



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The Philippines wishes to join the community of nations in expressing support for the International conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The Philippines upholds and reiterates the following principles which guide government and other stakeholders in the implementation on the population program. These principles are:

1. The Macapagal-Arroyo administration aims to reduce the population growth rate to 1.9% by 2010.
2. The State promotes Responsible Parenthood, which is the will and ability to respond to the needs and aspirations of the family. It promotes the freedom of responsible parents to decide on the timing and size of their families in pursuit of a better life.
3. The State promotes Respect for Life. The 1987 Constitution protects the life of the unborn from the moment of conception. Abortion is unacceptable as a method of family planning. Pursuant to this principle, we endorse the term Reproductive Health or Reproductive Health Services only on the condition that it explicitly excludes abortion.
4. The State promotes Birth Spacing. Proper spacing of 3 to 5 years from recent pregnancy enables women to recover from pregnancy and to improve her well-being, as well as the health of the child and the relationship between husband and wife and between parents and children.
5. The State respects Informed Choice. Couples and Individuals may choose the methods that they will use to exercise Responsible Parenthood in accordance with their religious and ethical values and cultural background, subject to conformity with universally recognized international human rights.
6. Health services, including Reproductive health Services, are devolved by the Local Government Code to the local government units. Local Government Units have the responsibility of providing couples and individuals with information and services to enable them to exercise Responsible Parenthood.

Together with the world's governments, the Philippines emphasizes its commitment to programs that address the issues of human rights and health, equality and environmental protection, and economic and social justice. The Philippines reaffirms its view that population issues should be examined in a holistic manner and from a sustainable development perspective.

The Philippines commits itself to continuously adopt general development programs which are cognizant of the interrelations between and among population factors, the biophysical environment and socio-economic and cultural forces.

However, the Philippines reiterates the precept that in no case should abortion be condoned nor promoted as a method of family planning.

The Philippines remains fully committed to ensure a better quality of life and sustainable future for its people and all people of the world.

Florina Arroyo