

DECLARATION OF BRASÍLIA
ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

15-18 March 2001

Brasilia, Brazil

The participants of the Rotary International Latin American Conference in Brasília declare:

WHEREAS, CONSIDERING:

1 – the extraordinary participation of the Minister of State of the Special Secretariat for the Urban Development, **Ovídio de Angelis**, personal representative of the President of the Republic of Brazil, Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso;

2 – the specific presentations on subjects of population and development done by Rotarian and non-Rotarian leaders of countries of Latin America, the United States of America, England, Germany, Switzerland and Uganda;

3 – the high level of the significant changes of the population dynamics, with the deep social, economic and political repercussions, presented by **Dr. Sethurmiah Rao**, the representative of Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);

4 – the analysis of the discussion groups that studied the challenges of the education of children, of women and of the men living in poverty situations; the social challenges being faced by the women in the 21st century, as well as of urban and domestic violence;

5 – the means with which Rotarians can work with the media to create awareness of population and sustainable development concerns;

6 – the presentations for the use of Revolving Loan Funds to promote micro-enterprise;

7 – the deadly disease of HIV/AIDS and its transmission, presented in the programs utilized by Uganda, Costa Rica and Brazil, specifying its prevention;

8 – the Rotary 3-H Project for child spacing in northern Nigeria;

9 – the Projects Fair for partnerships in the education for women and young girls, vocational education, health centers, revolving loan funds for micro-enterprise and the prevention of HIV/AIDS;

10 – the extraordinary institutional support of UNFPA in the form of financial patronage, human resources and technical assistance;

11 – the results of the discussion group on “Urbanization with Social Integration”, that examined several examples of what happens in slums, urban conglomerates of sub-normal habitations, without sanitary infrastructure, potable water,

education, health, transportation, and where life cannot be lived with dignity, being appreciated with several examples of projects with the construction of low cost housing;

12 - the results of the discussion group on “Public Administration”, involving the participation of Rotarian administrators, as well as of other specialists on the subject, discussing actions taken in light of management plans;

13 - the results of the “Virtual Conference” via computers, that sent more than six hundred e-mail messages and accounted for effective world wide Rotaractor participation in a demonstration of our youths’ readiness for their involvement in the subject of population growth and sustainable development;

14 - the results presented by **Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann**, nominee of the Brazilian Government for the Nobel Peace Prize, the Director of the Rotary Teaching Center for Preparation of Professionals (CEPRO) for needy communities and reducing the rates of infant mortality.

THE LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE, BY THE UNANIMITY OF ITS PARTICIPANTS, RECOMMENDS TO THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

1 – to commend the dedication of Latin American Rotarians for their contributions to the success of the Latin American Conference on Population and Development in Brasilia;

2 – to encourage Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts to work with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), Youth Business International (YBI) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the planning of projects dedicated to the challenge of population growth, including reproductive health, through the utilization of Rotary Volunteers, Matching Grants and 3-H Grants of the Rotary Foundation and other programs for youth of Rotary International;

3 – to encourage Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts to develop projects related to the challenges of the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through work with local governments, the United Nation Agencies, especially UNFPA, and other NGOs;

4 – to encourage Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts, when involved in educational projects, to emphasize the inclusion of women and young girls in addition to encouraging Latin American Rotarians to use Revolving Loan Funds to encourage and to strengthen women in developing microenterprises, possibly in partnership with the United Nations, YBI and other organizations;

5 – that more projects for population and development be approved by the Rotary Foundation with the objectives to educate women and young girls, to provide programs for health care and especially maternal health provided by trained professionals and considering the cultural, ethnic and religious differences of the involved communities;

6 – to develop programs directed toward the prevention of domestic and urban violence;

7 – recognizing the challenges of the 21st century, Rotarians representing Latin America and participants of the Latin American Conference on Population and Development applaud the recent approval of the “Memorandum of Cooperation” between Rotary International and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which allows both organizations to develop and to find appropriate avenues for this partnership through Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts. **It is RECOMMENDED THAT THIS “MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION” be MAINTAINED ON A CONTINUAL BASIS.**

Brasília, March 17, 2001