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Nairobi Statement on ICPD25:

Accelerating the Promise

Introduction

Twenty-five years ago, in 1994, 179 countries adopted a landmark Programme of Action during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt. It transformed the way in which the linkages between population, poverty reduction and sustainable development were addressed – putting the rights, needs and aspirations of individual human beings at the center of sustainable development. In 2015, the international community reaffirmed this commitment of putting “people, planet and prosperity” at the center of sustainable development and leaving no one behind, when it adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On 1 April 2019, the UN member states adopted a Declaration during the 52nd session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD) that reaffirmed the importance of the ICPD Programme of Action for guiding population and development policies and programmes, within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and whereby the UN member states pledged to undertake further actions to ensure its “full, effective and accelerated implementation”¹.

The future of sustainable development is directly linked to fulfilling the aspirations of young people. Empowering the world’s 1.8 billion young people and unleashing their potential to contribute to economic and social progress will be instrumental for bringing the vision and the promise the ICPD Programme of Action and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to life. The achievement of sustainable, just and inclusive development must be based on actions that meet the needs and aspirations of girls and women, boys and men, the world over. Consequently, governments, that embraced the ICPD Programme of Action 25 years ago, and reaffirmed it in subsequent intergovernmental fora and reviews, should continue to invest in its full implementation, and support concrete actions to that effect, within the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, to fulfill the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action and enable the guarantee and respect for human rights everywhere around the world, strengthening civil society organizations and movements who have defended it and worked for its implementation is necessary and crucial. This means

¹ Political Declaration, adopted at the 52nd session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (1-4 April 2019).

that those organizations, movements, institutions and individuals must be able to work freely in a safe environment, including active protection of SRHR defenders.

The way forward

We, Heads of State/Government, Ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society organizations, youth-led organizations, women's organizations, grassroots organizations, faith-based organizations, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, persons of sexual and gender diversity, and of different abilities, private sector, academia, multilateral agencies and international financial institutions, local governments and regional political bodies, meet at the Nairobi Summit, on 12 to 14 November 2019, in Kenya, to present our own ambitious commitments and concrete and innovative actions that will accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, finish the unfinished business, leaving no one behind, and turn the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action into reality – ensuring rights and choices for all.

Despite remarkable progress over the past 25 years, the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action remains a distant reality for millions of people across the world. Universal access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health information and services for all, as defined in the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development², has not been achieved. We acknowledge that unless we complete the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action and realize the strong and evidence-based investment case for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all, and for ensuring women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality, reaching the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 will be difficult, if not impossible.

We also acknowledge that our world has, in many ways, profoundly changed over the last 25 years, and that many new issues are influencing the field of population and development – issues that were not addressed or were inadequately addressed in Cairo, but which have surfaced at the subsequent regional review conferences, including climate change, growing inequality within and between countries, the youth bulge and increased demographic diversity.

Advancing the ICPD Programme of Action's promise of the right to universal access to sexual and reproductive health for all, of women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality, while leaving no one behind, in particular youth as agents of positive change and the leaders of the generation to carry forward the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, requires new, innovative and strategic partnerships, including with and between youth, civil society organizations, local communities, the private sector, and through south-south and triangular cooperation among countries.

Therefore, recognizing our different capacities and responsibilities, our way forward is to focus in particular on those actions, expressed in specific commitments, that will accelerate the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, the outcomes of its periodic regional review conferences, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, we will:

² As defined by paragraphs 7.2, 7.3, 7.6 and 8.25 of the ICPD Programme of Action (September 19994), and paragraph 63 of the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (July 1999).

1. **Intensify our efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD Programme of Action, Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.**

In particular, in order to:

- **Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health as a part of universal health coverage (UHC), by committing to strive for**
 2. **Zero unmet need for family planning information and services, and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives³.**
 3. **Zero preventable maternal deaths⁴, and maternal morbidities, such as obstetric fistulas, by, inter alia, integrating a comprehensive approach of the essential sexual and reproductive health package⁵, including measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortions, and post-abortion care⁶, into national UHC strategies, policies and programmes, and to protect and ensure all individuals' right to bodily integrity and autonomy, and to provide access to essential services in support of this right.**
 4. **Ensuring access for adolescents and youth to comprehensive and age-appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive, quality and timely services to be able to make informed choices about their sexuality and reproductive lives, to adequately protect themselves from unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and to be able to transition safely and happily into adulthood.**
- **Address gender-based violence and the harmful practices of child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation, by committing to strive for**
 5. **Zero sexual and gender-based violence⁷, including zero child, early and forced marriage⁸, as well as zero female genital mutilation⁹, in order to realize all individuals' potential as agents of change in their society – both socially and economically.**
- **Mobilize the required financing to finish the ICPD Programme of Action and sustain the gains already made, by**

³ Achieving zero unmet need for family planning information and services is an important indicator of having achieved universal access to sexual and reproductive health, as contained in SDG target 3.7 and SDG target 5.6.

⁴ Achieving zero maternal deaths is an important indicator of having achieved universal access to sexual and reproductive health, as contained in SDG target 3.7 and SDG target 5.6.

⁵ At a minimum, as defined in paragraphs 7.2, 7.3 and 7.6 of the ICPD Programme of Action, and paragraph 53 of the Key Action for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. This could be further guided by the expanded definition of SRHR interventions, as proposed in the Report of the Guttmacher/Lancet Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights (May 2018).

⁶ In accordance with paragraph 8.25 of the ICPD Programme of Action and paragraph 63 of the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

⁷ SDG target 5.2.

⁸ SDG target 5.3.

⁹ SDG target 5.3.

6. Using national budget processes, increasing domestic financing and exploring new and innovative financing instruments and structures to ensure full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
 7. Doing what is in our power to increase the percentage of official development aid (ODA) specifically earmarked to ensure universal access to SRHR to complement domestic financing of sexual and reproductive health programmes.
- **Draw on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development, by**
 8. Harnessing the demographic dividend through investing in adolescents' and youth's education, employment opportunities and health, including family planning and sexual and reproductive health and services.
 9. Building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, where all people, including the old and the young, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, build societies where they feel valued and are able to shape their own destiny and contribute to the prosperity of their societies.
 10. Providing quality, timely and disaggregated data, investing in digital health innovations and improvement of data systems to achieve sustainable development.
 11. Committing to the notion that nothing about young people's health and well-being can be discussed and decided upon without their meaningful involvement and participation ("nothing about us, without us").
 - **Uphold the right to sexual and reproductive health care in humanitarian and fragile contexts, by**
 12. Ensuring the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including SRHR, are addressed as critical components of responses to humanitarian and environmental crises, as well as fragile and post-crisis reconstruction contexts, through the provision of access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including access to safe abortion where it is legal, to significantly reduce maternal mortality and morbidity under these conditions.

Follow-up

The commitments fall within the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As such, we strongly encourage countries to use the reporting ecosystem for the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the follow-up to the Nairobi Summit. Stock taking and follow-up could then be addressed through the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD), the periodic regional review mechanisms, and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Commitments that are specific to United Nations entities will be taken up in the context of their respective governing bodies. We also encourage that country-specific commitments and actions will be reported back by the countries as part of the HLPF reporting. We recommend that UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, will periodically report on the progress in achieving the global commitments.