

B. Formulating integrated national policies for
population and environment and development *taking into account*
demographic trends and factors

Basis for action

57. Existing plans for sustainable development have generally recognized demographic trends and factors as critical elements which influence consumption patterns, production, lifestyles and long-term sustainability. But in future, more attention will have to be given to these issues in general policy formulation and the design of development plans. To do this, all countries will have to improve their own capacities to assess the environment and development implications of their demographic trends and factors. As well, they will need to formulate and implement policies and action programmes where appropriate. Policies should be designed to address the consequences of population growth built into population momentum, while, at the same time, incorporating measures to bring about demographic transition. They should combine environmental concerns and population issues within a holistic view of development where the primary goals include: alleviation of poverty; secure livelihoods; good health; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training, fulfilment of their personal aspirations; and empowerment of individuals and communities. Recognizing that large increases in the size and number of cities will occur in developing countries under any likely population scenario, greater attention should be given to preparing for the needs, of *in particular* *of women* *and of the* improved municipal management and local government.

Objective

58. Full integration of population concerns into national planning, policy and decision-making process should continue. Population policies and programmes should be considered, with full recognition of women's rights.

Activities

59. Governments and other relevant actors could, inter alia, undertake the following activities, with appropriate assistance of aid agencies, and report on their status of implementation to the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development, especially to its Committee on Population and Environment.

(a) Assess the implications of national demographic trends and factors

60. The relationships between demographic trends and factors, and environmental change, and between environmental degradation and the components of demographic change should be analysed.

61. Research should be conducted on how environmental factors interact with socio-economic ones as a cause of migration.