

viduals and couples to take responsibility for their own reproductive health by removing unnecessary legal, medical, clinical and regulatory barriers to information and to access to family planning methods. . . .

7.16 If these goals are to be achieved, political leaders at all levels and community leaders of all types must play a strong, sustained and highly visible role in promoting and legitimizing the practice of family planning. . . . Leaders and legislators at all levels must translate their public support for family planning into adequate allocations of budgetary, human and administrative resources to help to meet the needs of all those who cannot pay the full cost of services.

7.19 To meet the substantial increase in demand for contraceptives over the next decade and beyond the international community should move on an immediate basis to establish a global facility for the procurement of contraceptive and other commodities essential to reproductive health programs of developing countries. The international community should also facilitate regional cooperation in the manufacture and distribution of such commodities.

Chapter VIII: Health and mortality

8.7 . . . All countries should reexamine [health] training curricula and the assignment of responsibilities within the health care delivery system in order to reduce reliance on physicians and on secondary and tertiary care facilities. They also should seek to make basic health services more sustainable financially by making greater use of social marketing and fee-based services.

8.21 . . . In case of rape and incest, women should have access to safe abortion services. Women who wish to terminate their pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information, compassionate counselling and services for the management of complications of unsafe abortions.

8.29 [In the context of the AIDS pandemic], condoms should be made widely available and should be included in all essential drug lists.

Chapter XI: Population information, education, and communication

11.1 [Objectives] To increase awareness, understanding, and commitment at all levels of society so that individuals, groups, nations and the international community will take those actions necessary to address population issues within the context of sustainable development. To alter attitudes in favor of responsible behavior in family life; to encourage individuals and couples to make informed choices and to take advantage of family planning and reproductive health services.

11.11 The tremendous potential of both print and electronic media should be harnessed to promote and strengthen public understanding of the interrelationships between population and the environment and other population and development issues.

11.12 Countries are invited to consider making greater use of the entertainment media, including radio and television drama, as a source of role models and for encouraging public discussion of important but sometimes sensitive topics.

11.14 To be most effective, education about population issues must begin in primary school and continue through all levels of formal and nonformal education. . . .

Chapter XIV: International cooperation

14.6 There is a strong consensus on the need to mobilize significant additional resources from both the international community and within developing countries for national population programs in support of sustainable development. . . .

14.8 The international community should adopt funding targets for population programs securing contributions commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of the present Program of Action. . . . Given the magnitude of the financial resource need for national population programs . . . and assuming that recipient countries will be able to generate sufficient increases in domestically generated resources to cover two-thirds of the total cost, the need for complementary resource flows from donor countries would be (in 1993 U.S. dollars): \$4.4 billion in 2000, \$4.8 billion in 2005, \$5.3 billion in 2010 and \$5.7 billion in 2015.

Pope expresses 'grave concern' over U.N. agenda

Pope John Paul II met at the Vatican on March 18 with Dr. Nafis Sadik, who is serving as secretary general of the International Conference on Population and Development, to express the Holy See's "grave concerns" over the Cairo conference. The Vatican took the unusual step of releasing the pontiff's remarks. Excerpts follow; all emphases are in the original. Subheads have been added.

In accordance with its specific competence and mission, the Holy See is concerned that proper attention should be given to *the ethical principles* determining actions taken in response to the demographic, sociological, and public policy analyses of the data on population trends. Therefore, the Holy See seeks to focus attention on certain *basic truths*: that each and every person—regardless of age, sex, religion or national background—has a dignity and worth that is unconditional and inalienable; that human life itself from conception to natural death is sacred; that human rights are innate

and transcend any constitutional order; and that the fundamental unity of the human race demands that everyone be committed to building a community which is free from injustice and which strives to promote and protect the common good. These truths about the human person are the measures of any response to the findings which emerge from the consideration of demographic data. It is in the light of authentic human values—recognized by peoples of diverse cultures, [and] religious and national backgrounds across the globe—that all policy choices must be evaluated. No goal or policy will bring positive results for people if it does not respect the unique dignity and objective needs of those same people.

One part of a development strategy

There is widespread agreement that a population policy is only one part of an overall development strategy. Accordingly, it is important that any discussion of population policies should keep in mind the actual and projected development of nations and regions. . . . Development has been and remains the proper context for the international community's consideration of population issues. Within such discussions there naturally arise questions relating to the transmission and nurturing of human life. But to formulate population issues in terms of individual "sexual and reproductive rights" or even in terms of "women's rights," is to change the focus which should be the proper concern of governments and international agencies. I say this without in any way wishing to reduce the importance of securing justice and equity for women.

Moreover, questions involving the transmission of life and its subsequent nurturing cannot be adequately dealt with except in relation to *the good of the family*. . . . The family is an institution founded upon the very nature of the human person, and it is the proper setting for the conception, birth, and upbringing of children. . . .

Today, the duty to safeguard the family demands that particular attention be given to securing for husband and wife the liberty to decide responsibly, free from all social or legal coercion, the number of children they will have and the spacing of their births. It should not be the intent of governments or other agencies to decide for couples but, rather, to create the social conditions which will enable them to make appropriate decisions in the light of their responsibilities to God, to themselves, to the society of which they are a part, and to the objective moral order. . . . All propaganda and misinformation directed at persuading couples that they must limit their family to one or two children should be steadfastly avoided, and couples that generously choose to have large families are to be supported.

Sterilization clearly unacceptable

In defense of the human person, the church stands opposed to the imposition of limits on family size, and to the promotion of methods of limiting births which separate the

unitive and procreative dimensions of marital intercourse, which are contrary to the moral law inscribed on the human heart, or which constitute an assault on the sacredness of life. Thus, sterilization, which is more and more promoted as a method of family planning, because of its finality and its potential for the violation of human rights, especially of women, is clearly unacceptable; it poses a most grave threat to human dignity and liberty when promoted as part of a population policy. Abortion, which destroys existing human life, is a heinous evil, and it is never an acceptable method of family planning, as was recognized by consensus at the Mexico City United Nations International Conference on Population.

To summarize, I wish to emphasize once again what I have written in the encyclical *Centesimus annus*: . . . In the face of the culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life. Human ingenuity seems to be directed more toward limiting, suppressing or destroying the source of life—including recourse to abortion, which unfortunately is so widespread in the world—than toward defending and opening up the possibility of life. . . .

Basic ethical principles contradicted

As the preparations for the Cairo Conference proceed, I wish to assure you, Madam Secretary General, that the Holy See is fully aware of the complexity of the issues involved. This very complexity requires that we carefully weigh the consequences for the present and future generations of the strategies and recommendations to be proposed. In this context, the draft final document of the Cairo Conference, which is already being circulated, is a cause of grave concern to me. Many of the principles which I have just mentioned find no place in its pages, or are totally marginalized. Indeed, certain basic ethical principles are contradicted by its proposals. Political or ideological considerations cannot be, by themselves, the basis on which essential decisions for the future of our society are founded. What is at stake here is the very future of humanity. *Fundamental questions* like the transmission of life, the family, and the material and moral development of society, *need very serious consideration*.

For example, the international consensus of the 1984 Mexico City International Conference on Population, that "in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning," is completely ignored in the draft document. Indeed, there is a tendency to promote an internationally recognized right to access to abortion on demand, without any restriction, *with no regard to the rights of the unborn*, in a manner which goes beyond what even now is unfortunately accepted by the laws of some nations. The vision of sexuality which inspires the document is individualistic. Marriage is ignored, as if it were something of the past. An institution as natural, universal and fundamental as the family cannot be manipulated without causing serious damage to the fabric and stability of society. . . .