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United Nations Economic
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Regional Population Meeting

Budapest (Hungary), 7-9 December 1998

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL POPULATION MEETING

A. Attendance and organisation of work

1. The Meeting was convened in accordance with resolution 52/188, "Population and Development", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which called for "...the operational review of the implementation of the *Programme of Action* of the International Conference on Population and Development". Hosted by the Government of Hungary, the Meeting was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and the United Nations Population Fund. It was held within the context of the preparation of the quinquennial review and appraisal of the *Programme of Action*. The Meeting took place from 7-9 December 1998 in Budapest (Hungary). The Meeting was in the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians.

2. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Y. Berthelot, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. During the opening session the Meeting heard statements from Mr. P. Harrach, Minister of Social and Family Affairs of the Government of Hungary, Dr. N. Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, and Mr. Berthelot.

3. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following ECE Member States: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia,

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Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

4. Representatives of the Holy See participated in the Meeting under Article 8 of the terms of reference of the ECE.

5. Representatives of the following United Nations departments, specialised agencies, and organisations attended the Meeting: United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations International Institute on Ageing (INIA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and World Health Organisation (WHO).

6. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organisations under Article 12 of the terms of reference of the ECE: Council of Europe/ European Population Committee (CDPO), International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia.

7. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organisations: Austrian Society for Family Planning (ÖGF), European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), German Foundation for World Population, Hungarian Women's Association, Interest Group on Population Development and Reproductive Health, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), International Statistical Institute (ISI), Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS), NGO MAMA-86, Population Concern, Pro Familia Hungarian Scientific Society for Family and Women's Welfare, The Moscow Center for Gender Studies, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), and Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO).

8. In addition, 13 eminent population experts, including the authors of the background papers, discussants and members of the Advisory Group for the Meeting, invited in their personal capacity, also attended.

9. A complete list of participants is contained in document CES/PAU/1998/13.

10. The Meeting set up a Drafting Group to review and finalise the Report of the Meeting and its annex, "*Conclusions*" (CES/PAU/1998/30/Annex I). The drafting group met on 7 and 8 December 1998.

B. Agenda

11. The Meeting adopted the following agenda (CES/PAU/1998/1):

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Salient population developments: issues and policies

4. Fertility and reproductive rights: issues and policies
5. Mortality and health, including reproductive health: issues and policies
6. Population ageing: issues and policies
7. International migration: issues and policies
8. General debate
9. Adoption of the report

C. Election of the Bureau

12. The Meeting elected Ms. G. Vukovich, Hungary, Chairperson of the Meeting. It also elected the following four Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. W. Haug, Switzerland, Ms. C. Höhn, Germany, Mr. L. q stby, Norway, and Ms. V. Steshenko, Ukraine. The Meeting further elected Mr. A. Golini, Italy, Chairperson of the Drafting Group. Mr. A. Klinger, the Chairperson of the Advisory Group for the Regional Population Meeting, was an ex-officio member of the Bureau.

D. Review of substantive themes

13. The Meeting reviewed the substantive items on its agenda (items 3-7) on the basis of background papers and national reports. The list of documents is contained in CES/PAU/1998/29.

E. General debate and adoption of the report

14. Following this review a general debate was held on the final day of the Meeting. Subsequently, the Report of the Meeting along with its annex, “*Conclusions*” (CES/PAU/1998/30/Annex I), was adopted.

15. The Meeting decided that the Report, including its annexes, will be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for consideration and approval. The Meeting requested the Executive Secretary of the ECE to simultaneously transmit the “*Conclusions*” (CES/PAU/1998/30/Annex I) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Also, the Meeting requested the Chairperson to concurrently transmit this document to the Preparatory Meeting for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly for the quinquennial review and appraisal of the *Programme of Action*.

16. Furthermore, the Drafting Group requested the Chairperson of the Meeting to transmit the document “*Research Areas*” (CES/PAU/1998/30/Annex II) to the Conference of European Statisticians, which is a non-negotiated final document of the Meeting.