

12. In 1994 there will be a series of meetings and other events to mark the UN's **World Year of the Family**. There has been some concern that because of special meanings attached by some to the concept of "family", this might develop cross-currents at variance with ideas implicit in the work of that year's International Conference on Population and Development and its predecessors, particularly since it is being organised by a less than fully capable element of the UN Secretariat in Vienna. Cooperation has been established with UNFPA, and countries including Canada are endeavouring to ensure they take a consistent approach in both fora. The "Year" has poor funding prospects.

(c) Non-UN Bodies

1. The **IBRD** has been extensively involved in lending for population purposes for some time; the figure will be about US \$180 m. in 1992 (an exceptional figure of \$351 for 1991 was fortuitous). It thus comes second only to **USAID** in the population field. While its efforts are more concentrated than those of the **UNFPA**, its loans have helped a substantial number of countries develop population policies, including family planning, and it has provided useful leadership for specific major projects (e.g. in Bangladesh where Canada's own largest population program has benefited from IBRD coordination of donor activity). However due to its decentralised structure its approach is perhaps not as geographically consistent as might be desirable; there is also, it is said, some current weakness of support at the top.

2. The **DAC** (the **OECD's** Development Assistance Committee) has devoted some attention to population issues, although its five subsidiary working parties and expert groups do not include one on population; in contrast, the **OECD's** Manpower and Social Affairs Committee has long had a Working Party on Migration. Some landmarks are:

- The **DAC** met on population to prepare for the 1984 International Conference on Population, and will do so again to prepare for the 1994 Conference.
- A Policy Statement issued by **DAC** "Aid Ministers and Heads of Aid Agencies" in December 1989 referred to "an imperative need to slow population growth in those many countries where it is too high to permit sustainable development" and their readiness "to help developing countries to establish, fund and implement effective population strategies and programmes as a matter of priority".
- A special **DAC** meeting on population and development in April 1990 endorsed the conclusions of the 1989 Amsterdam Declaration, and its conclusions were adopted by the "Senior Aid Policy Officials" meeting of June 1990. As followup, the **DAC** was to "keep a watching brief on the progress of implementation of the above population initiatives through Aid Reviews, improved statistical reporting and other relevant activities". Will it?