

Statement by
Amy Coen
President
Population Action International
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Your Excellencies, Ministers, Heads of Delegations, representatives of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the European Population Forum. I would like to express our appreciation of the tremendous effort involved in organizing this Forum, and of the excellence, which with the panels thus far have been developed.

My organization, Population Action International, is a privately funded non-governmental organization that focuses on policy and funding aspects of ICPD implementation. This focus is grounded in the belief that sound policies and adequate funding are absolutely necessary if the international community is to reach the goal of universal access to reproductive health services by 2015? The goal so powerfully enunciated in Cairo in 1994.

Ten years later, however, the funding situation remains dire. From the background materials, presentations and other documents available here, we all know that the international community, as a whole, is far from spending what is needed and falling short of even of the limited commitments made in 1994.

In 1994, the international community agreed that a minimum of \$17 billion from all sources would be needed in the year 2000 to provide even the most basic package of reproductive health services. We agreed that the donor community should shoulder one-third of that burden, or roughly \$5.7 billion.

Yet based on the most recent figures, for 2001, overall funding from bilateral, multilateral and private donors is still not even halfway to that year-2000 goal. Indeed, if one takes into account inflation, reported donor funding in 2001 was just 36 percent of what it should have been in the year 2000, or \$2.057 billion out of the \$5.7 billion goal.

There are, of course, limitations with respect to these reported figures. You might say that we face not only a shortfall of resources, but also a shortfall in the tools we need to hold ourselves accountable. In an era of integrated projects, an emphasis on strengthening primary health care systems, and the move from donor-driven to country-driven development, the task of effectively tracking any one dollar or euro is increasingly complicated if not impossible.

So what can be done?

? Strengthen capacity among both donor agencies and recipients to follow the money.

? Measure success and outcomes but find better ways to do it. The indicators for which we have data may not be the right ones or at least not the only ones.

? Spend more. No matter how the pie is divided, the pie is still too small.

? Advocacy, advocacy, advocacy.

This is the first major forum of 2004 - the tenth anniversary of ICPD - and we thank the UNECE for hosting what has been a thought-provoking Forum.