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# news release

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## QUELLET ANNOUNCES DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Citizenship and Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi will lead Canada's official delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Conference, from September 5 to 13 in Cairo Egypt, will bring together representatives of up to 180 nations to discuss the complex links between population growth rates, social and economic development, the empowerment of women, the environment and migrations.

A Programme of Action, to be adopted at the Conference, will set out the objectives and required actions in the field of population and development for the next 20 years.

"Canada has worked hard in the preparations for the Cairo Conference and we strongly support the approach taken in its draft Programme of Action. It recognizes that economic development and population growth must be managed in a way that does not destroy the life-support systems of our planet. And it recognizes that empowering women is key to that goal," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Environmental degradation, conflict and privation force millions of people to flee their homes every year," said Mr. Marchi. "Making it possible for people to stay home, in security and with hope for their future, is the key to ensuring that migration is a matter of choice, not desperation. Recognizing the crucial link between international migration and development is what the Cairo Conference is also about."

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will join Mr. Marchi in Cairo, following her trip to Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Canadian delegation to the ICPD includes six Canadian parliamentarians and representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations. They are the Canadian Council for Refugees, L'association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the Ontario Conservation Council, the Canadian Federation of Demographers and Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada.

In preparing for the Cairo Conference, the Canadian government invited the views of a wide range of Canadians, principally through the National Advisory Council on the ICPD. The Government also welcomed the views of individual Canadians, interest groups, parliamentarians, the provinces and United Nations agencies.

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