

3. The World Health Organisation (WHO) acts as an executing agency for UNFPA abroad and has at its HQ a research program into reproductive technologies and contraceptive safety of about \$50 m. per biennium, into which it puts some \$1.3 of seed money, the rest coming from UNFPA, the IBRD and individual donors. Canada (CIDA) ceased its contribution to this program a few years ago because of perceived managerial weaknesses at the time, although a small IDRC contribution continued for a period. WHO also provides some \$12 million for maternal and child health, contributing indirectly to family planning. Its programs have been criticised internally as insufficiently focused on the poorest countries and populations, and as not taking enough account of population shifts and urban growth trends. Cooperation with UNFPA has sometimes been uneven on the ground, although there are various UN committees which work to ensure coordination both at HQ and in the field between UN agencies involved in health, children and population.

4. UNICEF, another executing agency for UNFPA, for political reasons formerly tended to minimise involvement in family planning and even sought to avoid the term; but it has very recently shifted in its pronouncements and practical activities to a much more positive attitude, and cooperation with UNFPA, while still poor in the field, is now good at the executive level. This was partly under pressure from its Executive Board, and in response to the growing view, reiterated at the 1990 World Summit for Children among other places, that child welfare and safe motherhood can be gravely harmed by too many or too frequent children.

5. ILO and UNESCO, also with UNFPA funding, spread awareness of family planning activities and methods among important constituencies in developing countries, the ILO among labour leaders, workers and their families through education work on population issues, and UNESCO among teachers because of its work developing family planning curriculum material. The ILO's population programme is supposed to help member states incorporate demographic elements into development, with emphasis on human resources and employment. There is also educational and other activity, mainly for UNFPA, by FAO, UNIDO, and the Regional Commissions.

(b) Major UN and Other Conferences and Declarations

1. The most important of these are the huge 1974 and 1984 **International Conferences on Population** in Bucharest and Mexico City respectively, and their projected successor, the 1994 **International Conference on Population and Development**. The World Population Plan of Action agreed upon in 1974 set out the basic right of couples and individuals "to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so" taking into account "the needs of their living and future children and their responsibility towards the community", and indicated general principles for family planning and population growth reduction; it was strongly advocated by the USA and other Western countries, but accepted only