The Executive Director introduced the report on this item (DP/1994/48) as part of the Report of the Executive Director for 1993 (DP/1994/44). She stated that the report had been prepared in response to Governing Council decision 93/27 A. She informed the Executive Board that the report was based on the review of the last 25 years of experience of the Fund. UNFPA planned to further revise the report taking into account the views of the Executive Board as well as the decisions and agreements emanating from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to present it to the Executive Board in 1995.

Several delegations commented on the report. There was broad support on the main contents of the report. Several delegations appreciated the report as brief, objective, self-critical, and informative. The seven main issues highlighted by the report received full endorsement from many delegations. Some delegations, however, made several suggestions and sought clarifications on the future directions of the Fund with regard to the priority issues and aspects of the population and development programme UNFPA intended to support in the future. The Board noted the improvements that had taken place in the demographic situation in many developing countries during the period 1969-1994 and appreciated UNFPA's contribution in this regard. Some delegations...
emphasized the need to prioritize the substantive areas of support for UNFPA assistance taking into account countries' own needs and the comparative advantage of UNFPA.

3. Several delegations emphasized the need to give special attention to broad population policy issues, such as high and increasing levels of rural-to-urban migration, the special needs of adolescents and ageing populations, and size of the population, when formulating criteria for UNFPA assistance to countries. There was also broad support for the UNFPA programming process - the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise; the Fund's technical support services (TSS) arrangements, including the establishment of the Country Support Teams (CSTs); and decentralization to the field offices - all of which had contributed to effective programme planning and implementation.

4. Responding to questions and comments from the delegations, the Executive Director welcomed the positive comments on the report and appreciated the valuable suggestions made by the delegations. She reiterated the need for further review and discussion on the future directions of the Fund taking into account the recommendations of the Draft Programme of Action of the ICPD 1994 and decisions and agreements reached at Cairo. She particularly pointed out the need to address the issue of the sustainability of programmes in countries that had already achieved considerable successes in addressing the population and reproductive health needs of their countries. She further suggested that in such countries national financial resources had to be mobilized on a sustained basis with the international community providing only technical support. She agreed with delegations that criteria for UNFPA support to population programmes had to be revised in order to concentrate financial and technical support in those countries that needed such resources the most.

5. The Executive Director informed the Board that the seven issues identified in the report were neither exhaustive nor presented in any order of priority. There were other issues, such as support to women's reproductive health needs during emergencies, among others, that needed to be included in this list. She proposed that the revised report reflecting this discussion and the decisions and agreements reached at the Cairo Conference be presented to the Executive Board at its 1995 annual session.

6. The Executive Board took note of the Report (DP/1994/48) of the Executive Director as well as comments made at the session.