



UNITED NATIONS  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

# WanWok

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## UNFPA launches State of the World Population Report 2008

Promotion of cultural approaches to development, women's rights and human rights in general are the main focus of the *State of the World Population Report 2008* launched on Wednesday 13 November 2008 by UNFPA during a breakfast reception at Crown Plaza, Port Moresby.



The UN report based on the theme "Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights" also stated that cultural approaches are vital when addressing issues such as gender inequality which is still a big problem in the country and improving maternal health to lower maternal mortality.

Speaking on behalf of UNFPA, Dr Betty Koka said culturally sensitive approach among other things seek the local knowledge and relationships that can provide the basis for dialogue and positive change, avoid generalizations and encourage humility among those who work with communities. She added that culturally sensitive approaches must reach all communities including marginalized groups within communities.

"The report shows that culture when incorporated into the development of policies and programmes, should be seen as an essential part of people's lives", said Dr Koka.

Minister for Community Development Dame Carol Kidu, who officially launched the report said teaching 'human rights' as a western concept should be done away with and Papua New Guineans should start incorporating their own cultural views on human rights.

President of the Medical Society of PNG, Dr Mathias Sapuri, said that in order for any kind of improvement and development to take place, PNG should have a population growth plan. He added that the government should set up a task force that can develop a proper population plan that will assist our planning for the future.

### COMMON ADVOCACY CORNER

#### What is DOCO?

The **UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO)** promotes social and economic progress by helping UN organizations deliver coherent, effective and efficient support to countries. The Secretary-General created DOCO (formerly the Development Group Office) and the UN Development Group (UNDG) in 1997 to unite the UN system and improve the quality of its development assistance. Coordination leads to more strategic UN support for national plans and priorities, makes operations more efficient, reduces transaction costs for governments, and ultimately helps people attain the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development objectives. To learn more about what DOCO can do for you, visit their [page](#) at undg.org and download their new [fact sheet](#).

### UP COMING EVENTS

**18-21 November**

**Regional Directors Forum on AIDS in Asia and Pacific Objectives for the Forum:**

- 1) Advocate strongly with the Government on meeting their commitments to Universal Access and the Millennium Development Goals;
- 2) Identify technical and financial support needs for achieving scale-up to Universal Access;
- 3) Encourage greater collaboration between civil society, private sector, government and development partners in the national response

**1st December**

**World AIDS Day**

This is YOUR weekly update. Please tell us about the progress on "Delivering as One". We would love to hear from you. Send your article ideas or suggestions to [elizabeth.turi@undp.org](mailto:elizabeth.turi@undp.org)

**UN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**