

Caring for the Future

Introduction

Reason for this work.

Cairo, Misgivings about results of population programmes.

The social actors.

Members of the Commission and collaborators;
experts ;
thinkers recognized as such in each region;
participants in public hearings.

Methodology.

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Centered on public hearings.
Secondary research.

Follow-up.



I.

Population in a systemic prospective.1. Population as numbers, population as people.

'Women have children. They do not have population.'

- a) Linkages of faster population growth with education, health, and material welfare:

1932:	2 billion people
2000:	6 billion

projection by mid of XXIst century :

2050:	.	if population growth does not reach fertility rate necessary for replacement of generations, the equivalent of the world population 75 will be added: 4 billion.
.	.	if the fertility rate reaches 2.1, it would be around 8 billion people.

- b) Structure and composition of population:

1 percent of population growth will be in the South.

Almost certain a decrease in Europe in the beginning of next century.

In the South half of the population will be young.

In the North almost 13 per cent of the population will be very old.

- c) Decrease of natality will change radically demographic pyramids.

2. A transition period main features.

- a) The sigmoid curb: experiences in the Salk Institute interpretation of evolution of population in a finished space.

3. Population as people depending on other factors outside the realm of population.

- a) examples already existing provide evidence that population is highly dependent on education and health factors of the women population, hence the central point of situation of women in the analysis of population.
- b) System science shows that no problem can be dealt with in isolation. Population to be discussed together with other parameters of social life and governance.

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II.

Two basic contextual frames for dealing with population:

Carrying capacity of the earth.

Caring capacity of humankind.

1. Carrying capacity.

- a) Change of perspective in the representation of nature in all processes.
 - Integrity of nature at stake.
 - Main factors.
 - Air and water quality.
 - Atmosphere (global warming, ozone, etc.).
 - Forest.
 - Preserving of biodiversity.
 - Resources and waste-sinks.
- b) As a consequence, search for definition of a new paradigm of the equilibrium between nature and human beings.
- c) Decisive role of new industrial equation specifically in consumption patterns and production schemes.

2. World poverty.

- a) Current state.
 - Multiple deprivations.
 - Most striking indicators.
- b) World order



III.

Quality of life as an all-embracing concept.1. Converging factors.

- a) Unanimity of Commission members (reprendre première session)
- b) Sensitivity felt among participants in public hearings of North and South.
- c) Work of several economists including Amartya Sen.

2. Indicators of quality of life.

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- a) Entitlements, functionings, capabilities
 Varying from such elementary matters
 as being well-nurished and disease-free
 to more complex doings or beings such
 as having self-respect,
 preserving human dignity,
 taking part of the life of community,
 and so on.
 - b) The Commission choice of universal human rights inscribed in international documents as concrete and binding.
 - c) Universal character of international agreements encompassing North and South.
 - d) Interwoven elements of subjectivity and objectivity.

- e) Complementing quantitative indicators.
- f) Overcoming fallacies of 'average' figures.

3. Strategies for achieving the sustainable improvement of the quality of life.

- a) Study and reform of current indicators (GNP ?).

Indicators about non-paid, invisible work, and so on.

Targets and timetables.

Question of eventual sanctions at international levels for countries which do not respect timetables agreed on international levels, e.g.

Kyoto, December 1997

Reforming national economic accounts.

IV.

Main factors of quality of life in relation to population issues.1. Education

- a) Education as basic factor in determining fertility rate.
- b) Right to education. 'What is it like to be illiterate'? page 174.
- c) Confusion at the international level between targets and timetables.
- d) The current situation of primary education, drop-outs and repeaters, illiterate adults, gender inequality.
- e) Need for use of potential of new technologies conducive to revolution of the very concept of institutional education.
- f) Recent emergence in the European Union of concepts such as tutorship and mentorship in programmes for adults
(Fourth programme on educational opportunities).

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2. Health

- a) Essential element of dignity of life.
- b) Health rights unmet.
 - Discussion among
 - . rights to health,
 - . rights to protection in sickness conditions, and so on.
- c) Most important field of human rights where real progress has been made.
- d) Assessment of new technology for health care.
- e) Studies on criteria for social security benefits in health care (in the Netherlands and Sweden).
- f) Problems unsolved.
 - Allocation of resources to different types of diseases.
 - Disparities between North and South.
 - Management of resources for health care.
 - Priority of primary health care.
 - Geographic and cultural access to health care.
 - The waiting list
- g) Unfinished revolution.

3. Work

- a) Work as central for quality of life.
- b) Main goals of work:
 - . to provide income security and wellbeing;
 - . to accomplish tasks necessary for society to function;
 - . to accomplish tasks so far unattended.
- c) Concept of work as a continuum.

Unemployment as triggering new reflection on work.
Concept of active society.

Changes of work patterns in different sectors

- . Creating livelihood in rural developing areas,
- . the importance of the informal sector, labour markets in industrialized environment.

- d) Transitional labour market and of replacement of sequence learning/work/retirement by different types of activities according to different stages of life-cycle.

4. Mobilization of financial resources.

- a) Deficit of savings at the international level.
- b) Several types of proposals for obtaining 'fresh' money.

The advantage of the Tobin charge on currency transactions.

Interest and difficulties encountered.

V.

Changes needed ask for a new social contract.

1. Governance: governments and civil society.
2. National governments and international organizations: EU, ONU, Bretton Woods.
3. National integrative policies for
agents for development,
agents for population,
agents for humanitarian action,
and so on,

4. Sexual contract within social contract.

Empowerment of women.

Equality/Parity.



VI.

Caring

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