

Objectives

46. The following objectives should be achieved as soon as practicable:

(a) Incorporate demographic trends and factors in the global analysis of environment and development issues;

(b) Develop a better understanding of the relationships among demographic dynamics, technology, cultural behaviour, natural resources, and life support systems;

(c) Assess human vulnerability in ecologically sensitive areas and centres of population to determine the priorities for action at all levels, taking full account of community defined needs.

Activities

Research on interaction between demographic trends and factors, and sustainable development

47. Relevant international, regional and national institutions should consider undertaking the following activities:

(a) Identify the interactions between demographic processes, natural resources and life support systems, bearing in mind regional and subregional variations deriving from, inter alia, different levels of development;

(b) Integrate demographic trends and factors into the ongoing study of environmental change, using the expertise of international, regional and national research networks, and of local communities to first study the human dimensions of environmental change and, second, to identify vulnerable areas;

(c) Identify priority areas for action and develop strategies and programmes to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental change on human populations, and vice versa.

Means of implementation

(a) Financing and cost evaluation

48. [Research and dissemination of results will require US\$ 10 million annually from international sources.] It should be adequately financed taking into account the role of existing agencies in this field .

(b) Strengthen research programmes that integrate population, environment and development

49. In order to integrate demographic analysis as part of a broader social sciences perspective of environment and development, interdisciplinary research should be increased. International institutions and networks of