

The Programme of Action of the
1994 International Conference on Population and Development:
What lessons for the global migration compact

John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) , United Nations

Excellencies,
Delegates,

In resolution " (! ! !) of " #cto\$er %& ' (, the Economic and Social) ouncil esta\$ified * ha then called the Population) ommission \$ecause + it re , uired advice and assistae on matters affectin or affected \$ - population chan es . / Ohe) ommission * as coa* ith arran in studies and advisin the) ouncil on four issues, the third of *hich focuses on +mi rator - movements of population and factors associated * ith such movements . /

Ohe inclusion of mi ration in the ori inal mandate of the Population) ommission reflects the \$asic realit - that an understandin of population trends and their impacts, uires the careful consideration of all three components of population chan e1 namel - \$irth, dea

Again, the Programme of Action from the Cairo conference in 1994 offers us some useful ideas and inspiration /

First, let us look at the structure of the Programme of Action /

Chapter I, the Preamble, describes the global economic, social and demographic context, highlights the relationship between sustainable development and population growth, and affirms the application of universal - recognized human rights standards to all aspects of population programmes /

A key purpose of Chapter II, with its 10 Principles, is to guide the conference participants during their deliberations / The list of Principles recalls applicable standards and norms regarding human rights, development, women, children, education and so forth / Principle 10 provides specific guidance on the treatment of documented and undocumented migrants, while P

The third substantive section provides details about the actions required including specific recommendations. The recommended actions include ensuring the option to remain, facilitating remittance flows, promoting short-term migration, mitigating the negative impact of migration on development in countries of origin, allowing for the entry of migrants who move as a result of climate change and improving migration data and research.

Thus, for each substantive chapter of the Programme of Action, the document provides both a perspective that spans the range of relevant topics and an analysis that extends from a general overview of relevant issues to specific recommended actions.

<Slide B=4 In all, let us take a moment to study the arrangements for implementation and follow-up of the United Nations Programme of Action.

In Chapter I, Section on Activities at the international level, the United Nations mandates to both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

First, the Assembly was invited to organize regular reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action (A/46/59).

Second, the Council was requested to promote an integrated approach and provide secretariat coordination and guidance in the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action (A/46/59).

Third, the Assembly and the Council were invited to review roles, responsibilities, mandates and comparative advantages of UN intergovernmental bodies and organs addressing population and development (A/46/59).

Fourth, the Council was invited to consider the role of the Population Division and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the follow-up to the Programme of Action (A/46/59).

<Slide C=4 How do we have these recommendations at the international level? Let us turn first to the

First, in resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Population Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action and that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

Second, UNFPA became an observer in the Bureau of the Commission. This arrangement helps to ensure that intergovernmental discussions of population issues can benefit from the Fund's technical, policy and practical experience.

