

# Moving Beyond 2014: A Civil Society Stakeholder Meeting

Istanbul, Turkey  
December 9-10, 2011



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction/Background

Overview of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Process

The Global Context

Key Issues and Themes

- Presentations
- Group Breakout Sessions
- Key Thematic Areas

The Way Forward

- Harmonization with other processes
- Remaining challenges and Next Steps

This meeting report contains the individual or collective views of a group of experts and does not necessarily represent the positions, decisions or the policies of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Appreciation is extended to Ms. Kelly Castagnaro, Senior Communications Offices at the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region for serving as meeting rapporteur.

## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

In 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, a global consensus emerged. In Cairo, 179 governments agreed that population and development are inextricably linked, and that ensuring the health and human rights of all—specifically sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights—should be central to population policies. The Conference adopted a 20-year Programme of Action (POA), which acknowledged gender equality, eliminating violence against women and the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as cornerstones of population and development policies.

Since that time, numerous reviews of the ICPD POA have been conducted. In 2010, the UN General Assembly passed resolution A/65/234 that established the roadmap for achieving the vision of ICPD beyond 2014. The resolution mandates that UNFPA—in cooperation with relevant UN agencies, international organizations, institutions and experts—“undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues”. A major source of data and information for the operational review will derive from reviews to be undertaken by governments, at the request of the General Assembly, of the progress achieved and the constraints faced therein in the implementation of the POA at the national and regional levels.

Based on the results of the review, two mandated reports will be prepared for both the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in 2014 and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the ICPD Beyond 2014 of the same year. The two reports are: (a) a comprehensive global report on the state of population and development reflecting population trends, data and information from national, regional and other sources and (b) the report of the Secretary-General which will distil the main messages from the global report and produce an index report indicating important themes. In addition, an index report containing the recurrent themes and key issues identified by United Nations Member States in the discussions of the two reports during the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the CPD, will be compiled by the Secretary-General. These reports, which will be considered at the UNGASS in 2014, will provide an authoritative picture of the state of population and development in 2014, identify and address new or emerging challenges and opportunities for accelerating the implementation of the ICPD POA and make suggestions on how to address them, including by reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda into global development frameworks, such as the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals. The resolution calls for a “renewal of political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives” at the UNGASS.

As part of the development of the global survey instruments and in accord with its commitment to have an inclusive and participatory process, UNFPA held a two- day stakeholder meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in December 2011. The meeting brought together over 70 representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), including youth, to share feedback on the ICPD beyond 2014 operational review process and discuss its components, identify key thematic issues, as well as identify how to best involve CSOs and young people throughout the process.

## **E SURVEY**

*Presentation by Carol Peasley, CEDPA*

Prior to the Civil Society Stakeholder Meeting, participants completed an e-survey about planned research activities relating to beyond 2014, advocacy events and other meetings and trainings. The goal of the e-survey was to have a common calendar and understanding of all activities planned around this milestone.

Fifty-one organizations completed the survey. Most respondents were advocacy organizations, with 60% from the global North. The report on the findings focused on global and regional activities as most national-level actions were not yet firmly defined. The survey demonstrated:

- Most research is focused on public policy, including financial flows and monitoring progress on MDGs 4 and 5. Other areas identified include comprehensive sexuality education, linkages between the environment and family planning and HIV/AIDS integrations.
- There are fifty-six events reported including expert groups and CSO consultations. Many were scheduled around major global meetings. Many CSOs are also planning trainings leading up to CPD meetings and the International AIDS Conference, however are unclear as to whether funding is in place.

In each area, key questions were identified to help CSOs better collaborate, coordinate efforts and share information. In addition to the official ICPD Beyond 2014 website, [www.icpdbeyond2014.org](http://www.icpdbeyond2014.org), an NGO has established a website to facilitate the sharing of information among civil society: [www.ngosbeyond2014.org](http://www.ngosbeyond2014.org).

## **OVERVIEW OF THE ICPD BEYOND 2014 PROCESS**

At five year intervals since the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, there have been reviews of progress in the implementation of the POA. While each has been different in format, all have included expert and technical meetings, regional conferences and consultations with civil society. To mark the tenth anniversary of the POA, a global survey was undertaken and key recommendations for implementation of the ICPD agenda was published.

In reflecting on these processes, it became clear that in each region, there have been different methods and formats for reviewing and assessing progress towards ICPD. This has resulted in variances in the quality of data, as well as a lack of cohesive recommendations for further actions.

The proposed format and process for the review in advance of the 2014 UN General Assembly Special Session seeks to respond to those issues by creating a more streamlined and uniform process. By standardizing the review process, the United Nations hopes to ensure comparable country data that could both provide the opportunity to develop a monitoring framework for ICPD, as well as drive the ICPD agenda beyond 2014.

The review will comprise a series of inter-related activities aimed at providing a snapshot of the current state of population and development, including on the global sexual and reproductive health landscape, as well as a roadmap for ensuring that sexual and reproductive health and rights remain at the core of the development agenda going forward. Activities will include a global survey, regional consultations, thematic reports, in-depth studies and expert group meetings. Outcomes of this review process are:

- A long global report capturing data from national, regional and other sources for the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in 2014;
- A shorter report by the Secretary-General, derived from the global report, for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session of the same year.

The objectives of these reports are to provide an authoritative snapshot of the state of population and development in 2014; identify new challenges and opportunities for accelerating implementation of the Cairo agenda; and reinforce the Cairo agenda in global development frameworks such as the MDGs and serve a reference point for future discussions on population and development policies after 2014.

The data collection tools consist of a core module with two instruments:

- An ICPD country implementation profile based on agreed indicators. Data collection for these profiles will focus on compiling, rather than collecting information. Data will be extracted from existing data sources from different UN agencies, and will be completed before the regional consultations.
- A questionnaire that will be filled through a consultative process with governments and civil society, and will seek to identify barriers to implementation, enabling factors, identify priorities and emerging issues.

The role of partners in this process is critical. UNFPA has created a stakeholders group that involves focal points from various UN agencies responsible for indicators related to the Cairo agenda, as well as a nascent civil society stakeholders group. This meeting is the first opportunity to involve the larger civil society community in the ICPD 2014 process. Robust involvement of civil society in this process is critical, not only for the technical and programmatic expertise that NGOs bring, but also in terms of better aligning workplans and activities in advance of the review.

UNFPA has committed to ensuring that civil society, including youth, is positioned to be key and effective actors in national processes, regional conferences and global meetings that lead to the outcome of the review. However, given that the General Assembly Special Session is likely to be held in September or October 2014, the timetable for involvement in the process is tight. UNFPA estimates that the review process will cost \$25 million USD.

## **Key Activities**

### **The Global Survey**

The global survey will be the core element of the review process, and will be distributed to all 193 member states to be completed by governments, multilateral agencies and civil society stakeholders. The global survey will be completed at the national level through a country consultation process supported by UNFPA country offices that will bring together key stakeholders (governments, civil society, academia, members of the private sector) to both forge consensus and increase the response rate. The results of the survey will include a strengthened monitoring framework for the POA, with improved indicators and updated baselines and targets.

Key objectives of the survey include:

- Assess the implementation status of the commitments made in Cairo in 1994
- Identify barriers and success factors in implementation, priorities and new issues;
- Foster a shared understanding of achievements, successes and challenges among diverse stakeholders; and
- Renew commitment towards the Cairo agenda and engage new constituencies in issues related to the ICPD agenda.

The global survey will be carried out using a common core module that will include:

- An ICPD Country Implementation Profile (CIP) based on an agreed list of indicators whose values will be compiled in coordination with the regional commissions and UNDESA using well established sources of comparable data. The CIP will provide background information for the country consultation and direct input for the operational review.
- A questionnaire to be filled via a consultative process. The questionnaire will gather information on barriers to implementation, facilitating factors, new priorities and emerging issues.
- Optional modules to allow an in-depth exploration of progress or lack thereof in specific areas. The United Nations regional commissions will lead the development of the optional modules in close collaboration with UNFPA.

In developing the global survey, criteria will be used that are consistent with human rights standards and indicators as developed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

### **Regional Consultations and Meetings**

Before the surveys are disseminated in June, UNFPA will fund regional consultations to evaluate the draft survey questionnaire. Civil society would have the opportunity at these consultations to comment on the proposed questionnaire, both in terms of quality of the questions and coverage of key areas related to the POA. UNFPA anticipates these consultations will take place between March and May.

After the surveys have been analyzed, regional conferences will be held to discuss the findings of the survey and identify priority areas for action. UNFPA will work closely with civil society, country UNFPA offices and governments to ensure involvement of a wide range of civil society actors. It is expected that each region would produce an outcome document that would inform the Secretary General's report to the Commission on Population and Development in 2013. The relevant issues will then be compiled and forwarded for consideration by the UN General Assembly Special Session with an "index report indicating recurrent themes and key elements found therein, along with the finding of the operational review."

UNFPA also suggested the following activities for inclusion in the Beyond 2014 process:

**A global youth forum.** Governments and policies have not adequately responded to the needs of youth in areas such as health, employment and political participation. Given the large population of youth and the challenges they face today, ensuring their participation is critical.

**Women Deliver Conference, 2013.** UNFPA will host a one day event on ICPD and maternal health during the Women Deliver main conference in 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. UNFPA would manage this process and bring together experts, organizations and others, both in focused sessions and plenaries, to contribute to setting the way forward for responding to the global challenge of maternal mortality and discussing ways forward for MDG5.

**A dedicated ICPD website.** UNFPA has launched a site that provides information to all stakeholders, publishes information and resources from NGO websites, and leverages social media and video to engage and inform new audiences about the ICPD agenda with a particular focus on youth.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the discussion period, participants raised several questions and comments. One concern was how UNFPA will ensure strong civil society representation during the consultative process and at the delegation level during the ICPD 2014 review process, particularly in terms of organizations from the global south. Others expressed concern for the short timeline leading up to the regional consultations and operational review, as well as the amount of funding that will be required to carry out the proposed activities.

Others questioned the mechanism for ensuring that the results of the global survey shape activities by UN agencies such as UN Women, and inform other global development processes such as the Millennium Development Goals. Some expressed concern for the broad scope of the data collection and evaluation proposal in terms of the number of indicators, as well as the fact that existing data often does not account for hard-to-reach groups such as indigenous communities. Finally, others asked for elaboration on how the global survey will utilize a human rights framework and standards.

UNFPA acknowledged that they have had mixed success with ensuring the representation of youth and civil society on government delegations. For this process, UNFPA stated that they are keen to support formal civil society and youth participation in national delegations and the regional consultations as part of the Memorandums of Understanding with governments and

regional bodies, and will work with country UNFPA staff to ensure the highest level of representation. UNFPA has funding to carry out meetings in all regions, and are working with other funders and partners to secure additional support.

UNFPA convened this meeting to inform the process of creating indicators and identify the key issues and themes that should be measured, and hopes that civil society will help identify the core set of indicators. UNFPA agrees that illustrating gaps in access to services at the national level is critical to forming an accurate snapshot of ICPD implementation, and will hire consultants to help governments capture accurate and comprehensive data. Finally, UNFPA has consulted with human rights experts from leading NGOs, and is looking to form a virtual group on this issue, as well as host an international conference to determine how best to ensure synergy with human rights standards and indicators. There was discussion over whether these multiple global conferences were necessary or desirable (women, youth, human rights).

## **THE GLOBAL CONTEXT**

*Presentation by Gita Sen, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India*

Much has changed since the Programme of Action was first adopted in 1994. Shifting demographic profiles, changes in global health funding, a maturing HIV epidemic that increasingly affects women and girls, and rising rates of non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries are key factors. Increasing concerns about climate change, consumption and food security have inspired a renewed concern for the population growth rate. Today's generation of youth is the largest generation in history, with many youth lacking access to comprehensive sexuality education and health services. Similarly, several global processes—Rio +20, ICPD +14 and the MDGs at 10—are happening within the next few years, all with implications on the future of the global sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda.

Navigating this environment is a complex task for governments, the United Nations and civil society, and is a challenging context in which to move forward the unfinished business of ICPD. Despite these changes, much remains the same. Millions of girls and women worldwide lack access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as defined in the ICPD Programme of Action (contraception, safe abortion services, maternity care, and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS). In addition to securing universal access to comprehensive sexuality education for youth, implementation of this agenda at the national and local level is at the heart of Cairo's unfinished business.

Similarly, advancing the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls remains a key challenge. Abortion is legal in most countries under some circumstances but still circumscribed, and under attack by conservatives and often self-censored by key organizations. Modern day concerns about population growth and overconsumption have resurfaced a number-focused population agenda focused on family planning, with human rights often as an afterthought.

Politically, there are several encouraging signs. Worldwide, young people are increasingly mobilizing for their rights and are active drivers of movements for equality and democracy. Globally and nationally, movements for sexual and reproductive rights have become more inclusive than what advocates secured in Beijing and Cairo. In October 2011, UN Special

Rapporteur Anand Grover called for the removal of legal and other restrictions on access to abortion on the grounds that they disproportionately infringe on the right to health of women and girls, and in 2009, India repealed an antiquated anti-sodomy law.

Despite these gains, well-funded conservatives are mobilized and increasingly active in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Their opposition is not only to abortion rights and LGBT issues, but increasingly to family planning and women's health care in general. As we move towards the next phase of ICPD, we cannot afford to ignore these threats, nor can we assume that if we follow a "safe track" we will remain out of harm's way.

Moving forward, UNFPA is uniquely positioned to move forward a three-pronged agenda that mirrors their strategic plan and vision:

- Support governments to deliver core comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services
- Ensure the provision of comprehensive sexuality education and health services to young people, especially young girls
- Promote and protect gender equity and the human rights of all people to live free of discrimination, coercion and violence

This agenda must be underpinned by a commitment to gender equality, not as a distraction from this agenda, but as an unavoidable means and mechanism for its realization. This three-pronged agenda not only mirrors UNFPA's new vision and mission; it is also aligned with the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health (November 2010) and the U.S. government's Global Health Initiative (May 2009).

## **KEY ISSUES AND THEMES**

### **Equity and Social Policy**

#### ***Presentation by Dr. Ana Cristina González Vélez, CEDES***

In examining access to sexual and reproductive health services, addressing the social, economic and geographic barriers to health care is critical. Poor women living in remote rural areas, for example, often face unique barriers to accessing health services and information. Similarly, vulnerable and marginalized communities often face discrimination in accessing health care. In formulating public policies on sexual and reproductive health, these barriers to care must be addressed.

The equality domain framework utilizes several criteria to create public health plans that reduce inequities and gaps in access to health care and rights, ensure the right to health for all individuals, and ultimately, eliminate all avoidable deaths and disabilities. Within this framework, several criteria can be used to identify and measure the barriers that individuals face in accessing sexual and reproductive health including:

- Magnitude: the frequency and severity of discrimination or inequity
- Burden of disease: can capture disparities in health within specific groups

- Hidden burden: the indirect consequences on physical or mental health caused by health and rights inequities.
- Omission cost: refers to the cost derived from inattention to timely care, i.e. “the price of not doing.”
- Avoidable mortality
- Social determinants of health

Employing the equity domain approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights programs and policies would be greatly beneficial in defining priorities, actions, strategies and funding in order to reach the vulnerable and marginalized groups. Furthermore, this approach could accelerate progress on key SRH issues such as maternal health, HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

### **A Rights-Based Approach to the ICPD Agenda**

#### ***Presentation by Rajat Khosla, Amnesty International***

Since 1994, several advances have been made towards securing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all. The continued tenacity of advocates and coalitions in continuing the fight for the ICPD agenda is one, as is the inclusion of sexual and reproductive rights and health in the agendas of mainstream human rights organizations. Globally, access to reproductive health is increasingly being recognized as an entitlement, as seen especially in the global discourse surrounding maternal morbidity and mortality. Other gains include increased attention to long-neglected issues such as HPV, increased financial commitment for some reproductive health issues, as well as an increased push for accountability on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Despite these gains, obstacles to realizing the vision set out in Cairo remain. Continued—and well-funded—backlash against women’s health and rights is one challenge, as is continued hostility towards the sexual and reproductive rights of young women and adolescents and the uncertain global economy. The lack of discourse within the broader development and health communities about human rights has hampered progress and resulted in an un-integrated agenda that does not deal with issues related to gender inequality or other social factors.

Cairo shifted the population paradigm from population control policies that sought to lower fertility rates to population policies that made women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights central to development policies. This “rights-based approach” means women and men have the right to decide whether to have children, when and how often, and to have the information and services needed to do so. It also means that every individual is entitled to access an integrated and comprehensive package of services free from discrimination, coercion and violence. To ensure the longevity of this vision, we must ensure that the Cairo 2014 review process affords the opportunity to create a full picture of obstacles to implementation, as well as comprehensive baseline data that will help track future progress and eliminate obstacles.

### **Adolescents and Youth**

#### ***Presentation by Neha Sood, Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)***

The ICPD agenda contains several action items and themes related to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth. These include educating training and employment,

social and political participation, prevention of violence against women and children, and child marriage. The POA also requires governments to implement key actions—such as sexuality education and universal access to sexual and reproductive health services—to improve the health and well-being of youth.

Despite these commitments, youth face several barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights. Stigma and discrimination, taboos related to sexuality, and the lack of youth-friendly, confidential health services prevent many youth, particularly younger adolescents, from accessing quality services and exercising their rights. Rates of unwanted pregnancy and maternal mortality remain high, access to safe abortion services remains poor, and many youth, particularly young adolescent girls and marginalized youth, lack access to comprehensive sexuality education.

Priorities for the operational review and Beyond 2014 processes must include the active participation of young people at the regional and national levels. The development of country profiles and consultations must involve adolescents and youth, particularly female, and should include benchmarks on comprehensive sexuality education curricula, adolescent access to sexual and reproductive health services, data disaggregation among 10-14 and 15-19 year olds, and empowerment programs for girls and young women. Furthermore, the review process should ensure adolescent girls and young women are supported to engage meaningfully at regional and national levels; develop their leadership capacities and involve them in designing and evaluation national programs; and respect, protect and fulfill the human rights, particularly the sexual and reproductive rights, of adolescents and youth.

## **Global Sustainability**

### ***Presentation by Ed Barry, Sustainable World Initiative***

The imperative to ensure global well-being demands a balance of human needs and sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the most important investment the world can make is to support gender equality, the empowerment of women through education, and the expansion of global reproductive health and family planning programs. Similarly, the most important change we must make to achieve this goal is to live within our means.

Climate change, deforestation and water shortages are not the main challenges. The core problem threatening sustainability is that fact that humanity is demanding more resources than the world can provide. All forms of human development and activity require natural resources, and the earth's biocapacity is finite. At the same time, we are demanding more from the planet that we can supply, resulting in poverty and hunger.

The solution is a better integration of issues related to ICPD into global sustainability discourse and conferences, and integration of resource sustainability perspectives into the ICPD agenda. The 20 year review of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) should integrate ICPD and CSD efforts and programs, and nations should begin reporting on sustainability through a "human development sustainability index." The sustainability imperative can help generate support for expanding the ICPD POA.

## **Maternal Health**

### ***Presentation by Frances Kissling, Women Deliver***

Over the past 20 years, reproductive health advocates have been in a defensive mode. When you are in a reactive and defensive mode, you cannot be visionary in terms of inspiring action among new stakeholders. If we continue to worry about possible obstacles and opposition, we will be discussing the same things in these same rooms for years to come.

When it comes to maternal health, we have seen widespread support for the right of women to give birth safely- who is against saving mothers? In thinking of how to progress on maternal health in the next 20 years, we must not only think about increasing the number of skilled birth attendants and ensuring that women with high risk pregnancies have access to emergency care. We also need to think about the next paradigm shift: what happens when the issue of maternal health is put into the larger reproductive health context of a woman's right to decide to have sex and if and when to have children?

To set a new vision, increased attention towards the whole woman and what it means to be pregnant is needed. The continuum of maternal health must include desiring to become pregnant, deciding not to become pregnant, miscarrying, carrying a pregnancy to term successfully and carrying a pregnancy to term with serious complications. Maternal health does not start when you become pregnant nor end when you give birth; this is the positive—and natural—continuum of maternal health that we must work to create.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Following the thematic presentations, participants broke into four working groups to allow for further discussion on themes related to ICPD. Groups were asked to consider how to best create a singular vision and direction for the ICPD agenda moving forward, what the role of NGOs should be throughout the Cairo +20 process, and provide suggestions and comments on the proposed processes and activities for the review.

Several commonalities emerged from the breakout sessions. There was consensus about the relevance of the ICPD agenda, as well as the insistence that the ICPD vision must be preserved beyond 2014 and integrated strongly into the broader development framework, including the MDGs. Sexual and reproductive health services, youth, and promoting and protecting the human rights of all were key themes to focus on. Issues of sustainability, migration, environmental sustainability and urbanization were also raised in this context. Some participants also warned of the dangers of being too comprehensive in thematic focuses, and suggested the application of UNFPA's three thematic areas—access to comprehensive SRH services, adolescents and youth, and human rights and gender equality—as a frame for the Beyond 2014 agenda.

There was a strong desire among the four groups for a renewed political commitment to ICPD to emerge from this process. Many participants called for a clearer mechanism to hold governments accountable for implementation of Cairo +20 commitments and recommendations, as well as clarification and further discussion about ensuring ongoing linkages between ICPD and the MDGs. Some participants identified the need for increased attention to the ICPD +20 process, as well as the involvement of influential actors- such as journalists and political leaders- throughout the process. Additionally, meaningful involvement of UNFPA country offices throughout the process must be prioritized.

There were some concerns that the timeline for NGO regional consultations is too tight, and some questioned whether there were adequate funds to ensure meaningful civil society participation in this timeframe. All called on UNFPA to ensure transparency and accountability in relation to civil society participation, and ensure timely consultations. One group suggested separate meetings for civil society to strategize on their own prior to the regional consultations with UNFPA. Finally, while UNFPA's commitment to youth health and rights is appreciated, a broad variety of youth advocates and organizations must be significantly involved throughout the process.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following the breakout sessions, attendees participated in a group exercise to identify recommendations for thematic areas of focus for the review, as well as mechanisms to ensure meaningful engagement of civil society in both the operational review and in tracking and accountability of the ICPD. The goal of this exercise was to identify key themes for expert group meetings and special case studies to be held, capacity building needs of civil society, and advocacy opportunities. These recommendations were directed at UNFPA and should shape the structure of country and regional consultations, outcome documents, and the UN review process ICPD at 2014, including the Secretary General's Reports.

Participants were asked to identify priority issues and actions within UNFPA's three strategic focus areas: comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services; the health and rights of adolescents and youth; and human rights and gender equality.

Within these clusters, participants identified priority themes, expert groups and special studies, and recommendations to UNFPA. Actions to ensure robust civil society participation in the ICPD beyond 2014 process were clustered as follows: operational review and consultation, tracking and accountability, outcome documents, UNFPA commitments and organizational effectiveness.

Civil society suggested the following expert groups and studies, focus areas, and advocacy priorities for UNFPA throughout this process:

### **YOUTH HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

#### ***Thematic focus areas:***

- Comprehensive sexuality education
- Access to contraceptives (including for marginalized pops and youth in conflict areas)
- Youth education and empowerment
- Youth participation, leadership and representation at the national and international levels with a focus on youth (especially female) from the global South.

#### ***Expert groups and studies:***

- An evaluation of the impact of comprehensive sexuality education, including effective methods and programs and outcomes
- Decriminalizing youth sexuality (parental consent laws, barriers to access due to age of consent laws, etc)
- Sexual and reproductive health services appealing to young people (confidentiality and respect, non-judgmental)
- The link between sustainable livelihoods and sexual and reproductive health and rights

- Early and forced marriage

***Government commitments:***

- Programs and budgets targeting youth
- Youth policies and integration into existing policies and programs
- Data desegregation of ages 10-14
- Participation of young people in design, implementation and accountability of policies and programs

## **COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**

***Thematic focus areas:***

- Equitable access to integrated, comprehensive SRH services that are youth-friendly. These services should not be separate from HIV services and education, and should include access to safe abortion services for youth.
- Access to information
- Commodities and supply security (female condoms, contraception, male condoms)

***Expert groups and studies:***

- Study to show economic impact of unsafe abortion.
- How abortion restrictions violate the ICPD POA to determine whether the language of “safe where legal” can be revised.
- The unmet need for contraception among unmarried women
- The impact of privatization of health services on women’s health

***Government Commitments:***

- Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services should be integrated in health systems and be available free of charge for poor and marginalized women
- Expand training for health workers to include training on human rights and gender equality
- Decriminalize abortion and where legal, provide safe and affordable access to abortion services
- Ensure commodity security
- Prohibit funding streams that separate HIV/AIDS programs from sexual and reproductive health services.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY**

***Thematic focus areas:***

- Gender-based and sexual violence
- Rights-based approach to health
- Legal barriers to accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Sexual diversity and sexual rights
- Access to safe abortion
- Gender equality and the integration of sexual and reproductive rights and health into all sectors

***Expert groups and studies:***

- A human rights working group to help develop indicators and methodology for reviewing progress towards ICPD

- Further explication of the rights-based approach
- Sexual rights and sexual diversity
- How to eliminate violence against women
- Marginalized groups such as sex workers and LGBTQI
- Operationalizing the link between reproductive health and the environment
- Fundamentalisms and conservatism
- Enforcing human rights

***Government commitments:***

- Develop strong national laws- with the participation of women’s rights groups- to ensure gender equality and eliminate violence against women, including sexual coercion. These should be harmonized with existing global agreements
- Protection of reproductive rights
- Recognition of sexual rights as human rights
- Ensuring equitable access to sexual and reproductive health
- Recognition of the rights of adolescent girls and young women

**CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT**

**OPERATIONAL REVIEW AND CONSULTATION**

***Priority actions for UNFPA to support civil society, financially and with information and access in the following:***

- Support and mobilize youth and sexual and reproductive health and rights activists at the regional and country level to ensure meaningful civil society involvement in the Operational review through country, regional, and global consultations
- Support civil society’s work on tracking budgets and spending for sexual and reproductive health and rights to inform the Operational review
- Support civil society on writing shadow reports to bring real-life needs and experiences to this process to inform the Operational review
- Support building the leadership capacity of young women
- Support expert civil society group to develop messages and mobilize after review
- Ensure civil society receives all documentation (agendas, participant lists) three months prior to meetings. Support civil society to hold independent day-long CSO preparatory meetings prior to regional consultations.
- Facilitate the sharing of information and strategies through websites (UNFPA and NGO websites)
- Involve civil society experts in the creation and review of indicators for the Operational review.

***UNFPA commitments for the above include:***

- Funding for CSO autonomous spaces at national, regional and global levels
- Funding for institutional strengthening (governance and accountability, M&E, organizational capacity)
- Fund regional/global trainings around this process, but prior to the meetings.

***OUTCOME DOCUMENTS: TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL (Secretary General Reports and Inter-Governmental Negotiations)***

**Priority Actions for UNFPA:**

- Meaningfully involve civil society organizations in providing input on OR process from country, regional and global levels
- Ensure meaningful and timely participation of CSOs at all stages including marginalized and human rights groups
- Focus on three emerging issues as a forward looking strategy from country level to global level (as structured above)
- Provide specific guidance from HQ to COs and Regional Offices on the non-negotiables of the ICPD PoA and Key Further Actions including adolescents and youth, gender equality, SRH services and protection of reproductive rights
- Encourage meaningful participation of SRHR, women's rights, and young people's orgs in national delegations to CPD in 2012-2014, regional meetings (ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA) in 2013 and UNGASS in 2014.
- Ensure UNFPA reflects and upholds these core issues in the process
- Involve CS in drafting and review of documents (create a true partnership)
- Hold UNFPA staff accountable to upholding the principles stated in the ICPD PoA. Ensure everyone at UNFPA is speaking to the same tune over the next 3-4 years to promote and protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all, particularly women and young people.

**Other Issues and Actions Suggested (outside of the primary categories):**

- Task Sharing amongst diverse civil society organizations
- Development of a demographic health survey
- Increased outreach to religious organizations to reduce fundamentalisms
- Financial commitments to implement whatever is agreed upon, including impact indicators (education, income, access to health)
- Linking population dynamics with current and emerging development priorities
- Operationalize the link between reproductive health and the environment
- Linking ICPD to the global development agenda
- Interest: strengthen the sustainability imperative in support of ICPD program expansion. As a justification for investing in family planning

**HARMONIZATION OF ICPD BEYOND 2014 with other global processes**

*Presentations by Francis Kissling, Women Deliver, and Stan Bernstein, UNFPA. Video (LINK) by Chantal Line Carpentie, Division for Sustainable Development (UN-DESA).*

As mentioned earlier in the report, several other global conferences and processes intersect with the timeline of the ICPD Beyond 2014 activities. To ensure the continued vitality of the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda within global development processes and discourse, outreach to other constituencies, including environmental advocates, is needed. Educating and

building alliances with other influential civil society organizations that can mobilize support for our issues will be vital. Similarly, we know that getting media attention is central to highlighting the importance of our work to a broader constituency. Building these alliances, as well as evaluating the political landscape and identifying member states that are champions of our issues, will be crucial to ensuring the longevity of our issues in the broader development agenda.

Meeting attendees watched a video interview and presentation by Chantal Line Carpentier about the Rio +20 conference that will be held from June 16-19 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The conference will be preceded by informal negotiations that will take place in February, March and April, and will be followed by a UN intercessional meeting in December 2012.

The focus of Rio will be the green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty, and the outcome document will focus on the integration of social, economic and environmental goals. There are seven main priorities for this conference, including energy access, food and water security, sustainable cities and oceans, and green jobs.

Finally, Women Deliver, a global conference on maternal health, is scheduled to take place in May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur and will have one day devoted to discussing the ICPD Beyond 2014 process.

## **THE WAY FORWARD: CONCLUSIONS AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

The meeting provided an excellent continuation for UNFPA and NGOs to share experiences, concerns and information about the ICPD 2014 process. There was consensus that while progress has been made towards realizing POA, much more remains to be done to secure access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and human rights for all. Furthermore, participants agreed that the vision set out in Cairo will continue to be salient in future development goals and activities.

Similarly, further discussion and priority action is needed on key matters raised throughout the meeting:

- **Thematic Issues.** All agreed that advancing human rights and gender equality continue to be urgent global priorities, and should be central to programs, policies and funding going forward. Participants raised other issues including migration, urbanization, sustainable livelihood and climate change for consideration in the 2014 process. Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, a small group was established to follow-up on the linkages between environmental issues and sexual and reproductive rights and health, particularly in regards to sustainable development.

Again, many participants warned of the dangers of being too comprehensive in thematic focuses, and suggested the application of UNFPA's three thematic areas—access to comprehensive SRH services, adolescents and youth, and human rights and gender equality—as a frame for the Beyond 2014 agenda.

- **Positioning the ICPD agenda.** During the forum, there was discussion about how both to broaden support for the ICPD agenda within civil society, as well as to external audiences such as journalists, politicians and the general public. Ensuring a consistent—and salient message—to mobilize support for sexual and reproductive health and rights will require dialogue and back-and-forth among primary stakeholders, as well as close collaboration to youth-led organizations and advocates. UNFPA is developing a communications strategy that will include the participation of NGOs.

A key concern among participants was how to ensure that the Cairo agenda is included in the MDGs beyond 2015. All reinforced the importance of the Cairo agenda remaining a lively and relevant document moving forward

- **Securing support for ICPD Beyond 2014:** Participants agreed that UNFPA can play a key role in securing support from other UN agencies and political leaders. Throughout the meeting, there was strong consensus among civil society that a renewed political commitment to ICPD should emerge from the process, as well as a stronger sense of how governments will be held accountable for the findings and recommendations produced by the Operational review.

UNFPA explained that the elaborate plan for an inclusive and comprehensive review was necessary to ensure wide acceptance of the review results since the General Assembly resolution on the review did not allow for a negotiated outcome at the UNGASS review in 2014. There was substantial back-and-forth among participants and UNFPA as to the interpretation of the resolution language; however, those who raised the objection to the interpretation of the resolution stood their ground.

- **Ensuring Meaningful Civil Society Participation.** There was consensus among civil society and UNFPA that strong civil society participation should be prioritized and supported throughout the process including setting the indicators and thematic foci, participating in the regional consultations and during the political process. The participation of youth in setting priorities and holding governments accountable for implementation was repeatedly emphasized throughout the two-day meeting.
- **Timing and Next Steps:** Participants agreed that a clear road map is needed to begin planning and implementation of the proposed agenda. Many stressed the short timeline for the operational review—dictated by the General Assembly resolution—as a challenge. Others highlighted the need to determine how this process will intersect with other global processes such as the MDGs.

These key issues and recommendations—thematic focus points, engaging civil society, mobilizing political will and setting a clear roadmap—can be taken forward by UNFPA as guidance for their work in completing the operational review and setting political priorities for accelerating progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

PULL QUOTES:

Ed Barry: For the sake of global well-being, we must ensure a balance of human needs and sustainable development. The most important investment the world can make is to support gender equity initiatives through investment of reproductive health and family planning.

Lola Dare: Nigeria has free contraceptive services. To achieve this, we had to involve the men, the custodians of our culture. Once we got men to buy in, the rest became easy.

Kwabena Osei-Danquah: I am truly proud that civil society showed its readiness to share their wisdom that will help us establish the way forward. You have expertise and experiences across a varied landscape and that will be crucial to getting an outcome that responds to the needs of people around the world.

We're here because of our commitment to the ICPD agenda—to save lives, promote human rights and equality and ensure that every human being lives in dignity.

We know you're here because of your commitment to ICPD agenda- to save lives, promote human rights and equality and ensure every human being lives in dignity- many of you have long record of working to realize these objectives.

Gita Sen: Our agenda is underpinned by gender equality. Attention to this is not a distraction or side issue, but an unavoidable means and mechanism.

In India, we still see young girls who are married young and suffer from preeclampsia. There families don't know what this is. Girls are sometimes taken to the temple and beaten to get rid of the devil that is causing the problem. How can you save the life of this girl when you have to persuade her parents to take her out of the temple and bring her to a health center where she can get care?

Rajat Khosla : What we need is a clear indication of our vision beyond 2012. What do we want to achieve? What experiences can we share and how can the lived realities of individuals translate into a change within the development agenda?

Francis Kissling: Cairo was a paradigm shift. But was 20 years ago. Paradigm shifts now happen every five years. While we haven't achieved the [Cairo] goals, we need to think about next paradigm shift.