



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

and

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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The United Nations Population Fund (hereinafter referred to as “UNFPA”) and Rotary International (hereinafter referred to as “RI”),

Taking Note

- that UNFPA is the leading organization in the United Nations system in promoting and coordinating population and reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health programmes. UNFPA adheres to and advocates for the full respect of human rights;
- that UNFPA’s main areas of work are: to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, for all couples and individuals on or before the year 2015, as well as to promote safe motherhood and HIV/AIDS prevention; to help countries address the interactions between population dynamics, sustainable development and poverty and to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programmes; to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment; and to promote awareness of population and development issues and to advocate for the mobilization of the resources and political will necessary to achieve population and development goals in accordance with the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994, and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action (ICPD+5) adopted by the twenty-first special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 and subsequently reaffirmed at regional and global levels in 2004;
- that RI is the Association of Rotary Clubs, whose membership is made up of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world;
- that the Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster, among other things, the application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business and community life; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service;
- that UNFPA and RI share a commitment to address and solve issues related to population and development, particularly with respect to population stabilization, reproductive health, sustainable development and poverty alleviation, in order to improve the standards and conditions of living of all people and to alleviate human suffering around the world;

- the UNFPA and RI encourage and promote full respect for the fundamental freedoms for all persons and for all human rights, including the internationally accepted basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to exercise that right;
- that in 1999, the RI Board of Directors established the Committee on Population Growth and Development, adopted a position statement to address population and development challenges and recommended to the Rotary clubs and districts that they "...increase awareness and ...undertake even more projects that directly impact population growth and sustainable development. Projects would include those that promote education on the issues of population, access to family health care, adequate nutrition, and enable individuals to make informed decisions about issues such as child spacing, in a way that is in keeping with their personal values and religious considerations;"
- that UNFPA and RI possess complementary assets and capacities in their organizations, human resources and positioning, and recognize that the effectiveness of both organizations in meeting population and development challenges may be strengthened through collaborative undertakings with each other;
- that UNFPA and RI desire to cooperate in order to pursue their common objectives in the area of population and development, including reproductive health, to establish general principles and identify areas in which such cooperation may take place;

Conscious of the need for closer and more systematic cooperation between UNFPA and RI on matters of common interest, and desirous of further enhancing and strengthening such cooperation;

Hereby agree to the following ideals governing their cooperation:

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish a framework for cooperation between UNFPA and RI in order to share information and resources in the fields of population and reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, safe motherhood and HIV/AIDS prevention, and to promote awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population challenges.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS

1. UNFPA shall encourage its Country Representatives and Country Technical Service Teams (CSTs) and RI shall encourage its Clubs and Districts to initiate mutual substantive dialogues and consultations with the purpose of identifying specific local population and development needs and of discussing possible means of collaboration to address the identified needs.
2. UNFPA and RI shall invite each other, as appropriate, to send representatives to attend conferences, expert group seminars and other meetings which either Party is organizing.

ARTICLE III

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

1. UNFPA and RI shall endeavour to keep each other informed of major developments of mutual interest related to the population and development area.
2. UNFPA and RI agree to exchange information and publications to the fullest extent possible on matters of common interest as defined in the Memorandum, and to distribute, as feasible and appropriate, such documentation within their respective organizations at Headquarters and field level and, as feasible and appropriate, to other interested groups.
3. When appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements of each organization, information and documentation relating to specific projects or programmes may also be exchanged between the Parties with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective cooperation between the two Organizations as well as with other organizations involved in population and development, including reproductive health and advocacy, efforts.

ARTICLE IV

JOINT ACTION

1. UNFPA and RI may, through special separate arrangements or agreements, decide to act jointly in the implementation of projects that are of common interest. Such special arrangements or agreements shall define the means for the participation of each organization in the respective projects and shall determine the contributions to be made by each of the Parties.
2. UNFPA and RI shall take steps to promote greater collaboration and coordination at all levels and particularly at field level on population and development initiatives.

ARTICLE V

COOPERATION ON AWARENESS CREATION

1. UNFPA and RI shall cooperate in activities related to the promotion of awareness on population and development issues.
2. RI, through its 1.2 million members and the unique worldwide structure of Rotary Clubs and Districts, shall promote the importance of population and development issues, through presentations at Rotary gatherings and at meetings of other interested groups. RI shall also promote assistance for population and development programmes, by incorporating population and sustainable development projects into the Rotary International Projects database and encouraging Rotary Clubs and Districts to support public and private funding for such projects.

3. RI agrees to promote population and development projects — especially those that seek to delay first birth and promote child spacing and which help enhance the status of women — at all levels through inter-country partnerships, supported by local Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Zones, utilizing The Rotary Foundation’s Humanitarian Grants and other sources. The ICPD Programme of Action, Article 8.25, states that “In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning.” In accordance with this Article, RI and UNFPA do not provide funding for abortion services.

ARTICLE VI

ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS, TERMINATION AND RENEWAL

1. This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of the accomplishment of the respective constitutional obligations by each Party for entry into force of such agreement. Upon its entry into force, both Parties shall disseminate this Memorandum within their respective Organizations.
2. This Memorandum may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties, in accordance with the respective constitutional obligations of the two Organizations. Proposed amendment(s) should be made in writing to the other Party; the recipient Party agrees to give full consideration to the proposed amendment(s) and to advise the sending Party of its decision within six (6) months of receipt of the proposed amendment(s). Amendments to this Memorandum shall enter into force upon the signed consent of both UNFPA and RI.
3. The term of this Memorandum shall begin with the latter date of the signing of the Memorandum by the Parties and terminate on 30 June 2008. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum at any time in the interim. RI and UNFPA shall agree on actions to be taken concerning cooperative work, if any, which may be in progress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and of Rotary International have signed the present Memorandum of Cooperation in two (2) original copies, both being equally authentic.

For the United Nations Population Fund

For Rotary International

Thoraya Obaid
Executive Director

Ed Futa
General Secretary



(date) 3 NOV 2005



(date)