

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

7 JULY 1982

DOCUMENT 1-494/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr JOHNSON and Mr Christopher JACKSON

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on Population and Development

PE 79.787

The European Parliament

- A. aware that in the 25 years up to 1975 the total world population increased from just under 2,500 million to over 4,000 million and that by mid-1981 it had reached approximately 4,500 million,
- B. aware that currently world population is growing at an average rate of 1.7 per cent a year which, if it continued, would mean that world population would reach over 6,000 million by the year 2000 and would double to 9,000 million approximately by the year 2020,
- C. aware that nine-tenths of this increase⁺ will take place in the less-developed world, thus, in the words of the Brandt Report
"compounding the task of providing food, jobs, shelter, education and health services, of mitigating absolute poverty and of meeting the colossal financial and administrative needs of rapid urbanization",
- D. recalling the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, adopted by the United Nations World Population Conference held in Bucharest in 1974, where the inter-relationship of population and development is recognized ("population variables influence development variables and are also influenced by them"),
- E. recognizing the growing commitment to the concept of the integration of population programmes in development aid among Parliamentarians from all political parties and countries as manifested in the Declaration of the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development held at Colombo, Sri Lanka in August/September 1979 and further developed in different regions of the world through the Rome Conference on population and the urban future (September 1980); the Kuala Lumpur Conference for ASEAN Parliamentarians (September 1980), the Nairobi Conference for African Parliamentarians (October 1981) and the Strasbourg Colloquium for Council of Europe Member countries (December 1981),
- F. Noting that the Declaration of the Ottawa Summit of July 1981 contains the following statement (Point 20): "We are deeply concerned about the implications of world population growth. Many developing countries are taking action to deal with that problem, in ways sensitive to human values and dignity, and to develop human resources including technical and managerial capabilities. We recognize the importance of these issues and will place greater emphasis on international efforts in these areas",

+ See Annex

- G. Noting that similar statements were made in the context of the World Economic Summit, Cancun, October 1981 and the Versailles Summit, June 1982,
 - H. Noting in particular the numerous calls by the United Nations for increased international assistance in the field of population and development including the requirement adopted by the Paris Conference on the least developed countries (September 1981) that the least developed countries should be assisted to "give priority to the needs of women, nutrition, health, family planning and housing",
1. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with other agencies and bodies to encourage and assist the governments and peoples of developing countries to:
- a. strengthen and expand socio-economic development programmes and to formulate appropriate population policies as an integral part of these programmes in consonance with national needs and aspirations.
 - b. Examine population trends in their countries and the impact of these trends on health, education, employment, agricultural and industrial development, housing and environmental conditions.
 - c. To take deliberate steps to promote and strengthen the integration of population programmes in all development activities, including efforts to increase knowledge of the inter-relationships between population and development among policy makers, planners, civil servants and development workers, and to promote and strengthen the integration of population education with all levels of education.
 - d. Direct more of the available national resources to the rural areas where the vast majority of the people live and to ensure more equitable and balanced development by providing a more comprehensive network of decentralized and Community based services to meet basic human needs.
 - e. To establish equality between men and women in public, political, economic, social, cultural and family responsibilities so as to enable women to exercise their basic human rights and to play more effective roles both by formulating policies and by participating in programmes on population and development.
 - f. Ensure that all couples and individuals can exercise their basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and have the information, education and means to do so.

2. further calls upon the Commission to direct an increasing proportion of the resources devoted to development co-operation, including the European Development Fund (EDF), to helping the Governments and peoples of developing countries pursue the tasks set out in the preceding paragraph ;
3. Calls upon the Commission to support, in collaboration with the Member States, increased biological and social research into safer, more efficient and more widely acceptable techniques of fertility regulation, including the effective management of family planning programmes;
4. Calls upon the Commission, as part of the general co-ordination at Community level of the individual (bilateral) policies and programmes of development cooperation of the Member States, to encourage Member States to devote increasing attention and resources to the integration of population and development programmes;
5. Calls upon the Commission to encourage Member States, so far as their contribution to multilateral and international organizations and bodies is concerned, to increase their support to those organisations and bodies, particularly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), which are actively trying to promote the integration of population and development programmes;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to the Council of the European Communities, and to the Joint Presidents of the ACP-EEC Council.

Annex to the Motion for Resolution on Population and Development
tabled by Mr S Johnson and Mr C Jackson

TABLE 3. POPULATION OF THE WORLD AND MAJOR AREAS, 1950 AND 1975, AND "MEDIUM" PROJECTIONS, 1980 AND 2000

Area	Population (millions)				Percentage increase		Percentage distribution	
	1950	1975	1980	2000	1950-1975	1975-2000	1975	2000
World	2 513	4 033	4 415	6 199	60.5	53.7	100.0	100.0
Africa	219	406	469	828	85.3	104.0	10.1	13.4
Latin America	164	323	368	608	97.1	88.5	8.0	9.8
Northern America	166	236	246	290	42.3	22.5	5.9	4.7
East Asia	673	1 063	1 136	1 406	58.0	32.2	26.4	22.7
South Asia	706	1 255	1 422	2 205	77.7	75.7	31.1	35.6
Europe	392	474	484	520	21.0	9.7	11.8	8.4
Oceania	13	21	23	30	67.3	40.0	0.5	0.5
USSR	180	254	267	312	41.3	22.6	6.3	5.0

Source: *World Population Trends and Prospects by Country, 1950-2000: Summary Report of the 1978 Assessment* (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.R/33).