

Stockholm Statement of Commitment

On the Implementation of ICPD Beyond 2014

1. We as parliamentarians from all regions of the world gathered in Stockholm, Sweden, from 23-25 April 2014, to set a course of action for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014,
2. We meet at a time when the General Assembly of the United Nations, through its resolution 65/234, has extended the 20 year Programme of Action beyond 2014 and completed a review of the implementation of the Programme of Action “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”; the need to respond to “new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment”, and to reinforce “the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development”,
3. We recognize the need for the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and acknowledge the findings and recommendations of the review, including from the global thematic meetings on youth, human rights and women’s health, as well as the outcomes of the regional reviews, which constitute plans of action for the respective regions,
4. We stress the importance of further the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action Beyond 2014 on the basis of the findings and recommendations of the review, including the outcomes of the regional reviews,
5. We take note of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, to take place on 22 September, 2014, and commit to work with our governments to ensure that the outcome of ICPD Beyond 2014 Review constitutes the basis for further implementation of the ICPD and to integrate it in the Post 2015 development agenda,
6. We recall and commend the positive contribution of parliamentarians towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the ICPD, including the work done by previous Parliamentary Conferences on implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action held in 2002 Ottawa, 2004 Strasbourg, 2006 Bangkok, 2009 Addis Ababa and 2012 Istanbul,
7. We note that while progress has been made by our countries towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the ICPD, challenges remain to fully implement the

Programme of Action and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular MDG 5 b) on universal access to sexual and reproductive health,

8. We also note that achieving inclusive economic and social development requires appropriate legislation, national policies and programmes that guarantee and promote human rights, dignity and equality for all,
9. We are concerned that despite the gains made in the past 20 years, these gains have not been experienced equally by all, and that a considerable number of people continue to live in conditions of extreme poverty, without the fulfillment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,
10. We note that despite the vast possibilities created by digital communication tools, a great number of people lack access to these tools hindering their ability to benefit from the new economy,
11. We recognize the critical inter-linkages between population and sustained economic growth and sustainable development and their central importance to addressing development challenges and priorities particularly in improving the quality of life of all people without distinction of any kind,
12. We also recognize the importance of the above inter linkages in eradicating poverty and social inequities; achieving universal access to quality primary and secondary education; achieving gender equality; achieving universal health coverage; improving maternal and child health; expanding high quality family planning services, and access to a mix of modern contraceptive methods which take into account client choices and clinical needs; promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights; preventing and treating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; and eliminating gender based violence as well as harmful practices against women and girls; and addressing the health and other impacts of alcohol and drugs abuse,
13. We recognize the opportunity to shape the new international development agenda that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals by ensuring that the vision, principles, objectives and goals of the ICPD Programme of Action and the priorities emanating from the review of its implementation are reflected in the ongoing post MDG and Sustainable Development Goals discussions and integrated in the post 2015 development agenda,
14. To this end, we commit to mobilize our constituencies and governments to support a human-rights based post 2015 development paradigm that ensures gender equality, women and adolescent's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and comprehensive development for youth;

15. We call for targets and indicators on sexual and reproductive health and rights to be included in the standalone goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; universal health goal including for universal health coverage, and on the rights of young people, including investing in their quality education, decent employment opportunities and effective livelihood skills, as part of the post 2015 development agenda.

16. We further call for the integration of population dynamics in all development planning at national and subnational levels as a critical foundation for sustainable development, taking into account the need for a life cycle approach from birth to ageing, to ensure lifelong capabilities and resilience;

We Parliamentarians, consistent with the principles of the ICPD are determined to play our role as legislators, as follows:

Policies, Programmes and Laws that promote and protect the rights of all

We commit to work to:

17. Enact and advocate for the enforcement of laws and policies to respect and protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals;

18. Promulgate where absent, and advocate for enforcement of laws to prevent and punish hate crimes without distinction of any kind, and take active steps to protect all persons from discrimination, stigmatization and violence;

Policies, Programmes and Laws that promote and protect the rights of women and girls and young people

19. We commit to work to:

a. Adopt laws to promote and protect human rights and eliminate discrimination without distinction of any kind;

b. Design policies and programmes that harness the demographic dividend through enhancing the capabilities of young people to contribute to social and economic development and innovation;

c. Promote access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all persons, including quality health care and youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services, while removing legal regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information and services for adolescents; and ensure access to contraception as well as a wide range of modern methods of family planning, and emergency contraception as recommended by WHO;

d. Promote and protect the rights of young people to access good quality education at all levels, including comprehensive sexuality education, taking into account those

young people who are out of school while also ensuring equal enrolment and retention of girls and boys in primary and secondary school as well as higher levels of education;

- e. Support policies that keep the girl child, including married girls and pregnant girls, in school at all levels of education without discrimination, and ensure admission or re-entry to school after delivery;
- f. Promote effective policies and programmes that provide appropriate skills for young people enabling them for employment and long term decent work, consistent with international conventions;
- g. Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and ensure women's full participation in political and decision-making processes;
- h. Promote the enactment and implementation of laws to ensure economic and social empowerment of women through equal access to ownership and control of economic resources, technology and markets, including land, property and inheritance rights;
- i. Call for the enactment or ratification of global and regional legal frameworks, which combat gender based violence (GBV), and ensure provision of sexual and reproductive health and rights services as part of initial emergency responses, revise laws that exonerate perpetrators of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, and eliminate sexual violence from conflict and post-conflict amnesty provisions within the framework of strengthened legislation enforcement to end impunity consistent with Security Council Resolution 1325;
- j. Adopt legislation, policies and measures that prevent, punish and eradicate gender based violence within and outside of the family, within communities, and in conflict and post-conflict situations;
- k. Promote legislation to eliminate child, early and forced marriage, by enacting and enforcing laws on the minimum legal age of marriage of 18 years; and eliminate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting;
- l. Promote legislation to prevent adolescent pregnancy and unsafe abortion, including through enhancing the status of women and girls and addressing the negative social consequences of gender stereotypes, through comprehensive sexuality education for both boys and girls. This education must include accurate information taking into account scientific data and evidence, about human sexuality, including growth and development, anatomy and physiology; reproduction, pregnancy and childbirth; HIV and STIs; family life and inter-personal relationships; culture and sexuality; human rights protection, fulfillment and empowerment; non-

discrimination, equality and gender roles; sexual behavior; sexual abuse, gender based violence and harmful practices;

- m. Work with governments on urgent, concrete measures to further reduce abortion-related complications and deaths by providing non-discriminatory universal post-abortion care that meets WHO guidelines; to remove legal barriers preventing women and adolescent girls from access to safe abortion, including revising restrictions within existing abortion laws, and where legal, ensure the availability of safe, good-quality abortion services, in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls;
- n. Review and repeal laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions, as well as end imprisonment for such acts, bearing in mind that in no circumstances should abortion be considered as a family planning method;

Budget allocations and Enabling environment for ICPD

We commit to:

- 20. Advocate for the allocation of appropriate resources, and create an enabling environment for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the recommendations of the ICPD beyond 2014 review;
- 21. Advocate for increased development assistance budgets for population assistance, and ensure the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance as agreed at the previous IPCI/ICPD conferences;
- 22. Advocate for policies and programmes with clear goals and budget allocations and indicators to measure compliance on human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- 23. Advocate for non-discriminatory universal, free, public, high-quality, intercultural education for youth, to ensure social inclusion and inter-generational resilience;

Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight

We will further work with our parliaments to:

- 24. Ensure stronger political commitment for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the recommendations arising from the review and will use our oversight role to keep Governments accountable to the commitments made;
- 25. Ensure that appropriate population, health, gender and development data, disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability is made publicly available in order to facilitate sharing and use of knowledge and improve public accountability;

26. Ensure effective oversight of programmes and work with our respective governments to promote and facilitate active participation of all constituencies including non-state actors in order to guarantee transparency and rule of law and improved governance at the local, national, regional and global levels;
27. Hold our respective States accountable for the implementation of appropriate and transparent governance institutions and mechanisms that prevent, and sanction human rights violations and which ensure that all victims, particularly victims of gender based violence have a right to reparation and justice;

Political commitment and Building Partnerships

We commit to:

28. Advocate for the role of civil society, including NGOs and youth groups in the formulation, and monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies and programmes including for achieving the goals of sexual and reproductive health and rights;
29. Promote strengthened partnerships with the private sector in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes and policies, in particular in the areas of service delivery and commodity production, security and distribution;
30. Hold our respective States accountable for the establishment of appropriate and transparent governance institutions and mechanisms that ensure effective participation, without any form of discrimination, of adolescents and young people in public debate, in decision-making and in all policy and programme phases, in particular on matters that affect them directly;
31. Ensure firm commitment to justice, transparency, integrity and equal participation in all governance processes, in a way that enables all to participate in the process of national development;
32. Promote and protect human rights and eliminate discrimination, without distinction of any kind, recognizing that human rights for all are key to achieving the goals of the ICPD;
33. Strengthen parliamentary cross party networks at country, regional and global levels, to facilitate exchange of best practices and strengthen the effectiveness of parliaments and to achieve IPCI Commitments;

Pledge

We the parliamentarians from all regions gathered in Stockholm

34. Call upon the United Nations General Assembly to act on the findings and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review and to integrate them into the post 2015 development agenda;
35. Commit to systematically and actively monitor the progress and impact of our work through our national and regional parliamentary structures in partnership with UN partners, civil society and youth.
36. Express our determination to ensure that all individuals are entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, in order to fully extend the principles of equality, dignity and rights to future generations, and ensure sustainable development.