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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Global training programme in population and development

Establishment of the International Centre for Training and Research in Population and Development in Association with the United Nations, at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve

Proposed UNFPA assistance:	\$1,686,000
Estimated value of the contribution of the Government of Belgium:	\$1,197,000
Duration:	Five years
Estimated starting date:	March 1986, subject to Governing Council approval
Government co-operating agency:	Government of Belgium, Administration Générale à la Coopération au Développement
Executing agency:	Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Aware of the shortage of persons trained in population and development and in accordance with the recommendations of the 1984 International Conference on Population on this subject, particularly recommendations 75 and 81, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), has decided to sponsor, jointly with interested Governments and institutions, a global programme of training and research in population and development. This programme would be comprised of a number of component training programmes conducted in various languages. Both short-term programmes (of approximately three months' duration) and long-term programmes (approximately ten months) would be offered. The short-term programmes would emphasize a specific aspect of population and development, e.g., population and health or population and rural development. All of these UNFPA-sponsored training programmes in population and development would be overseen by an international co-ordinator and would enjoy the substantive guidance of an international steering committee. The steering committee would be an advisory board for the overall programme, providing guidance and facilitating an exchange of experience and information among the various programmes sponsored by the Fund. It would comprise representatives of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as recognized experts in the field of population and development. The steering committee would meet once or twice a year, as needed. UNFPA would fund the services of an international co-ordinator and the expenses involved in the steering committee. This funding would be distinct from, and in addition to, the share of UNFPA resources required for any of the component programmes.

2. The first effort in this global programme is the establishment of an International Centre for Training and Research in Population and Development at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve. This project has as its overall objective to provide post-university training in population and development to senior-level officials, primarily from French-speaking developing countries in Africa. It would do this through a 10-and-a-half-month interdisciplinary training programme of seminars, lectures and research geared to equip participants with up-to-date knowledge regarding population and development relationships and with the methodological and technical training required to undertake research and implement an integrated approach in national development planning. The project, totalling approximately \$2.9 million would be funded jointly by the Government of Belgium and UNFPA. The Government of Belgium would fund personnel, equipment and travel and UNFPA would provide funds for personnel costs, fellowships and equipment. It is envisaged that the functions and responsibilities of the Centre at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, will eventually be transferred to a French-speaking African country.

### I. BACKGROUND

3. During the past 15 years there has been a growing awareness of the close and

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complex relationship between population trends and the achievement of development goals. Both the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population underscored the urgent need for an integrated approach in the area of population and development planning and noted that one of the key constraints to implementing such an approach was the lack of personnel at the national level trained in the disciplines and methodologies that are essential for putting an integrated population and development planning strategy into operation.

4. The need to undertake a programme designed to meet the needs of candidates from French-speaking countries became particularly urgent in 1984 when the Government of Romania decided that it was no longer able to support the Centre démographique-ONU (CEDOR), located in Bucharest. From 1974 to 1984, CEDOR had been training persons from French-speaking developing countries in population and development. As a result, the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, in consultation with UNFPA, decided to close the Centre as of 30 June 1984. Members of the Governing Council were informed of this development by a letter dated 8 November 1984 from the Executive Director of UNFPA. In his letter, the Executive Director noted that the need for training in population and development "is very urgent indeed" and also noted the intention of UNFPA to take immediate steps to continue training programmes in this sector. For that reason, he convened a meeting on training in the field of population and development in October 1984. The group of experts, meeting on 25 and 26 October at UNFPA headquarters, undertook an in-depth analysis of the area of training in population and development. Discussion focused on such questions as: what was known about training in those areas, what were the future needs for training in these areas, what were the existing training facilities, how adequate were they and what types of training programmes were required in the future and what were the alternative training strategies in population and development that UNFPA might consider supporting in the future. The expert group made specific suggestions to the Fund in the areas of target groups to be trained, content of training modules and possible sites for establishing training programmes as well as other aspects to be considered when institutionalizing such programmes. As a result of that meeting as well as subsequent discussions with other donors and organizations in the population field, the Fund undertook to develop a co-ordinated training programme in population and development. It is expected that this global programme will eventually include programmes offered in the Arabic, English, French and Spanish languages.

5. Discussions are under way with Governments and institutions regarding the setting up of components of the global programme of training in population and development. Agreement has been reached with the Government of Belgium for setting up a programme to be conducted in French at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve and this project is being proposed for Governing Council approval in the present document. Preliminary agreement has been reached with the Government of India for launching a programme to be conducted in English at the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala. The possibility of setting up a training programme at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague is also under consideration. As each of these component programmes is finalized, it will be presented to the Governing Council.

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6. In March 1985, in response to an interest expressed by the Government of Belgium in late 1984, UNFPA undertook a feasibility mission to discuss the setting up of a programme at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve. After another meeting in September 1985 among representatives of the Government of Belgium, the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve and UNFPA, a project document was formulated. This was thoroughly reviewed within the Fund and approved in principle pending approval by the Governing Council. In order that classes could commence in September 1986, approval was given for pre-project activities.

## II. THE PROJECT

7. The project calls for the establishment of an international training centre at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve to be funded by the Government of Belgium and UNFPA, the proportions being 44 per cent and 56 per cent respectively. The University is to be the executing agency and would receive assistance from the network of UNFPA representatives in recruiting fellows. The Centre would be officially designated as the "International Centre for Training and Research in Population and Development in Association with the United Nations".

8. Objectives and activities. The Centre, which would eventually be transferred to a French-speaking African country, would carry out training and research in the field of population and development. It would provide post-university training for senior-level government officials and scientific and technical staff in key positions in government administration who are active in delineating and implementing policies and programmes in the population and development sectors. The course is designed to meet the needs of French-speaking candidates from developing countries. The training programme would be interdisciplinary in nature and cover a period of 10 and a half months. Through lectures, seminars and directed research activities, the programme would seek to familiarize students with the operational problems which arise in the course of pursuing an integrated approach to population and development. This project may be considered responsive to women's needs in so far as efforts would be made to recruit qualified women for the training programme and some of the research undertaken would address issues dealing with the changing role and status of women during the process of socio-economic development. It is expected that 15 trainees would be funded annually by UNFPA. Eventually the programme could accommodate additional fellows funded by other sources.

9. Evaluation. At mid-point in the project (late 1988), the Government of Belgium and UNFPA would undertake an interim evaluation to ascertain if the objectives of the project are being achieved and the need, if any, for revising certain aspects of the project.

10. Management. A governing council for the Centre would be established with responsibility for financial oversight and overall substantive guidance of the Centre. The council would comprise up to eight members and would be chaired by the Rector of the University. The membership would be as follows: up to two representatives each from the Government of Belgium, the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve and UNFPA; the international co-ordinator of the global

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training programme and the National Director of the Centre. The council would meet once or twice a year in regular session and could be called into special session if circumstances so warranted. A management committee, under the chairmanship of the National Director, who would be appointed by the Rector of the University in consultation with the Government of Belgium and UNFPA, would be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Centre in line with the overall policy directives laid down by the Governing Council. The international co-ordinator of UNFPA's global programme would also be a member of the Management Committee.

11. Financial summary. The total cost of this project is estimated at approximately \$2.9 million with the following annual distribution:

	<u>1986</u> \$	<u>1987</u> \$	<u>1988</u> \$	<u>1989</u> \$	<u>1990</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Government of Belgium	184,000	228,000	245,000	261,000	279,000	1,197,000
UNFPA	<u>220,000</u>	<u>328,000</u>	<u>357,000</u>	<u>379,000</u>	<u>402,000</u>	<u>1,686,000</u>
Total	<u>404,000</u>	<u>556,000</u>	<u>602,000</u>	<u>640,000</u>	<u>681,000</u>	<u>2,883,000</u>

12. In accordance with agreement reached in June 1985, the Government of Belgium would bear 44 per cent of the project's total budget and UNFPA 56 per cent. Of the total of \$2.9 million, approximately \$1.8 million would be utilized for project personnel; \$700,000 for training; \$200,000 for equipment; and, \$100,000 for miscellaneous costs such as printing and publications. Each year the annual allocations for the project would be transferred by the Government of Belgium and UNFPA in accordance with their respective financial rules and regulations, to a separate bank account for the Centre set up by the University, the executing agency for this project. The Government of Belgium has agreed that any equipment and supplies that must be imported for the implementation of the project would be admitted duty-free.

13. Work plan. Pre-project activities, encompassing the institutional, administrative and logistical arrangements necessary for the operation of the Centre, were initiated in March 1986 and the first year of instruction is scheduled to commence in September 1986.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

14. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Endorse UNFPA's efforts to establish a global programme of training and research in population and development;

(b) Approve the project establishing an International Centre for Training and Research in Population and Development in Association with the United Nations at the Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, and authorize UNFPA to support this project in the amount of \$1,686,000 over a five-year period.

