

# Section 1 : Social and Economic Dimensions

## Chapter 5 : Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability

### A. Developing and disseminating knowledge concerning the links between demographic trends and factors

The increasing world population combined with unsustainable consumption patterns is considered to be placing increasingly severe stress on the life supporting capacities of our planet. There is a need to develop strategies to mitigate both the adverse impact of human activities on the environment and environmental change on human populations.

#### Objectives

- to develop a better understanding of the relationships among demographics, technology, cultural behaviour and natural resources and development issues.

#### Activities

Relevant regional, national and international institutions should:

- identify the interactions between demographic processes, natural resources and life support systems and integrate these into studies of environmental change
- develop, exchange and disseminate information and increase public awareness on efficient resource management
- identify priority areas for action and develop strategies/programmes to mitigate adverse impact of environmental change on humans and the adverse impact of humans on the environment.

### B. Formulating integrated national policies for environment and development, taking into account demographic trends and factors

More attention must be paid to population trends in general policy formulation and the design of development plans. Thus, all countries will need to improve their own capacities to assess the effects of demographics on the environment and development and where appropriate, implement policies to address the consequences of these changes.

#### Objectives

- to fully integrate population concerns into national planning, policy and decision making, with full recognition of women's rights.

#### Activities

Governments should:

- build and strengthen national information bases on population trends and environmental threats

- assess the implications of national population trends to vulnerable populations, resources, sustainable development and traditional land use and incorporate these into relevant policies
- strengthen structures at all levels that deal with issues relating to population trends and sustainable development.

### **C. Implementing integrated environment and development programmes at the local level, taking into account demographic trends and factors**

To attain sustainability at the local level, a new framework is needed that integrates demographic trends and factors with such factors as ecosystem health, technology, human settlements, socio-economic structures and access to resources.

#### **Objectives**

- to implement population programmes, natural resource management and development programmes at the local level to ensure sustainable use of natural resources, improve the quality of life of people and enhance environmental quality.

#### **Activities**

Governments and local communities should:

- develop a framework for consultation and the implementation of programmes to achieve multiple objectives such as encouraging sustainable economic development and mitigating adverse impacts of demographic trends and factors
- promote changes in demographics towards sustainability
- promote human resource development and capacity building via education and training of all
- promote co-operation among relevant organisations.