

Media Update

10 July 2019

United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

WORLD POPULATION DAY

11 July 2019

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the world’s blueprint for a better future for all on a healthy planet. On World Population Day, we recognize that this mission is closely interrelated with demographic trends including population growth, ageing, migration and urbanization.

While the world’s population overall continues to increase, this growth is uneven. For many of the world’s least developed countries, the challenges to sustainable development are compounded by rapid population growth as well as vulnerability to climate change. Other countries are facing the challenge of ageing populations, including the need to promote healthy active ageing and to provide adequate social protection. As the world continues to urbanize, with 68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, sustainable development and climate change will increasingly depend on the successful management of urban growth.

While managing these population trends, we must also recognize the relationship between population, development and individual well-being. Twenty-five years ago, at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), world leaders first spelt out the links between population, development and human rights, including reproductive rights. They also recognized that promoting gender equality is both the right thing to do and one of the most reliable pathways to sustainable development and improved well-being for all.

This year's World Population Day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the Cairo ICPD Conference.

Despite progress in lowering maternal mortality and unintended pregnancies, many challenges remain. Around the world, we are seeing pushback on



women's rights, including on essential health services. Issues related to pregnancy are still the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19. Gender-based violence, which is rooted in inequality, continues to take a horrific toll.

In November, a summit marking the 25th anniversary of the Cairo Conference will take place in Nairobi. I encourage Member States to participate at the highest levels and to make firm political and financial commitments to realize the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

Carrying forward the vision of the ICPD will unlock opportunities for those left behind and help pave the way for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development for all.”

About the Day:

World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

This year's World Population Day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Twenty-five years have passed since that landmark conference, where 179 governments recognized that reproductive health and gender equality are essential for achieving sustainable development.

In November, UNFPA, together with the governments of Kenya and Denmark, will be convening a high-level conference in Nairobi to accelerate efforts to achieve these unmet goals. On World Population Day, advocates from around the world are calling on leaders, policymakers, grassroots organizers, institutions and others to help make reproductive health and rights a reality for all.

Background

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outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

By resolution 45/216 of December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population Day to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.

The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. Since then, a number of a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with governments and civil society.

Population Trends

Current estimates indicate that roughly 83 million people are being added to the world's population every year. Even assuming that fertility levels will continue to decline, the global population is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to the medium-variant projection.

The UN and Population

The UN Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme on population and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding population estimates and projections, and information and analyses on population and development issues.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies to increase their technical assistance to national statistical offices in order to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. In addition, the Commission requested countries to begin implementation of the revised Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

UNFPA works with many partners, both within and outside the United Nations system, including Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, religious leaders and others, to achieve its mission. To better respond to local needs, UNFPA increasingly devotes resources to country-led efforts, placing emphasis on country-focused and country-led implementation to achieve improved results, at the same time addressing mutual accountability and strengthening harmonization and alignment.

UNFPA works to support family planning by: ensuring a steady, reliable supply of quality contraceptives; strengthening national health systems; advocating for policies supportive of family planning; and gathering data to support this work. UNFPA also provides global leadership in increasing access to family planning, by convening partners – including governments – to develop evidence and policies, and by offering programmatic, technical and financial assistance to developing countries.

For more information:

<https://www.un.org/en/events/populationday/>

FAO

PRESS RELEASE

STA formally declares accredited status for Central Seed Testing Laboratory Islamabad I

Islamabad, 10 July 2019: International Seed Testing Associations (ISTA) has formally declared accredited status for Central Seed Testing Laboratory (CSTL), Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSC&RD), Islamabad.

FAO Pakistan over the last two years has been actively supporting FSC&RD in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. First, under the Technical Cooperation Programme “Building Capacity of Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department to Facilitate Seed and Plant Supply



Industry Regulation” followed by the ongoing TCP “Improved Capacity in Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Varietal Development and Integration in the Seed System”.

Playing an instrumental role in setting up the necessary systems and expertise required, FAO with the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department organized a training programme (2-4 April 2019) on “Seed Sampling and Seed Testing to meet ISTA Accreditation Requirements”. Two international consultants, Dr. Maria Duter Elena and Dr. Sergio Pasquini trained the officials, covering areas of seed sampling, purity analysis and moisture testing in line with International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) guidelines, while reviewing the systems and procedures put in place. This training enabled the Central Seed Testing Laboratory Islamabad in meeting the last and final requirements of accreditation.

FAO Representative Ms. Mina Dowlatchahi distributed certificates at the closing ceremony of the training, and announced ongoing support from FAO for this venture, including financial support to FSC&RD for ISTA annual membership fee payment. She stated, “The accreditation of the first Pakistan Central Seed Testing Laboratory Islamabad is an important achievement making headway and bringing to international standards Pakistan’s Seed System”.

FAO implemented the Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF) on ‘Improved Capacity in Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Varietal Development and Integration in the Seed System’. This technical cooperation aimed to facilitate government institutions in professional handling of plant genetic resources, crop variety development and seed system regulations in line with international best practices. This enabled institutions to align their activities and programmes in line with the amendments through enactment of “Seed (Amendment) Act 2015” and separate legislation of “Plant Breeders’ Rights (PBR) Act 2016”. TCPF supports the concerned public and private sector institutions in improving their capacity in plant genetic use and varietal development programmes through adopting international good practices as well as align their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in line with international treaties /agreements.
