

From Accra to ICPD beyond 2014: Recommendations of African CSOs and youth

Recognizing that full implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its implementation are closely linked to national, regional and global efforts to achieve development goals internationally agreed, including the Millennium Development, the African, Youth Charter, the Maputo Plan of Action, the Forum for Development in Africa Fifth, the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action, and the Abuja Declaration on HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases;

Noting that the ICPD (15.3.) Identifies non-governmental organizations as important voices of the people, and their associations and networks are an effective and efficient means of targeting local and national initiatives and to better address the pressing population, environment, migration, economic and social development concerns;

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Youth Charter as it presents a plan for youth development in Africa and serves as an important tool to hold our governments accountable for issues that concern us;

While recognizing that progress has been made at various levels since the Cairo Program of Action in 1994, youth continue to be marginalized in society at large by income inequality, wealth and power, unemployment and under Employment, infected and affected by HIV / AIDS, who live in situations of poverty and hunger, illiteracy and poor quality educational systems, restricted access to health services and appropriate services specific to youth, the access to good information, exposure to sexual violence, including gender-based violence or gender-based, engaging in armed conflicts and victims of various forms of discrimination and marginalization;

Approval of the Maputo Plan of Action of the position that meet the needs of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth as key component of SSR include the provision of comprehensive sexuality education for young academic and extracurricular and strengthen advocacy and implementation of policies that support the delivery of sexual and reproductive health rights and services;

Recalling the ICPD (7.43) which states that programs for adolescents have proven most effective when their full participation is fixed in identifying their needs for reproductive and sexual health and to design programs that meet those needs;

Recalling also article 16 of the Charter of youth in Africa, which requires State parties to ensure full participation of young people identify their needs and reproductive health and develop programs that meet these needs with a particular attention to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people;

We, youth and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa, recognizing the efforts of our governments regarding the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action (PA);

Taking note of youth, role, civil society and other partners have been and continue to:

Play in achieving the objectives of the Program of Action, in consultation with CSOs African Region which is held from 5 to 6 March 2012 in Accra, Ghana to solve:

- Promote and improve the capacity of civil society and youth about the ICPD beyond the 2014 review process.

CSOs and develop young people to prepare position papers on the questionnaire to collect data at the country level for implementation profiles countries and other issues to consider in reviewing and share count final / position with the government;

- Work with governments, development partners, the UNFPA country offices in particular, and other stakeholders to ensure that the processes leading to the implementation of country profiles and complete the questionnaire reflect the global broader perspectives of all stakeholders including young people;
- Ensure that young people through their networks and organizations are a separate group of stakeholders from which the data and evidence will be collected;
- Take steps to ensure that issues of vulnerable and marginalized populations are captured in the review process

We urge our governments to:

- Ensure that youth and civil society are effectively involved in the process of national implementation of the country profile and global questionnaire as a group of stakeholders in the cluster to be consulted at the stage of data collection , and to be truly involved in the national consultation meetings and validation;
- Ensure the meaningful participation of youth and civil society in the regional conference on population and include as members of government delegations. We further recommend that, at least thirty (30%) percent of the national delegations are young.

Commit to officially recognize the results of deliberations by civil society organizations including youth that occur before the Regional Conference on Population to be held in 2013 and the 47th Commission on Population and Development in 2014.

We call UNFPA and development partners to:

- Ensure capacity building of youth and civil society to work effectively with governments and to participate in the ICPD process beyond 2014 at the country level, regionally and globally;
- National Map and CSOs at the regional level and young people involved in the process;

Funding support be provided to young people and CSOs to implement activities for reviewing ICPD process beyond 2014

- Ensure that the draft questionnaire is shared in a timely manner with members of civil society, particularly the focal persons who attended the Accra consultation in taking the lead in the validation process at countries, by engaging their respective networks
- Convene in conjunction with recognized networks of youth and civil society organizations, pre-conferences at the Regional Conference on Population (CSO and youth) in 2013, which will be integrated into the main results of the conference regional in 2013. The conference CSOs should also include a significant number of young people;
- Working with youth and civil society to ensure their effective representation in the delegations of regional conferences on population and the DPC 47th 2014.

To the Youth Meeting in Indonesia, we call UNFPA and its partners to ensure that:

- Representatives on the steering committee and participants should be drawn from regional, sub-regional blocks and coalitions and national youth networks;
- Be a youth conference, national delegations must be at least 70 percent (70%) of youth at the meeting;
- The content must be compiled from various regional, sub-regional and national level consultative processes and positions;
- There should be other online consultations in order to enrich the content and avoid contradictory positions and diversion at the meeting in Indonesia.

To guide and implement these recommendations:

- A regional steering committee of youth and CSOs will be established