

Tanzania, contained two brief but firmly phrased sections stressing the importance of prompt adoption of policies designed to have an impact on population growth, including measures for women and rapid expansion of family planning, although nothing was said about resources for such policies relative to other aspects of development. This has been hailed as the first high-level statement on population emanating from developing countries alone.

7. The documents approved by the September 1990 **World Summit for Children**, co-sponsored by Canada, include, among much else, mention of "responsible planning of family size and ...child spacing" and the need for access to information on this, as well as research in family planning and the prevention of too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many pregnancies. A number of these themes, although not new, had not been approved at Head of Government level before.

8. The September 1990 Paris Declaration of the **Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**, attended by Canada, mentioned that high rates of population growth were a fundamental problem for a number of these countries and stressed that population policies should be considered an integral part of national development strategies.

9. The November 1990 Ministerial Declaration of the **Second World Climate Conference** noted that a projected increase in world population was a contributing factor in the projected increase in greenhouse gases.

10. The **International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade**, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1990, included in its recommendations on "priority aspects of development" a section saying that population assistance should be "substantially increased" in the 1990's and that developing countries should also "intensify their efforts to allocate adequate resources to population programmes".

11. The June 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, or **UNCED**, is unlikely to place the same emphasis on population as its near-namesake the Brundtland Commission. Some influential Latin American countries initially sought to keep population issues off the table, lest UNCED be distracted from its main task, as they see it, of securing financial and other concessions from the North; and for other reasons they were backed by the USA, and to some extent at first by Maurice Strong, although he has publicly stressed that "population is a critical element in the environment/development equation". This situation has gradually and partly shifted during the preparatory process, through the efforts of some developed and a few developing countries; Canada has participated only to a limited extent in these efforts. As a result, population, while still not to be a principal topic of debate, has now been accepted as an item in UNCED's voluminous follow-on "Agenda 21" in recognition of its status as a contributing factor to environmental problems.