

ICPD/15

International Conference on
Population and Development

Ministerial Conference

Commitment document of the
Fifteen-Year Review of the Implementation of the ICPD PoA in Africa:
ICPD at 15 (1994 – 2009)



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



United Nations
Population Fund



African Union Commission

We, African Ministers, meeting here in Addis Ababa on the 23rd day of October 2009 for the fifteen-year review of the implementation in Africa of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

Fully recognizing the interrelationships between human rights, population, economic growth and sustainable development, which are contained in the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the twenty-year ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD/PoA), adopted in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994;

Further recognizing the achievements made towards the implementation of the ICPD/PoA at the national, sub-regional and continental levels, as periodically reviewed during the past 15 years;

Seriously concerned that in spite of national efforts and international partnerships, our continent has made slow and uneven progress in the areas of poverty reduction, maternal and child health, gender equity and equality, HIV/AIDS, and youth employment; and this has been exacerbated by conflicts and emerging issues, including climate change, environmental degradation, and food and financial crises;

Endorse the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Africa Regional Fifteen-Year Review of Progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD);

Reiterate that significant progress will be achieved only by implementing the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action, rooted in a person-centered vision of development, and the advancement of human rights;

Reaffirm the critical importance of the principles, objectives and goals of the ICPD PoA for Africa's sustainable development and poverty eradication, thereby contributing to the achievement of the MDGs;

Emphasize our commitment to implement all the international and continental agreements and initiatives, among others, whose objectives are aligned with the ICPD Programme of Action and the MDGs regarding social policies; reproductive, maternal and child health; gender equality and empowerment of women; youth; and HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.¹

¹ The list of some of the agreements and initiatives are contained in Annex 1.

1. In furtherance of this, we hereby commit ourselves to renewed and intensified efforts to mobilizing necessary resources, improving national level strategies and enhancing institutional and human resources in order to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the ICPD PoA and the MDGs between now and 2014, and will undertake the following actions:

- i. Review and align the implementation of national population and development policies, strategies and plans, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the ICPD+15 Africa review and the political commitments expressed in this Document, and report on progress by July 2010, as part of the preparation for the UN High-Level Meeting on the MDGs.
- ii. Prioritize and scale up access to quality and reliable family planning services, skilled attendants at delivery, emergency obstetric and newborn care and services, and addressing unsafe abortion and fistula within health system strengthening in order to accelerate reduction of maternal, newborn and child mortality and to ensure universal access to reproductive health, in the context of the Maputo Plan of Action.
- iii. Strengthen the enforcement of national laws and implementation of policies, including gender mainstreaming and budgeting, to advance women's economic, social and political rights, and to reduce gender-based violence; and report on progress by April 2010, in accordance with the Beijing + 15 timeline and beyond.
- iv. Integrate comprehensive HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health programmes, maximizing the use of available resources within health system strengthening, and increase budgets and programmatic priority for prevention, including research on social and cultural barriers.
- v. Ratify, as necessary, the African Youth Charter and implement its Plan of Action; increase investments and allocate adequate resources for the review, development and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies that are conducive for protecting and empowering youth, including quality education and skills development, particularly for the girl child; access to quality reproductive health information and services; and creation of gainful employment opportunities, and ensure youth participation at all levels, thereby realizing the demographic dividend.

- vi. Incorporate analysis of population dynamics as well as health impacts in policies, strategies and plans, as part of initiatives for climate change mitigation/adaptation and identify appropriate responses to local environmental change.

2. To effectively implement these actions, we commit ourselves to:

- i. Elevate the status of and strengthen existing institutional structures for coordinating population and development policy implementation, while supporting the integration of population issues into development planning;
- ii. Mobilize additional domestic resources for population programmes through public funds, as well as public-private and civil society partnerships, within the context of good governance and accountability;
- iii. Strengthen partnership for effective participation of civil society, NGOs, the private sector and foundations in the implementation of the ICPD/PoA;
- iv. Ensure the timely availability of quality and regularly updated and appropriately disaggregated data and the capacity building of national statistical systems to improve information-based development planning, implementation and monitoring of progress on ICPD/MDGs/Beijing PfA goals, at national, regional and international levels;
- v. Regularly monitor, evaluate and disseminate information on programme priorities, progress and impact for national policy dialogue, including the private sector, civil society and communities at large.

3. In undertaking the above actions:

- i. We call upon our international partners, both bilateral and multilateral, including the United Nations system, to provide adequate technical and financial support to our development efforts and to move swiftly to implement their commitments within the context of the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness.
- ii. We call on the AUC, the UNECA and UNFPA to strengthen their coordination and harmonization processes with regard to the implementation of the priorities identified in this document, including

facilitating South-South collaboration and exchange of experiences and best practices.

- iii. We further call on the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to annually monitor progress made in implementing the relevant development programmes and plans, and to ensure that follow-up on the ICPD Programme of Action is included in the work plan of the proposed UN ECA Committee on Human and Social Development.
 - iv. We further call on the Global Solidarity Fund to extend support for financing health infrastructure and equipment to assist reconstruction and rehabilitation of health systems in fragile or post-conflict countries.
4. In preparation for the 20th Anniversary of the ICPD PoA, we will undertake an evaluation of its implementation, taking into account the procedures that will be established, as appropriate.
 5. Determined to achieve our development goals in the shortest possible time, we therefore pledge to implement these commitments.

Annex 1: List of agreements and initiatives

Social Policy

- The 2000 Millennium Declaration
- The 2008 Social Policy Framework for Africa;

Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health

- The 2006 Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
- The 2007 Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalisation of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2007-2010);
- The 2009 Addis Ababa call to action on Human Resources for Maternal and Newborn Survival, including task shifting/sharing for emergency obstetric and newborn care;
- The 2009 Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA);
- The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The 2005 Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy;
- The 2007 Plan of Action on Africa Fit for Children.

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

- The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- The 1979 Convention on the Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its 2000 Optional Protocol
- The 2009 African Union Gender Policy;
- The 2008 Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women; and related UN Security Council Resolutions.

Youth

- The 2006 African Youth Charter.
- The Ouagadougou 2004 Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other Communicable and Neglected Diseases

- The 2006 Abuja Call for Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria Services;
- The 2007 Africa Health Strategy;
- The 2007 Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa;

- and relevant UNGASS Declarations on HIV/AIDS

Environment

- The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development
- The 2009 Algiers Declaration on African Common Platform for Copenhagen