

Report CSO Meeting:

ICPD Beyond 2014 – From Promise to Action, CSOs Defining the Way Forward

3-4 July 2013,
Geneva, Palais des Nations



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I. Context

On the 3rd and 4th of July 2013 International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) organized a Civil Society Organization's meeting "*ICPD Beyond 2014 – From Promise to Action, CSOs Defining the Way Forward*". The meeting was co-hosted by two regional networks, the European Women's Lobby and ASTRA, to reinforce cross-regional collaboration on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 process.

IPPF European Network has been tasked to be the convener of civil society and to provide space for dialogue and action following the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Conference that took place in Geneva on the 1-2nd of July 2013. The UNECE Conference reviewed the status of implementation and progress of countries commitments to the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA). It gathered representatives of governmental authorities, academia and civil society organizations, members of national parliaments and other national and international stakeholders from the UNECE region¹.

A global survey on the progress and remaining gaps in ICPD PoA implementation has been conducted, and the findings are analyzed in the [UNECE Regional Report](#). The report as well as the conference was focused around three thematic areas: i) Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development, ii) Families, Sexual and Reproductive Health over the Life Course, iii) Inequalities, Social Inclusion and Rights.

The outcome of the UNECE conference is a [Final Chair's Summary](#). The Conference is therefore not negotiated as it is the case with other regional meetings, but nonetheless important as it will feed into the UN Secretary-General's global report, which will be considered in 2014 at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (GA) on ICPD Beyond 2014.

The objective of the CSO meeting was to identify strategies on how CSO's can ensure that the outcomes of the UNECE Conference will be translated into action and progress for the region, and the regional priorities will be taken into account in the upcoming global discussions.

The CSO meeting welcomed 70 participants from CSO at large, such as organizations working in the field of Human Rights, HIV/AIDS, youth, women's rights, sustainable development and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) amongst others, from both national and regional level to broaden the level of support and strengthen advocacy power within the region (see *participants list in annex 1*).

¹ The UNECE region covers Europe, Canada, the United States of America, Central Asia and Israel.

II. Regional perspectives - Content of presentations on Day 1

The CSO meeting was organized around plenary sessions and working group sessions. On the first day the meeting focused on the regional perspectives, the findings of the regional ICPD survey and outcomes of the UNECE conference. It also gave an introduction to the ICPD+20 processes and the role of the High Level Task Force. The group session worked to identify the regional priorities in accordance with the three thematic topics from the UNECE-conference

2.1 Outcomes of the ICPD Beyond 2014 regional review process

The first presentation outlined the findings of the regional report from the UNECE Conference by Marta Diavolova, Programme Adviser, UNFPA EECARO.

She explained that in the UNECE region, the ICPD review process started with three thematic expert meetings conducted with the participation of CSO's, parliamentarians, youth organizations and academics. Two academic reports have been published (IIASA/Wittgenstein report), and end of May a Youth forum was organized in Istanbul. The global survey has been conducted to review the status of implementation of the ICPD PoA, which resulted in the UNECE regional report. The report is based on a questionnaire shared with governments (45 out of 56 countries replied), and Country Implementation Profiles (CIP) and the presentation summarizes the findings of this survey.

Summary of the trends:

The UNECE region covers 56 states, representing 18% of the world population. It is a very diverse region from low to middle and high income countries, but despite this diversity some trends are shared by most countries in the region.

As for the population trends, the region is no longer growing fast. The population is ageing, people live longer and are healthier, and there are trends in policies pushing for more children. People are better educated and have fewer children, and later in life. They live in more diverse family settings, have higher incomes and are more mobile moving between and within countries, wherefore migration is becoming more complex.

As a political response to these trends institutions and policies should adapt to the changes and strengthen their investment in people (human capital): health, education and activity of individuals throughout the life course. Ageing should not be perceived as a threat, and when people are socially more equal, there are better chances for economical growth.

Summary of the challenges:

Some of the challenges of the region remain the non-communicable diseases and lifestyle-related diseases. For young people limited access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and decision making continues. Early and forced marriage is still an issue in Central Asia even if it has been addressed in policies.

The use of modern contraceptives is in average high in Western Europe and the United States and Canada, but lower and on the level of developing countries in South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. The rates of abortion have strongly declined in the last 20 years, but they still remain relatively high in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. In some countries, abortion is used as a modality for prenatal sex selection in favor of boys.

With over 50% youth unemployment in many countries the transition from education to employment has become a major problem. The participation of women remains an

unfinished agenda in most countries, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) is still prevalent across the entire region along with harmful practices and gender stereotyping.

New living arrangements have emerged. In several countries many couples are living together without being married and many babies are born out of wedlock today for instance. There are also newly formed families after divorce, same sex couples and other living arrangements. Therefore the legal frameworks have to be adapted to prevent discrimination and recognize parents' roles.

There is a persistent lack of comprehensive sexuality education, and a limited or no access to high-quality abortion services. There is a low level of knowledge about human rights together with underfunded national mechanisms for human rights protection in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. There is a need to translate policies into actions, which should be supported by budget allocations. The monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation and its quality should receive greater attention and funding. For instance macro level policies show a good picture on poverty, but in reality there are pockets of poverty with countries that should be reached.

Summary of achievements:

Efforts have been made in many countries to harmonize national legislation with international agreements including the ICPD PoA. There is a strong focus on sexual health, reproductive health and reproductive rights, and greater attention is paid to the needs of vulnerable groups.

But to achieve the goals set by the ICPD PoA, policies should focus on addressing the challenges and barriers in a forward-looking manner, by firmly addressing inequalities and social exclusion, both inside and between countries, and by putting women and young people with their needs and the rights at the center of policy development. Policies need to be updated as societies are changing, and should help people alleviate barriers.

Summary of Q&A:

The first question was addressed to Kwabena Osei Danquah, Executive Co-ordinator of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Secretariat, who was present on the first day of the meeting, on the process of the Chair's summary and the link with the general ICPD+20 report.

He explained that the main ICPD+20 review report will contain all the regional reports. It will take into account some of the outcomes, and based on that more general recommendations will be formulated. The Secretary General's report will be a summary of the overall ICDP review report. It is intended to help structure the discussion at the Commission for Population and Development (CPD) and help the member states formulate recommendations.

The issues identified as the most critical for the ICPD Beyond 2014, will go in to the Index report. This report constitutes the outcome of the entire ICPD review, and in terms of implementation it is therefore crucial. After the UNGA Special Session there should be green light for the « forward moving agenda » on the ICPD + 20, with outcomes. The ICPD PoA will not be negotiated as it is known beforehand that member states are much divided on SRHR related issues. Nonetheless it can be considered as a "Cairo part 2 » with key actions for implementation for Beyond 2014, and it will have the same authority as a negotiated outcome.

The increased need to understand migration, and not only related to the economical aspects of population movements, was raised, and policies need to be able to respond to increasingly complex migrant issues. UNFPA informed that this issue is addressed in the Wittgenstein Centre's report: "Population Trends and Policies in the UNECE region".

Another question was raised as to why some countries did not reply to the global survey (45 out of 56 countries replied), and if there is any action for CSO's to do on this issue. UNFPA replied that CSO should now push within countries to ensure a higher quality and availability of data. It is not only an issue of submitting the questionnaire, but also about the quality of the information provided and the equality of information.

The findings from the UNECE report can give a lot of information on the existence of policies and the trends, but there is a need to complement with a qualitative analysis to get the full picture, which CSO's should advocate for.

2.2 Outcomes of the UNECE Conference discussions

This presentation was made by Marta Szostak, Coordinator of ASTRA network, who outlined the outcomes of the UNECE conference discussion concluded the day before.

The UNECE Conference did not have a negotiated outcome, as it is the case for the other regional reviews. The outcome was a Chair's Summary based on the interventions made by governments, CSO's and academics. Switzerland was appointed the Chair of the conference and the Vice-chair was Russia. The rapporteur was John Hobcraft Professor of Demography and Social Policy at York University. The conference was focused around three thematic sessions, and each session was introduced by key note speakers outlining central issues in the related area.

The conference gave a general impression of a smooth process, both in the interventions from Member states as well as CSO's. There was a great support for youth issues and the Regional Youth Call to Action. Only one anti-choice CSO "International Family Federation for Family Development" made a soft intervention, which focused on family friendly policies, and Malta intervened on abortion, stating that it is illegal in Malta and therefore asked to remove language on abortion in the summary. Macedonia also intervened in response to the statement delivered by the Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning, which addressed regional tendencies of restrictions on women's access to safe and legal abortion with mention of Macedonia, to which they responded that the country puts women's health first.

The final Chair's Summary represents strong language on SRHR, and is in general a positive outcome. It makes reference to respecting rights of individuals, that population dynamics should be about people and not numbers, enabling choices, addresses all sources of inequality. There is mention of the protection of migrants and their rights, GBV, keeping governments accountable. Human Rights Based language was a crosscutting issue and present in the majority of the interventions and is a part of the summary.

Like-minded countries and youth organizations worked to ensure unqualified language on comprehensive sexuality education and to keep rights based language on sexual orientation and gender identities in the Chair's summary. The first draft summary included language on LGBTQI, but was unfortunately left out in the final summary after pressure from certain countries.

The strong SRHR language in the final Chair's Summary can therefore support upcoming advocacy efforts on moving the agenda forward on the ICPD Beyond 2014.

2.3 Introducing the ICPD+20 process

The following presentation was by Pinar Ilkcaracan, a founding president of Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways and member of the High Level Task Force for the ICPD+20. The presentation focused on the intensive process that is coming up in the international arena.

Being part of this process is highly important to make the voice of CSO's heard, as it will define the UN development agenda for next decades. Therefore NGO's need to collaborate and ensure that information on these international processes gets out to all partners on all levels. It is necessary to ensure that SRHR is on the post 2015 agenda, because if it is left out it will be marginalized.

The role of the High Level Task Force:

The High Level Task Force (HLTF) for the ICPD Beyond 2014 process is an independent body of 26 leaders serving in their individual capacities and its term is from September 2012 through December 2015.

The HLTF is tasked to link the ICPD with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and thereby ensuring that SRHR, gender equality and the empowerment of women, adolescents and youth are central components of the Post-2015 Agenda. The HLTF works towards closing the existing gaps in the ICPD PoA and with these gaps and issues in mind the HLTF has formulated key recommendations for action on SRHR, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and GBV, which can be taken up and used by all CSO's in their work.

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals:

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) was established on January 2013 by a decision of the General Assembly, and is a spring off from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The OWG is tasked with preparing a proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals. Member States work in a system of representation, where they are grouped in threesomes (for instance Turkey is in a group with Italy and Spain). For CSO's it is therefore important to be aware in which group one's government is.

The OWG meets in different thematic sessions to develop a common view. CSO's entry point to the OWG is the "Major Groups", gathering CSO's in the 9 thematic subgroups². Four more thematic sessions are coming up in New York:

- **5th session** (25-27 November 2013): Sustained and inclusive economic growth; Macroeconomic policy questions and infrastructure development; Industrialization and energy.
- **6th session** (9-13 December 2013): Means of implementation; Global partnership for achieving sustainable development ;, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS; The right to development ; Human rights; Global governance.
- **7th session** (6-10 January 2014): Sustainable cities and human settlements; Sustainable transport; energy; Sustainable consumption and production; Climate change; Disaster risk reduction.
- **8th session** (3-7 February 2014): Oceans and seas; Forests and biodiversity; Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment; Conflict prevention, peace building and security; Rule of law and governance.

²: *The 9 Major Groups are: Women, Children & Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, NGO's, Scientific & Technological Community, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry. More info [here](#)*

The local-national-international advocacy efforts should be linked to ensure that SRHR is on the agenda on all levels. Networking and engaging with other CSO's from other sectors than SRHR is crucial, as many of the OWG will treat very different themes, but with interlinked issues. Creating a close collaboration with other sectors, as for instance macro-economic or environment is a way to ensure that gender equality is considered in this area as well. Working in coalition amongst CSO's across themes is therefore highly important.

Ensuring that the voice of CSO's is taken into consideration in these upcoming international processes therefore calls for a strong coordination and solidarity amongst CSO's, so that the CSO representatives in the international arenas will bring up the issues that are of a priority to all in a transparent manner.

III. Interactive session on the key issues of the region

In the first interactive session, the participants were divided in six groups (A-F) to work on the three key themes from the ICPD review process. The groups worked on identifying key priorities in the region based on the UNECE report findings. On that basis they formulated recommendations on how the regions priorities could be advanced and how to ensure their consideration in the international agenda. At the end of the discussions each group presented their findings in plenary.

3.1 Group A + D: Population dynamics and sustainable development

In the two groups who analyzed population dynamics and sustainable development the following issues were identified as a priority in the region:

Fertility

There is a regional trend of couples postponing having children therefore implying low fertility rate. From a positive perspective the fertility rate is a manifestation of greater choice, but there is a risk that this will lead to pro-natal policies pushing women to be « baby machines ». Low fertility rates should not be perceived as a threat, but should be addressed to enable people to remove barriers (social, economical etc.), and facilitate the balance between work-private life. The trend of a higher age at first birth also brings a greater need for reproduction technologies, which should be taken into account in policies.

A supportive policy framework respecting and protecting individual's sexual and reproductive health and the right to make autonomous decisions about number and spacing of children is crucial. Choice should therefore be essential in population policies.

Ageing

Another trend of this region is an ageing population. Ageing is an issue that was not addressed in depth in the PoA. For instance, sexuality and rights of elderly are not often included in SRHR discussions. Ageing is also often associated to macro-policies and medical issues, but focus should be on adapting a healthy lifestyle throughout lifecycle to ensure a healthy ageing. Older persons can contribute with dignity to society through gradual evidence based changes in pension systems, health care and other social support.

Governments should take measures to address this change in population dynamics, ensure SRHR of older people, and create policies enabling families to assist their older family members.

Migration

There is increased migration, in particular amongst youth, in part due to unemployment. Some countries, in particular the EU member states from Eastern Europe, also suffer from a "brain drain". Migration can be a positive aspect for societies as it contributes to economy of receiving countries, but is often seen as negative (fear-based approach). Migrants are therefore often facing low status; there is a deteriorated climate by right wing populist parties.

There is also a trend of increased internal migration from rural to urban areas, which creates depopulation in some sub regions. Some governments give incentives to areas facing these problems so that services are still offered in areas with thin population.

Regional and sub-regional agreements can be particularly effective in addressing migration issues and research is needed to ensure policies are evidence-based. In addition policies are needed that support integration of migrants through a human rights based approach.

Environment

Education on environment is increasingly crucial. The emphasis is often on sustainable consumption, which is important, but it needs also to include sustainable production (products should last longer).

The current « high carbon consumption model » of development has not been replaced, which means that there is a need to look at other models for development that are more environmentally friendly – « low carbon growth models ».

Talking about population dynamics is linked to sustainable development. Educating, in particular youth, on new development models and green technologies, is crucial so that they become more environmentally aware and consume less.

3.2 Group B + E: Families and SRH during life course

In the two groups who discussed Families and SRH during the life course the following issues were identified as a priority for the region:

Data

There is a lack of data on SRH services in many countries, which makes it difficult to evaluate the actual quality of services. The existence of policies does not inform us on the quality of implementation. Very often data are not disaggregated and gender equality issues are therefore difficult to address. Gender Based Violence is an area also lacking data. Without data evidence based advocacy is complicated for CSO's.

There is a great need for better monitoring systems and data collection in many countries throughout the region. Governments need to develop this capacity in collaboration with CSO's.

New Family Forms

Family forms are evolving and many new living arrangements currently exist. Many emerging SRHR issues changes the "way we work", such as ageing, addressing sexual needs and rights of elderly/over reproductive age, new technological and medical advancements are bringing ethical issues linked to SRHR (surrogate mothers, assisted reproduction technology services ...), which are not always addressed in policies or in the ICPD PoA.

The "concept" of family needs to be re-defined and ensure that policies are including all categories (single mothers/fathers, same-sex couples...). CSO's also need to be upfront

on the new ethical questions on SRHR to avoid leaving this space open for others that do not apply a human rights based approach.

Access to information and services

Barriers to accessing SRH information and services still exist in many countries of the region. Access to modern contraception varies widely across the region. In some sub-regions SRHR is depended on donor support, especially on contraception and often CSO have to take the lead in providing services. Access to information and SRH services is in particular an issue in remote areas and for marginalized groups of the population, such as migrants, who are often isolated.

Access to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is still an ongoing issue, and there is a lack of comprehensive evidence based education. Either there is no CSE at all, or it exists in legislation but is not implemented. In many countries there is often a shortage of trained teachers.

The governments should support training of teachers and ensure that all groups (including the vulnerable groups) have access to information and counseling on SRH. CSE should be mandatory in educational curricula.

Abortion

Abortion is legal in many countries across the region, but is in reality often stigmatized by religious or political leaders. In some cases there is reluctance of health professionals to act according to existing legislation by implementing the law to its full extend. Conscientious objection is not uncommon, and in some cases health care facilities deter clients by raising prices. In some countries, health care facilities are closing because of budget cuts and providing abortions is not interesting for doctors in terms of their career.

Change is fragile and the trend of decreasing abortion rates is not necessarily a lasting trend. SRHR is dependent on general economic, cultural and religious trends. CSO's therefore need to stay aware of the increasing conservatism in the region, implying a rising anti-choice agenda, in particular in the Central and Eastern European sub region, which is reflected by attempts to restrict women's access to safe and legal abortion.

3.3 Group C + F: Inequalities, social inclusion and rights

In the two groups who discussed inequalities, social inclusion and rights the following issues were identified as a priority in the region:

Gender (in) equality

There is a return to traditional gender roles due to the financial crisis, as many women are forced to take care of the children or their older relatives which makes them dependent on their providers/husbands. The crisis also has an impact on women's poverty as they are the most vulnerable, in particular single-parent mothers. Although many countries have policies on women's representation in decision making positions, they stay underrepresented. Gender equality policies should also address the needs of men who can also be subject to discrimination, as for instance on parental leave where fathers lack possibilities..Social security systems should also be the same regardless of gender.

There is a general lack of policies and data on gender equality and the countries often lack the will or interest to monitor these issues. Gender sensitivity should be present in the whole policy spectrum from research, data, implementation of policies and programmes to evaluation.

Gender based violence

There is an overall lack of available data on Gender based violence (GBV). Early and forced marriage and abduction, along with early pregnancies persist, in particular in Central Asia.

The majority of persons in prostitution are women, and if they are transgender they are in double jeopardy. Undocumented migrant women are also highly vulnerable in this regard, and in general there are no policies to tackle these vulnerabilities.

Data on GBV, but also general data focusing on gender/age would help understand causes and possible solutions to counter GBV, but there is a big gap in this area, which needs to be addressed by governments.

Discrimination

Disadvantaged groups should be understood and addressed in a broad sense (migrants, people living with HIV, persons in prostitution, people living with a handicap, youth...) as some groups are subject to several types of discrimination. There is a need to ensure access to information and SRH services for disadvantaged groups.

More specifically on persons in prostitution, criminalization of this group leads to service providers and police to work against each other. In some countries police criminalize prostituted persons on condom possession, thereby exposing them to unsafe sex.

HIV

The region has known a rapid increase of HIV prevalence, in particular amongst young people, men having sex with men, persons in prostitution (forced testing, unwanted exposure), migrant communities and drug users. In addition to this many people living with HIV are also infected with hepatitis C, where the medication is very expensive thereby exposing them to further vulnerability.

Governments and donors need to keep on investing in prevention of HIV with a gender sensitive approach. This is particularly important in this region where infections are increasing and donors are withdrawing leaving behind countries that lack the capacity and budgets to take over.

IV. Global advocacy opportunities - Content of Presentations Day 2

On the second day the focus was on global advocacy opportunities. The international post 2015 agenda was presented and the importance of putting SRHR on the agenda, different ongoing strategies and initiatives such as the Platform of Platforms, Youth organizations' advocacy activities, and IPPF's Vision2020 were also presented. The group sessions on the second day focused on identifying advocacy opportunities at national, regional and global level.

4.1 The post 2015 agenda – how CSO's can influence the process

This presentation was made by Marianne Haslegrave, Director of Commonwealth Medical Trust, who provided an overview of what is currently going on in the international agenda and how all these processes are interlinked. This was presented in a jigsaw to give a full picture of how the pieces get together.

In the 90's a several international conferences took place (ICPD, Beijing...) resulting in many working documents setting the agenda for what should be done. After the

Millennium Summit it was decided to make it simpler and the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were created. SRH was left out of the MDG's, and only added in 2007 in MDG 5b. In the current process of ICPD Beyond 2014, the MDG's coming to an end and the post 2015 process, CSO's need to pay close attention this time and take active part in the process.

In the worst case scenario the UN Secretary General's (SG) report for the UN General Assembly Special Event in September 2013 on the MDG and post-MDG framework will be very weak on women's rights and SRHR. To avoid this CSO's need to act and get involved beforehand to make sure these issues are included. As an advocacy opportunity, the presenter suggested to draft a letter (*see annex 3*) to be sent to the UN SG asking him to give as much credibility as possible to what has already been included on SRHR in other reports, such as the Report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons; the Report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); and the Report on Corporate Sustainability of the Global Compact. Every CSO should send it to the UN as a call for attention to include SRHR related issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

Summary of Q&A

On the 23-25th of April 2014 the 6th International Parliamentarians Conference (IPCI), will take place in Stockholm, Sweden. It was mentioned as an interesting opportunity to organize support to the ICPD. Parliamentarians are an interesting entry point, with whom CSO's needs to keep close contact to ensure that SRHR is on the agenda.

The NGO-sector also needs to reinforce its collaboration across themes. SRHR is one out of many issues mentioned in the PoA. CSO's should work with environmental groups, youth groups, migration or urbanization etc. Not all of them cover SRHR directly, but we need to create a connection. An example was mentioned from a population sustainability network that is currently doing a partnership with the environmental NGO "Friends of the Earth". CSO's working on SRHR should connect and involve with population dynamics and interlinked issues to avoid leaving the field free for those who do not have a human rights based approach.

4.2 Putting SRHR on the post 2015 agenda

This presentation was done by Pierrette Pape, Policy Officer and Project Coordinator, European Women's Lobby, outlining some of the current challenges in Europe today with regards to SRHR.

There is firstly a lack of services and access to SRHR, due to a lack of political priority given to SRHR. The crisis and austerity measures have a detrimental impact on the ability of many to enjoy their SRHR: cuts in public care and health services increase gender inequality and can lead to a return to traditional roles of men and women as women tend to stay home to take care of family members; women are at greater risk of poverty and made more vulnerable to male violence.

The growing pressure of conservative and religious groups leads to recurrent attacks on abortion legislation, biased counseling, attacks on LGBT rights and on sexuality education. Tradition tends to be used as an excuse to attack women's and girls' empowerment.

Finally, the growing globalization and the detrimental impact of the neo-liberal system, which transforms health into a commodity, brings great challenges to the development of a progressive and egalitarian health system, including sexuality education. It also causes a growing sexualisation of young people, in particular girls. There is an urgent need to keep a broader perspective on SRHR on the political agenda, guaranteeing equality of sexual and reproductive rights for all, free from any constraint or discrimination.

All these continuing challenges in the region taken into consideration, the Europe Union (EU) therefore needs to take the post-2015 agenda seriously as an internal EU issue too, and not perceive it as only a development issue. CSO's therefore have to invest in the post-2015 agenda ensuring a human-rights & people-centered approach will be in the forefront of any further global framework.

A step in the right direction is the European Parliament's report on SRHR, which is currently underway. It is a strong political signal from the EU on SRHR. The amendments for the report will be available soon and CSO's should mobilize to alert their Member of the European Parliament on this subject to help focus on SRHR in Europe and in the post-2015 development agenda.

Summary of Q&A:

It was recalled that SRHR has the specificity to be subject to exclusion. Anti-choice is often well organized with affiliation to certain political parties, who are elite-driven with organized substantial funding, which makes it important for CSO's to collaborate and reach out across the region to counter these movements.

4.3 Timeline introduction of the "Platform of Platforms"

This presentation was given by Yvonne Bogaarts, Manager Advocacy RutgersWPF, who explained that many CSO's shared the will to avoid the same scenario as with the MDG's, where SRHR was initially left out. With the many ongoing international processes, each with their own dynamics, and not always clearly linked nor well defined, 11 networks decided to set up a CSO Platform to promote and anchor SRHR in the new development framework beyond 2015, called "The Platform of platforms".

The Platform developed a visionary goal with three main targets to strive for the realisation of Universal Access to SRHR on the international agenda:

- Target 1: Achieve, by 2030, universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Target 2: Achieve, by 2030, universal recognition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Target 3: Achieve, by 2030, strengthened systems for Sexual and Reproductive Health Financing.

The Platform of platforms meets once a month by Skype and does not have funding but is driven by the enthusiasm of its members. For instance, the Platform has worked on proving input to "The World We Want- consultations", they have written letters to the High Level Panel (HLP) co-chairs and members, to the Executive Director of UNFPA on the HLP, to the OWG members, to the organizers of the UN High Level Event on the 25 September on the issue of CSO participation, and they participated in meetings with the High Level Panel amongst other activities.

The Platform is open to everyone CSOs committed to SRHR and a list serve exists to strategize and exchange information.

Summary of Q&A:

The Platform is strategizing and exchanging information and aiming to mobilize people around the SRHR goal in the post 2015 development framework. There are plans to develop a logo for SRHR which could be posted by everyone on their website. On the question on how progress should be monitored, and what could be indicators to measure this progress, it was stated that the goal also has suggested indicators. The visionary goal is a work in progress and the platform is open to ideas to improve the goal.

4.4 Engaging Youth

The presentation done by Grace Wilentz, coordinator of YouAct and Maya Koumanova, chair of YSAFE, assisted by Cecilie Morville, member of YSAFE, was reflective of the young people's ongoing advocacy activities in the region.

YSAFE, which is the IPPF European Network supported youth group, introduced a project named "I love being a girl" which tackles gender issues built around a social platform-blog as an advocacy tool to connect young volunteers, raise awareness and talk about positive experiences. The blog for instance shows short movies that focus on gender roles.

YouAct, which is a group of 25 youth members from 15 EU countries, shared the example of their "Demand for change" campaign, which targets EU Parliamentarians to ensure that youth participation is increased.

The speakers raised attention to the Bali Youth Forum which took place on the 4-6th of December 2012 as a landmark on young people's human rights and putting young people in the center of moving the ICPD agenda forward. It was highly recommended to use the Bali Declaration as an advocacy tool.

Summary of Q&A:

The participation of young people in delegations or in official meetings was an issue raised by the youth organizations. There was a call for reinforcing capacity building mechanisms such as including young people in government delegations and finance their participation to important meetings.

Another issue raised concerned the fact that often the young people selected are part of the more privileged (often with higher education and language skills) and not always representatives of all young people. The youth organizations' active outreach to national youth organizations is essential in order to capture the diversity of youth. It is key to include young people from marginalized groups and from the global south and ensure that they can attend international meetings.

Around the ICPD Beyond 2014 process there has been good initiative to set up a youth and ICPD partnership. In 8 countries CSO, governments and UN bodies were brought together as equal partners to work on the ICPD beyond 2014. It is a good opportunity for youth organizations to be involved in these processes and to build capacity in SRHR and youth rights.

Youth organizations are part of a democratization process and can function as a role model to act and speak-up, and this role should be reinforced in other regions where this is more difficult, such as Central Asia. Creating synergies can help other regions to join the movement and advance the ICPD agenda.

4.5 New visions in a new development framework: IPPF's Vision 2020

IPPF EN's Regional Director, Vicky Claeys, showed a short film on IPPF's "Vision 2020" to encourage CSO's to mobilize around this statement.

Vision 2020 is a manifesto of IPPF supported by more than 170 countries where the Federation works. It formulates what IPPF expects governments to achieve by 2020. With a new global framework coming up it is a crucial time to think about a new vision on development that can be drivers for increased justice, equality and sustainability.

Vision 2020 therefore formulates 10 “asks” to governments that IPPF believes will lead to an environment that will enable all people to exercise their sexual rights and reproductive rights. The aim is to gather the support of CSO’s at large, private sector, UN agencies and other allies to engage around these goals and advocate together towards governments.

Vision 2020 was launched in November 2012. The donor community has been informed about it, and IPPF is working to increase knowledge and support at national levels, and encourage participation and engagement from the CSO at large.

V. Interactive session on advocacy opportunities at national, regional and global level

The second day’s group sessions identified next steps on how to advance the ICPD PoA in the region. The groups based their discussions on the UNECE report findings on partnership between CSO’s and governments. They analyzed what type of actions and advocacy strategies CSO’s can undertake to make sure the regional priorities will be present in the international agenda.

At the end of the discussions each group presented their findings in plenary. The following is a summary of the main recommendations from the groups.

5.1 Strategies for international advocacy

- *National delegations to UN meetings:* Working with governments to the composition of the delegations; ask for CSO’s to be part of the delegation or advocate for the acceptance of CSO’s on delegations; find out who are the key national representatives are important steps to include SRHR related issues. Early contact and information to governments about events in advance is therefore crucial.
Good relation to proactive UN Country Offices is necessary as in many countries they can introduce CSO’s to governments and push for their participation in delegations.
Working to include youth participants in delegations should also be a priority. When there is no CSO participation, it can be proposed to governments to organize a briefing before and after events as an example of good practice to allow CSO’s to provide input and collect information.
- *Collaborate with parliamentarians:* Provide resources and position papers to parliamentarians and getting ministries to work together on crosscutting issues.
- *Using social media:* Social media can be an advocacy tool for public discussions, awareness raising, campaigns, and information sharing. CSO’s should use social media to collaborate around key issues.
- *Strategizing with regional networks:* Regional networks are an important source for information sharing and they can act as a back-up and provider of assistance for those organizations that have little time and human resources to do advocacy (i.e. draft letters, analyze reports, attending international advocacy events). It is also a way to raise awareness within CSO’s about international advocacy processes as there are different levels of knowledge and resources across the region.

5.2 Linking with other issues

It is important that the SRHR community engages other CSO's on common issues such as population dynamics, environment and migration. SRHR issues should therefore be phrased in a comprehensible language to people working with other issues and clearly demonstrate what the links between them are.

This is also important at a national level, where we should attract and inform other NGO's that work in areas that are related to the ICDP PoA. At a local level the authorities should be informed and involved in the ICPD PoA, and advocacy can start here already.

SRHR should also be linked with the Human Rights agenda that governments have committed to. That link should be build by the CSO's, as access to SRH services is a basic human right.

5.3 Next steps for international advocacy

1. **Send letter to the UN SG report for the Special Event in September 2013 on the MDG and post-MDG framework:**
As a concrete outcome of the meeting a draft letter is made available to the participants (*see annex 3*). CSO's are encouraged to send the letter as a call for attention to include SRHR issues.
2. **Coordinate responses on the UN SG report:**
The UN SG report will be released on the 25th of September 2013. Fearing that the report will still be weak on SRHR related issues, CSO's need to react in a coordinated manner to the report.
3. **Engage with the Major Groups organizing partners on the OWG:**
Two sessions are scheduled before the end of 2013: in 25-27th of November the 5th session on economic growth is organized and the 9-13th of December on sustainable development, governance and human rights. CSO Interventions at the OWG are organized through the Major Groups organizing partners. It is therefore crucial to engage and to link SRHR related issues to sustainability.
4. **Using the momentum of the European Parliament's (EP) SRHR Report:**
In October 2013 the report will be for adoption in plenary in the European Parliament. This provides opportunities to do advocacy around SRHR and link it to the post-2015 development agenda, in particular for EU members and candidate countries.
5. **Coordinate on the Commission of Population and Development (CPD):**
On 14-18 April 2014 in New York the 47th session of the CPD will take place, which is a key event for the ICPD beyond 2014. CSO's should coordinate and ensure common strategizing around this event to make sure our priorities for the region is taken into account.

VI. Conclusion

In the closing session, the IPPF EN Regional Director, Vicky Claeys informed that the next step in the ICPD Beyond 2014 review process is the Human Rights Conference in the Netherlands on the 7-10th of July 2013. The Conference is hosted by the Government of The Netherlands in partnership with UNFPA and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The conference will focus on the link between human rights, equality, accountability and population and development.

This Global Human Rights conference along with the UNECE regional review, illustrates that we are in the middle of an intense international agenda, where CSO's need to engage in defining the new development framework. The following conclusions can therefore be summarized from the CSO meeting:

- CSO's need to engage with and create alliances outside the SRHR community on the new global framework
- Many advocacy opportunities and networks exist and have been presented during the meeting - CSO's should engage in these to optimize the impact and efficiency of their advocacy work
- The region is very diverse and issues related to the ICPD PoA differ, but advocacy work should be inclusive and carried out in solidarity and transparency so that priorities of countries with less resources are also taken into account
- The upcoming international processes is a momentum where CSO's should be involved to make sure our issues are not marginalized in the new development framework

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants

		Name		Organization	Country
1	Ms	Elona	Hoxha	Albanian Centre for Population and Development	Albania
2	Mr	David	Ruiz	Stop Aids	Albania
3	Ms	Johanna	Marquardt	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung (ÖGF)	Austria
4	Ms	Iryna	Rombak	WAVE - Women against Violence Europe Network	Austria
5	Mr	Neil	Datta	European Parliamentary Forum	Belgium
6	Ms	Marina	Davidashvili	European Parliamentary Forum	Belgium
7	Ms	Pierrette	Pape	European Women's Lobby	Belgium
8	Ms	Vicky	Claeys	IPPF EN	Belgium
9	Ms	Charlotte	Nielsen	IPPF EN	Belgium
10	Ms	Ariane	Vaughan	IPPF EN	Belgium
11	Ms	Jolanta	Skubiszewska	IPPF EN	Belgium
12	Mr	Wim	van de Voorde	Sensoa	Belgium
13	Ms	Emina	Osmanagic	Family Planning Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
14	Ms	Maya	Koumanova	YSAFE	Bulgaria
15	Ms	Milena	Nikolova	National Network for Children	Bulgaria
16	Ms	Milena	Kadieva	Gender Alternatives Foundation	Bulgaria
17	Mr.	Sandeep	Prasad	Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD)	Canada
18	Ms	Sandra	Kenell	Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD)	Canada
19	Ms	Cecilie	Morville	YSAFE	Denmark
20	Ms	Jacqueline	Bryld	Sex & Samfund	Denmark
21	Mr	Dan	Apter	Väestöliitto	Finland
22	Mr	Serge	Rabier	EuroNGOs	France
23	Ms	Dominique	Audouze	Mouvement Français pour le Planning Familial	France
24	Mr	Apostolos	Kalogiannis	Positive voices	Greece
25	Ms	Aliya	Rakhmetova	SWAN	Hungary
26	Ms	Gyula	Simonyi	BOCS Foundation	Hungary
27	Ms	Grace	Wilentz	YouAct	Ireland
28	Ms	Ilana	Ziegler	Israel Family Planning Association	Israel
29	Ms	Galina	Grebennikova	Kazakhstan Association on Sexual and Reproductive Health	Kazakhstan
30	Ms	Galina	Chirkina	Public Union "Reproductive Health Alliance" in Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
31	Ms	Jasminka	Frishchikj	NGO ESE – Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women	Macedonia
32	Mr	Borjan	Pavlovski	NGO ESE – Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women	Macedonia

33	Mr	Bojan	Jovanovski	HERA - Health Education and Research Association	Macedonia
34	Ms	Elena	Sajina	Societatea de Planificare a Familiei din Moldova	Moldova
35	Ms	Magnhild	Bøgseth	Norwegian Children and Youth Council	Norway
36	Ms	Marta	Szostak	ASTRA	Poland
37	Mr	Tomasz	Stawiszynski	Krytyka Polityczna	Poland
38	Mr	Piotr	Kalbarczyk	TRR Poland	Poland
39	Ms	Alice	Frade	P&D Factor	Portugal
40	Ms	Ioana	Avadani	Center for Independent Journalism	Romania
41	Ms	Camelia Florina	Proca	A.L.E.G.	Romania
42	Ms	Daniela	Draghici	Society for Education in Contraception and Sexuality	Romania
43	Mr	Karlo	Boras	Yugoslav Youth Association against Aids - Youth of Jazas	Serbia
44	Ms	Dragana	Stojanovic	Serbian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right	Serbia
45	Ms	Filomena	Ruggerio	Federación de Planificación Familiar Estatal (FPFE)	Spain
46	Ms	Emiliana	Tapia	Medicos Mundo	Spain
47	Mr	David	Ruiz Villafranca	Stop Aids Alliance	Switzerland
48	Ms	Stella	Jegher	Amnesty international, CH	Switzerland
49	Mr	Stuart	Halford	Sexual Rights Initiative	Switzerland
50	Ms	Noemi	Manco	Amnesty international, CH	Switzerland
51	Ms	Susanne	Rohner	SEXUAL HEALTH	Switzerland
52	Mr	Piero	Calvi-Parisetti	Helpage	Switzerland
53	Ms	Shakhlo	Dzhuraeva	NGO Jahon	Tajikistan
54	Mr	Ravshan	Tokhirov	Tajik Family Planning Alliance (TFPA)	Tajikistan
55	Mr	Jolien	Oosterheerd	CHOICE	Netherlands
56	Ms	Hilde	Kroes	Rutgers WPF	Netherlands
57	Ms	Yvonne	Bogaarts	Rutgers WPF	Netherlands
58	Mr.	Stephan	Hennis	CHOICE	Netherlands
59	Mr	Werner	Haug	UNFPA EECA Regional Office	Turkey
60	Ms	Marta	Diavolova	UNFPA EECA Regional Office	Turkey
61	Mr	Alexander	Pak	UNFPA EECA Regional Office	Turkey
62	Ms	Ilkcaracan	Pinar	WWHR	Turkey
63	Ms	Rebekah	Webb	EATG	UK
64	Ms	Karen	Newman	Population and sustainability network	UK
65	Ms	Marianne	Haslegrave	Commonwealth Medical Trust	UK
66	Ms	Ann Mette	Kjaerby	UK APPG on PD&RH	UK
67	Mr	Piero	Calvi-Parisetti	Helpage International	UK
68	Ms	Latayna	Mapp Frett	PPFA	USA
69	Ms	Nasiba	Mirodilova	National Association of Non-Governmental organisations	Uzbekistan
70	Ms	Galina	Maistruk	WHFP (Women Health and Family Planning Foundation)	Ukraine
71	Ms	Alfiya	Akbarova	UARH	Uzbekistan

Annex 2: Meeting agenda

Wednesday 3 July 2013 – Regional perspectives

08.30	Welcome Coffee – Day 1
09.30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome by: Ms Vicky Claeys, Regional Director, IPPF European Network Ms Marta Szostak, Coordinator ASTRA Network (Co-organiser) Ms Pierrette Pape, Coordinator, European Women’s Lobby (Co-organiser) Mr Werner Haug, Regional Director, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO)</p> <p>Presentation and adoption of the agenda</p>
10.15	<p>Outcomes of ICPD beyond 2014 Regional review process</p> <p>Findings from the Regional Survey Presentation by: Ms Marta Diavolova, Programme Adviser, UNFPA EECARO Q & A</p>
11.00	Coffee break
11.30	<p>Outcomes of the UNECE Regional Conference</p> <p>What was discussed, what are the outcomes Presentation by: Ms Marta Szostak, Coordinator, ASTRA Network Q & A</p>
12.15	<p>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, ICPD+20 and the post-2015 Process</p> <p>Presentation by: Ms Pinar Ilkkaracan, Founding president of Women for Women’s Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways and Member of the High Level Task Force for ICPD+20 Q & A</p>
13.00	Lunch
14.00	<p>Interactive session on the further implementation of the UNECE themes in the region:</p> <p>Identifying priorities within the 3 themes and formulate recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Population dynamics and sustainable development 2. Families and SRH during life course 3. Inequalities, social inclusion and rights
15.30	Coffee break
16.00	Reporting back on working session
16.45	Closing of the first day

Thursday 4 July 2013 – Global advocacy opportunities

09.15	Opening – Day 2
09.30	<p>The post 2015 agenda – how CSO’s can influence the process Where are we currently, what is next? Presentation by: Marianne Haslegrave, Director, Commonwealth Medical Trust Q & A</p>
10.15	<p>Putting SRHR on the post 2015 agenda Presentation by : Ms Pierrette Pape, Policy Officer and Project Coordinator, European Women’s Lobby Q & A</p>
11.00	Coffee break
11.30	<p>Taking stock of what is achieved and what is coming up Timeline introduction of the “Platform of Platforms” Presentation by: Ms Yvonne Bogaarts, Manager Advocacy RutgersWPF Q & A</p>
12.00	<p>Engaging Youth Youth strategies for advocacy in the ICPD Beyond 2014 process Presentation by: Ms Grace Wilentz, Coordinator You-Act Q & A</p>
12.30	<p>New visions in a new development framework - The example of IPPF’s Vision 2020 Mobilizing CSO’s around a long term vision Presentation by: Ms Vicky Claeys, Regional Director IPPF European Network Q & A</p>
13.00	Lunch
14.00	<p>Interactive session on advocacy opportunities at national, regional and global level Identifying next steps on how to advance and implement the ICPD PoA in the region</p>
15.30	Coffee break
16.00	Reporting back on working session
16.45	Closing of the meeting

Annex 3: Letter to the UN SG

Please put this proposed text onto your official letter head and send it to: ... with copies to: Amina Mohammed (aminaj.mohammed@un.org), Olav Kjørven (olav.kjorven@undp.org), John Hendra (john.hendra@unwomen.org) and Shamshad Akhtar (akhtar5@un.org)

City, 4 July 2013

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Secretary General's report on post-2015 development agenda

We attach great importance to your report that is currently being prepared for the UN General Assembly Special Event in September 2013 on the MDG and post-MDG framework. We see your report as a culmination of all the reports that you have commissioned recently including the Report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on post MDGs; the Report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); and the Report on Corporate Sustainability of the Global Compact. It is clear that your report, and the priorities highlighted within it, will play a major role in shaping the post-2015 International Development Agenda.

The High-level Panel Report makes a strong call for a goal: Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality (Illustrative goal 2) and for a target: Ensure universal sexual and reproductive health and rights (Illustrative target 4d). The SDSN report also highlights both of these issues and the Global Compact report includes women's empowerment and universal reproductive health services in its design for Sustainable Development Goals.

As a European organization (or an organization based in Europe), we would also point out two important events that emphasize the importance of making sexual and reproductive health and rights a key element of the post-2015 agenda. First of all, the high-level UN ECE regional conference Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century in Geneva on 1 and 2 July 2013, organized in collaboration with UNFPA as part of the ICPD Operational Review Process. The Chair's summary of this conference highlights the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to sexual and reproductive health services, as well as the right to access comprehensive sexuality education.

Related to this the recently adopted European Union Council Conclusions on Post-2015 stresses sexual and reproductive health and rights: "We remain committed to the promotion, protection and fulfillment of all human rights and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and in this context sexual and reproductive health and rights."

Knowing your interest in both these important concerns and considering the above inputs, we would like to encourage you to continue taking on the leadership to ensure that this broader agenda on women's and girls' health and rights is part of the post-2015 process by supporting:

- A stand alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as a cross cutting gender equality perspective throughout the post-2015 agenda.
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially in the context of human rights and the empowerment of young people and women as a policy priority, based on sound research, experience and expertise.

We look forward to reading your report, as it will be a valuable synthesis of the most important international development priorities, and hope to see women's rights and empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights clearly identified within it as a core priority for the coming decades.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely