



**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC
STUDY OF POPULATION**

IUSSP – UIESP

3-5 rue Nicolas, 75980 Paris cedex 20, France

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND HIV/AIDS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON POVERTY

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population [IUSSP] is very pleased to have the opportunity to address this session of the Commission.

The IUSSP is the only international professional association of population specialists. With more than 1900 members located in 140 countries and about 300 student associates, the IUSSP has a program of scientific activities that bring together population specialists from different disciplines and countries. Through these activities, the IUSSP acts as a catalyst for the development of scientific knowledge and policies about a wide range of population issues. The IUSSP has long been a partner of the United Nations and other international organizations in raising awareness about population issues.

Since the mid-1990s, the IUSSP has held a number of scientific activities focusing on the issues and problems raised by the expanding HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 1996, a workshop to develop a research agenda regarding family planning in the era of AIDS was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop considered the problems faced by family planning programmes operating in populations with a high HIV prevalence and developed a research agenda on the interface between family planning and HIV/STD prevention for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. One of the issues raised by the workshop was the negative attitude to condoms common in many populations. Within existing family planning programmes, the attitudes of service providers were also considered to create barriers to the effective integration of STD treatment with family planning services.

In 1998, the IUSSP Committee on AIDS organized a Seminar on the Measurement of Risk and the Modeling of the Spread of AIDS held in Copenhagen, Denmark. During the Seminar models for the spread of HIV were evaluated in relation to empirical evidence. It was found, however, that the required empirical information was scarce. Nevertheless, the models provided important insights for policy formulation and suggested that models indicated that interventions targeted to high-risk groups had the potential of being very effective in reducing the spread of the disease. To ensure that these findings reached decision makers, in 1998 the IUSSP organized a Seminar on the Demographic Impact of AIDS for World Bank and UNAIDS senior officials.

More recently, a Seminar entitled "Taking stock of the condom in the era of HIV/AIDS" was held in Gaborone, Botswana in 2003. Among other things, the Seminar discussed the predictors of condom use for contraception and for disease prevention as well as the barriers to condom use. It then drew lessons relevant to the advocacy of condom use for disease prevention. According to papers presented at the Seminar, the extent of condom use within regular partnerships varied considerably from one case to another but was generally low and there were enormous barriers to condom use within marriage, particularly when fertility was prized.

Lastly, in 2004 a Seminar on "HIV, the Resurgent Infections and Population Change in Africa" was held in Burkina Faso. The Seminar focused on the principal determinants of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa and their consequences for socio-economic development. Participants concluded that the medical approach is not sufficient to address infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS in Africa. Many factors at different levels need to be considered to understand for instance why countries that are most economically developed and most advanced in their transition in Africa are the hardest hit by the epidemic. One obstacle to overcome is the lack of adequate data, e.g. nationally representative data on adult mortality.

In 2005, the IUSSP is proposing to hold a Seminar on "HIV/AIDS and poverty" that will be held in South Africa in December. Both poverty and HIV/AIDS serve as a cross-cutting theme in all activities of the IUSSP, as reflected for example in sessions at our major conferences. In developing our emphasis on this issue, we have been mindful of the high priority given in the ICPD Programme of Action to human development goals, and we are mindful of the centrality of poverty reduction in the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the members and guests of this Commission of the IUSSP's upcoming International Population Conference that will be held in Tours, France, from 18 to 23 July 2005. We are indebted to our French colleagues in the French Association of IUSSP who extended the invitation to hold the conference in France, and for their dedication during the past two years in planning this large event. I will also take this opportunity to express the IUSSP's gratitude to the National Institute of Demographic Studies [INED] in Paris, which has hosted the IUSSP headquarters since 2000.

The Tours Conference will provide an opportunity for scientists, programme managers, and policy-makers from all over the world to review advances made in the study of population issues and to debate the possible actions or policy responses to the challenges posed by population dynamics, especially by the expanding HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Conference programme includes 164 regular sessions, more than 10 devoted to HIV/AIDS. In addition, the French National Organising Committee will host a full day of sessions and round-table discussions on the theme of "The Future of Europe's Population". In addition, the Tours Conference will include a special plenary session hosted by UNFPA on "ICPD Vision: How Far Has the 11 Year Journey Taken Us?" We are hopeful that Mrs. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the UNFPA, may be able to attend the Conference and chair the UNFPA plenary.

I would like to emphasize that attendance at the Tours Conference is open to all members of the population community. We invite interested scholars and experts worldwide to participate in this important event. We are particularly interested in ensuring the attendance of population specialists from developing countries and especially from the least developed countries. This and

other information about the Conference, including session titles and paper abstracts, has been posted on the conference website: <http://www.iussp.org/France2005>. Certainly those who are concerned about the broad range of issues that the ICPD Programme of Action addresses will find much of interest in the programme of the Tours Conference.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, the IUSSP wishes to commend the United Nations Commission on Population and Development for the leadership it has provided in the field of population, from the early years of the United Nations until today. The United Nations has been decisive in influencing the development of population policies and programmes, and it has made a critical contribution to the scientific understanding of population dynamics. For this special credit is due to the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and to the United Nations Population Fund, as abundantly illustrated in the rich and thorough documentation presented to this session of the Commission. For our part, the IUSSP intends to continue to sponsor scientific activities that can inform both the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD and its relevance for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, especially with regard to the control of the spread of HIV.