explain the low rate of AIDS in Senegal – especially given the lack of a systemic screening for the virus, the low use of condoms in the country and the increasing rate of infection of women.
- In Windhoek it was the parliamentarians who

"In Uganda there are stories in the newspapers like 'Uganda has Run Out of Condoms,' it shows you how seriously we take it . . ."

We do have a role for MPs [in advocacy, sensibilization and mobilization], but we need support from civil society, people, even children have a role to play – it's that serious."

- Ms. Grace Akello, MP (Uganda)

refused to lay emphasis on the youth.

- AIDS is a serious economic problem.
- MPs can focus on preventing vertical transmission (from mother to child), this is very inexpensive and politicians have not yet taken it up.
- The Uganda Ministry of Health has set up a special STD/HIV program that focuses on

“Parliamentarians should support the demographic surveillance efforts that are being carried out in some areas of the country [Senegal].”

- Dr. Fatime Dia, Africa Consultants International

getting research done and dispelling myths.

- In Uganda civil society has come out very strongly in support of people with AIDS.
- MPs must play an advocacy role, supporting women, youth and people living with HIV at the community level.
- Parliamentarians follow their party line – this is a problem.
- Traditional healers should be given their rightful place in society – a society can do nothing without an understanding of how people relate to and understand God.
- It is important to recognize that it is difficult for girls to report such issues as rape and sexual abuse.

Session V: The Policy Environment and Population and Development

Chair: Ms. Houda Kanoun, MP (Tunisia), Population Convenor, PGA

The Ghanaian Policy Environment and Population and Development: *Mr. Emmanuel ZUMAKPEH, MP (Ghana)*

Mr. Zumakpeh presented the experience of Ghana:

A. Legal elements that impact ICPD implementation

- Article 20 of the Constitution of Ghana deals with a system of local government;
- Legislation grants 20% of the total revenues of the country to the district assemblies;
- Legal texts on decentralization give local district assemblies entire responsibility for development policies.

B. Political elements that impact ICPD implementation

- A major decentralization effort was carried out at the same time that various development projects were implemented;
- Development programs take basic structures into account;
- Local services are in the process of being transferred to local management;
- Encouragement of income-generating activities;
- Implementation of strategies to fight poverty;
- Programs for the eradication of poverty are implemented in rural areas especially through the involvement of women in income-generating activities;

- Health care and medication are becoming more recognized among the population.

The Legislative and Policy Environment: Implications for Parliamentarians and Locally-Elected Officials; the Capacity-Building of Local Officials and Decentralization: Ms. Rokhaya SENE, Director of Planning and Human Resources, Department of Planning and Reproductive Health, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning (Senegal)

Ms. Sene discussed the institutional and legal elements that impact the implementation of population policy.

A. ~~Legal Components Discussed:~~

- The strengthening of protection of reproductive health rights in the area of contraception, penalization of genital mutilation;
- The rights pertaining to gender, equity (adoption of CEDAW, Family Code, larger representation of women's organizations;
- Social rights through the Labor Code and the status of Civil Service;
- Review of the Criminal Code (Stronger sentences for rape, penalization of excision) legislation on migration, urbanization, land development;
- The improvement of the legal framework for natural resources and the environment (how to reconcile population dynamics and a constantly degrading environment);
- The readjustment of the rights of the family;
- The protection of the rights of children (young and adolescents) with harsher sentences for pedophiles;
- The strengthening of older people's rights, for example: higher retirement age, health of menopausal women ;
- The improvement of information gathering;
- Decentralization and transfer of expertise

B. ~~Political Components Discussed:~~

- Declaration on Population Policy;
- Adoption of legislation taking into account the new reality of gender parity;
- Promotion of Effective Parliamentary Action:
 - Senegalese Parliamentary Network on Population and Development
 - Symposium of West African Parliamentarians organized by UNFPA on the theme: "Population and Legislation"
 - Increase the number of Senegalese Parliamentarians in the network

Presentation: Mr. Mamadou DIATTA, MP (Senegal)

Mr. Diatta outlined the problems regarding the extent of local rural development and the participation of the outlying communities. In particular, he underscored:

- The legal vacuum in the area of new protections (protection of senior citizens, refugees, workers);
- The imbalance between the code of ethics and therapeutic abortion;
- The weakness of social rights for women (example: violation of Decree 72-215 dated March 7, 1972, that deals with the social security of salaried women; allowing mothers to be in charge of their children; review of widowhood leave; review of widow's pension);
- Limitations of IEC and Advocacy (it is important to develop democratic communication methods and pluralism in media; intensify the role of associations; and create various communication networks between parliamentarians, journalists and Islamic leaders);
- The silence on the culture of local communities on population;
- The inefficiency of the locally-elected officials;
- The inefficient and ineffective transfer of expertise (interference of the administration);
- Migration of Populations (the rural exodus depletes some areas of the workforce);
- Lack of consideration for the specificity of each region (population objectives not quantitative);
- Excessive centralization of projects and programs;

*"The people in power don't always consult with the population."
 - Mr. Mamadou Diatta, MP (Senegal)*

He recommended the following solutions:

- A partnership between all players;
- An increase in the technical and managerial capacity at the local level (re-establishment of communication between the various players);
- Guaranties of a democratic process and proper governance - through effective participation in local affairs (to discourage the expectation that the rural communities will always be cared for by the government);
- An increase in human and financial resources (increase of existing means and search for means outside the State through decentralized cooperation);
- A connection developed between decentralization and local development (Senegal should find a better balance and encourage solidarity);
- Implementing training and information systems when "local solutions" are to be developed;
- Development of secondary towns to free up the urban centers;
- The alleviation of poverty;
- Political incentives for better infrastructure distribution in the territory.

Comments from the Perspective of UNFPA: *Mr. Niangoran ESSAN, Senegal Representative, UNFPA*

Mr. ESSAN presented UNFPA work in Senegal and urged Parliamentarians to get more

involved with concrete actions to mobilize resources and adopt adequate legislation.

Also, Mr. ESSAN reminded the UNFPA of its commitment to work in close collaboration with Parliamentarians.

Session VI: Gender Issues in Development and Reproductive Health

Chair: Ms. Aminata Tall, Vice-President, National Assembly, Senegal

Presentation: Ms. Aminata Faye KASSE, President, Council of Senegalese Women (COSEF)

Ms. Kassé presented issues related to the protection of the status of women and the objectives of COSEF

A. COSEF Works to Promote:

- Sexual equality;
- Gender equity;
- Responsibility of women to control their own fertility;
- Acknowledgement of women rights as human rights;
- Elimination of all forms of discrimination;
- Parity between men and women.

B. She underscored the constraints in COSEF's work:

- Low rate of school enrollment and illiteracy;
- Polygamy;
- Early marriages;
- Status of women;
- Heavy burden for women (Traditional role of African women).

C. She suggested several strategies to the constraints

- Replace paternal power with parental power;
- Real political will for the emancipation of women;

Testimony: Ms. Waris DIRIE, Goodwill Ambassador

Ms. Molly Melching introduced Ms. Dirie, by reading a paragraph from her bestselling autobiographical book, *Desert Flower*. Ms. Dirie gave a very moving testimony on her childhood in Somalia and reasons for her fight against female genital mutilation. As the child of a desert nomadic family in Somalia, Ms. Dirie had her genitals cut. She has never accepted the need for female genital mutilation and is committed to ending the practice, "Why are we suffering, for what?" she asked the audience.

"I believe this is all coming to an end. I've heard a chief of a village say, 'We all know it's wrong, and we've got to stop it.' Eight African countries passed a law against it. "

- Ms. Waris Dirie, Goodwill Ambassador, UNFPA

The Ghanaian Women's Caucus: Ms. Theresa NYARKO-FOFIE, MP, President, Women's Caucus (Ghana)

Ms. Fofie reviewed the history of the involvement of women with population issues and explained the role of lobbying. She also underlined the importance of:

- The Women's Caucus in the Ghanaian Parliament;
- The interaction between Parliament and the community-based Women's Caucus, as a basic and essential way of establishing communication between parliamentarians and the grass-roots;
- The importance of a methodology of action analysis, self-criticism and assessment;
- The need to build the capacity of newly elected women parliamentarians: they must know the constitution and how to debate;
- The development of workshops and seminars on teamwork, women and law, affirmative action and the internet for to increase the capacity of women parliamentarians;
- FIDA (the association of women lawyers in Ghana) fills a very important need: women from the community have learned to use FIDA to process their grievances, rather than the bureaucracy;
- The women's caucus has joined the battle against AIDS and infant and maternal mortality.

"A woman is considered a source of wisdom . . . we are ready as women to take up the challenge of being a resource."

*- Ms. Theresa Nyarko-Fofie, President,
Women's Caucus, Ghana*

The Women's Programme of Action on FGM: Ms. Mata SY DIALLO, Deputy Speaker, President, Women's Caucus (Senegal)

Ms. DIALLO described the activities achieved by the Caucus. From 1994 to 1998 the Women's caucus organized various seminars on:

- Widowhood leave for salaried women;
- Responsibility of working mothers for themselves and their children;
- Taxation for salaried married women;
- Review of the Criminal Code (Articles 294 to 312) and recommendations;
- Sexual harassment, topic of various seminars;
- Children's rape;
- Battered women and children;
- Female genital mutilation.

"I didn't know about it [female genital mutilation] at the time because my tribe doesn't practice it . . . African women are very shy, they don't like to talk about it . . . I think this is a crucial problem and we have had this law passed with many problems."

*- Ms. Mata Sy Diallo, President,
Women's Caucus, Senegal*

Community-based Education and Women's Health: Ms. Molly Melching, Director, TOSTAN

Ms. Melching described the goal of the NGO, TOSTAN, a non-formal education project that

"We want to reassure women that they will be able to find a husband . . . They cannot stop [being cut] as an individual woman, they have to be convinced that they will be able to find a husband . . . They have to be able to share their decisions with their community."

- Ms. Molly Melching, Director, TOSTAN

is based use that uses a holistic culturally appropriate approach to teach literacy and critical analysis. The The educational modules, which were developed specifically for villages in Senegal, teach basic human rights and pacific social change. The education process has resulted in villagers analyzing the health violations of female genital cutting (mutilation) and led to village-wide public declarations to stop the traditional practice of

cutting young girls. At the moment of the presentation, over 60 villages were preparing to make a presentation against cutting. TOSTAN has been active in Senegal for 10 years. The achievements of TOSTAN include:

- Implementation of human rights education in local communities;
- Development of cultural activities that aim to foster understanding and assimilation of the programs in the communities;
- The end of female genital mutilation among villages in the program;
- The declaration of public statements as a means for entire communities to end the practice of female genital mutilation. These declarations can be seen as a form of "new social convention."

Lunch Session

Chair: Ms. Mata SY DIALLO, Deputy Speaker (Senegal)

Opportunities for Partnership: *Ms. Josephine MOYO, Regional Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, Partners in Population and Development*

Ms. Moyo described Partners in Population and Development, an NGO that represents an alliance between developing countries to explore and implement new concepts of South-South collaboration, as advocated by the Cairo Programme of Action. The current members include: Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Colombia and Mexico.

The primary objectives of Partners are:

- To strengthen South-South collaboration in order to develop the same quality of and access to reproductive health as is available through Planned Parenthood;
- The quick implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action through South-South cooperation.

Partners works with:

- Governments;

- Media
- NGOs
- Universities
- Private Sectors
- Municipalities
- Regional and international organizations.

The priorities of South-South cooperation are:

- Integration of family planning and reproductive health
- Promotion and integration of HIV/AIDS prevention into reproductive health structures;
- Reduction of maternal mortality;
- Action in favor of the equal treatment of women.

<p>RECOMENDATIONS FOR AN ACTION PLAN FOR SENEGALESE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD AGENDA</p>
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In evaluating the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, it is clear that Senegal and Ghana have made some significant breakthroughs, however some cultural, religious, legal and institutional constraints persist. For effective execution of the ICPD Programme of Action in Senegal, the following actions are recommended. These recommendations were developed in two workgroups, held on the second day of the Conference: Five Years After Cairo - Where are we now? The workgroups focused on the:

- I. Mobilization of human and financial resources for the ICPD Programme of Action;
- II. Improvement of the legal and regulatory framework associated with the ICPD Programme of Action.

**Workshop #1:
MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL
RESOURCES FOR THE CAIRO ACTION PROGRAM**

Chair: The Hon Mrs. Theresa AMELEY-TAGOE

Rapporteur: Dr. Fatim Louise DIA

Advisor: Mr. Makane Moise MBENGUE

Moderator: Cheickh Tidiane BA,

PARTNERSHIP

1. Goals:

- To review and mitigate the legal and regulatory apparatus in order to facilitate the application of the ICPD Agenda;
- To create pressure groups to work together to implement the ICPD Agenda comprised of coalitions between male and female Parliamentarians and other players from various political, cultural backgrounds;
- To take into account the different solutions developed at the international and national levels and integrate partnership as stated in Chapter 15 of the Cairo Programme of Action;
- To work to implement a favorable environment conducive to the establishment of trust between the different players;
- To begin developing roles for each actor with specific responsibilities, while respecting the specificity of each.

2. Proposed Strategies:

- Promote dialogue and include local representatives and traditional chiefs in the implementation of the Cairo Agenda;
- Institutionalize dialogue and the exchange of experience and knowledge between various participants in the implementation of the ICPD Agenda (for information sharing, exchange of experiences, promotion of successful experiences and the institutionalization of positive experiences);
- Hold a congress or a meeting with all organizations concerned with the implementation of population policies;
- Bring NGO representatives together once every three months and different participants to insure the follow up of the implementation of the Agenda (set-up of a national Committee to follow up the implementation of the Cairo Agenda);
- Strengthen the capacity of the local representatives through training, education and dissemination of information (IEC);
- Work in close collaboration with the press.

MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

1. Goals:

- To perform an exhaustive inventory of existing resources for population policies;
- To evaluate the means to continue action already begun, to safeguard the gains and to facilitate the involvement of populations;
- To establish coordination and collaboration at different levels of action;
- To work to get the Parliamentarians closer to their grass root constituents.

2. Proposed Strategies

- Involve the populations with the implementation of activities that generate revenues;
- Improve access to public funds to efficiently implement the objectives of the ICPD Agenda (to encourage institutional support, such as exists in a framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Health and some NGOs);
- Find the appropriate mechanisms to increase funds in order to implement population policies;
- Improve the South-South dialogue to mobilize all available funds;
- Establish priorities at different administrative levels within the national Plan of Action;
- Improve the tax environment relative to the implementation of population policies;
- Organize, in partnership with the media, awareness and fundraising campaigns;
- Redirect resources normally used for defense;
- Improve coordination among the actors, encourage the DPRH in the Ministry of Planning to play a coordinating role;
- Use the existing women's, youth and sports' associations to reach the people;
- Connect with the Superior Council of expatriate Senegalese, the public, industrial and commercial sector to collect funds to achieve the objectives of the population policy;
- Strengthen the expertise and technical capacities of parliamentarians in managing and collecting funds;
- Mobilize the local authorities to allow some specific budgetary plans for population policy;
- Allot a special budget slot for the local communities to implement the Cairo Agenda;
- Integrate systematically the objectives of population policies in the different plans negotiated with financial partners;
- Set up an effective follow-up system that allows one to periodically check if the objectives of the ICPD have been reached and how credit was used, based on reliable indicators;
- Review the tax system, in view of increasing the capacity of internal financing and reduce the dependence on sponsors;
- Include systematically in the budget the expenses resulting from the implementation of the ICPD Agenda;

"If everyone is working in their own corner, it is because we haven't done our work."

- Rokhya Sene, Director of Planning and Human Resources, Department of Planning and Reproductive Health, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning (Senegal)

~~C. ROLE OF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD AGENDA~~

1. Goals:

- To strengthen their capacity for information, education and communication campaigns on programs, projects and international conventions;
- To develop programs to involve the people in the objectives of population policies, in order to create a real synergetic movement at the grass root level;
- To make the local representatives aware of the Resolutions of the International

- Conference in Cairo;
- To set up the conditions of an association between Parliamentarians and NGOs and Youth Associations;
- To mobilize the parliamentarians and the local representatives to work together and search for resources and to empower the grass root communities.

2. ~~Proposed Strategies:~~

- Reinforce the capacities of the local representatives through information, education, awareness and assist them in the creation and adoption of a development and training plan;
- Ensure the inclusion of the local representatives in the implementation of the ICPD Agenda;
- Encourage the adoption by local communities of the recommendations of the ICPD;
- Initiate Advocacy campaigns to ensure the success of the Cairo Agenda;
- Work in close collaboration with the senators;
- Create a network of representatives in the sub-region to work together on the Cairo Programme of Action.

WORKSHOP # 2: THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Chair: Professor Madior DIOUF

Rapporteur: Mr. Gallo KEBE, DPRH (MEF)

Advisor: Miss Awa GUEYE

Moderator: Professor Abdullah CISSE

Workgroup 2 focused on the three main themes of program implementation, the reinforcement of parliamentary capacity and the implementation of existing laws.

~~Reinforcement of Parliamentary Capacities~~

1. ~~Goals:~~
 - To identify international conventions already ratified by Senegal and publicize them to encourage more acceptance of international law within the country;
 - To evaluate and support legislation that facilitates the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action;
 - To establish a list of priorities.
2. ~~Proposed Strategies~~
 - Create and implement a training program for MPs on reproductive health;
 - Develop an institutional means to encourage an on-going dynamic dialogue between ministry personnel, women's associations and NGOs working on

- population issues;
- Establish a dialogue (through meetings, guided tours, seminars, etc.) between parliamentarians and young people through the National Youth Council, the National Youth and Population Network and other existing networks to take into consideration their true needs and aspirations in the laws passed and under consideration;
- Develop an expertise in a subject or issue before passing legislation (for example, through a PGA activity or some other capacity-increasing activity).

Application of the existing laws

Proposed Strategies:

- Develop post legislative advocacy activities in favor of the laws relating to population;
- Raise awareness of population issues among law-enforcement officials;
- Adopt efficient legal mechanisms to reinforce established rights;
- Publish legislative texts in the "Government Gazette" for the better dissemination of information;
- Extend the PGA Project to other countries (Benin, Chad);
- Improve communication with NGOs and youth and sport associations and support their participation in international meetings;
- Collect gender stratified data;
- Translate laws and documents into local languages;
- Consider Ghana's experience with the Common Fund for Development;
- Consider the studies achieved by the Women's Caucus
- Work more closely with the women's associations and women's caucus;
- MPs should follow the debates of the citizens, bring up salient issues and formulate into laws;
- Strengthen local officials.