

FEMM-DEVE ad hoc Delegation to Nairobi

12-14 November 2019

BACKGROUND

- **ICPD - International Conference on Population and Development of 1994**

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, where 179 governments adopted a landmark Programme of Action which set out to empower women and girls for their sake, and for the benefit of their families, communities and nations. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). At the ICPD, diverse views on human rights, population, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and sustainable development merged into a global consensus that placed individual dignity and human rights, including the right to plan one's family, at the heart of development.

A quarter of a century later, some progress has been achieved. There has been a 25 per cent increase in global contraceptive prevalence rate around the world. Adolescent births have declined, and the global maternal mortality ratio has fallen. But progress has been slow and uneven. Hundreds of millions of women around the world are still not using modern contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancies, and global targets on reducing maternal deaths have not been met. For a more comprehensive account of the progress made and the remaining challenges ahead, please consult the report [Unfinished business](#) - the pursuit of rights and choices for all.

Nairobi ICPD25 - Voluntary Global and National Commitments

From 12-14 November, the governments of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA are co-convening the [Nairobi Summit on ICPD25](#), a high-level conference to mobilize the political will and financial commitments to implement the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action.

An International Steering Committee (ISC), co-chaired by the governments of Kenya and Denmark and by UNFPA, has been formed to provide strategic guidance for the Nairobi Summit process.

One of the ISC's key responsibilities is to develop a set of [voluntary global commitments](#), which will provide a framework in developing **national commitments** and will form the basis of Summit discussions to accelerate the implementation of the unfinished business of 1994 ICPD.

The Conference aims to bring everyone together: heads of state, ministers, parliamentarians, thought-leaders, technical experts, civil society organizations, grassroots organizations, young



people, business and community leaders, faith-based organizations, indigenous peoples, international financial institutions, people with disabilities, academics and many others interested in the pursuit of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The aim of the Nairobi Summit is to reenergize the global community, renew the ICPD agenda and sustain and amplify gains made since 1994. It will be a springboard for governments and other organizations to announce voluntary, global commitments—including financial ones—that will accelerate progress. Innovative financial models and far more resources—from governments, international financial institutions and even private sector partners—are required to finish the ICPD agenda by 2030, as further elaborated below.

Please note that this is not a UN General Assembly-mandated summit, the event will not result in a new negotiated global agreement or revision of the ICPD Programme of Action.

[The Summit programme](#) will include four formats for stakeholder engagement, all of which will involve participants representing diverse backgrounds and sectors:

- **Concurrent sessions:** These stakeholder-led sessions discuss relevant issues of the day related to the emerging actions from the signature sessions.
- **Open dialogue series:** An open dialogue and discussion across participants, enabling attendees to challenge the status quo and voice advocacy and action to leave no one behind.
- **Plenary sessions:** A daily full plenary with world leaders, change-makers and inspirational speakers make each plenary session memorable and provocative, making contributions to the global commitments.
- **Signature sessions:** Related to the five themes and accelerators, these sessions are moderated interactive discussions that allow participants to delve into key solutions and impacts, with expert panelists sharing experiences, opinions and insights for action.

According to the organisers, there will be no binding outcome [document](#).

The summit is solidly grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on the political declaration adopted at the 52nd Commission on Population and Development, which took place in April 2019 and which reaffirmed the political commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action. The Nairobi Summit will focus on how to accelerate the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) by 2030, as elaborated further below.

The Nairobi Statement

The organisers announce the release of the “**Nairobi Statement**”, which will be a forward-looking, non-binding framework of commitments the world should strive to achieve in order to complete the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action, for the benefit of women and girls, their families and society at large. It’ll be formulated through a lengthy inclusive, multistakeholder process, involving thousands of people and organisations the world over.

The non-binding Nairobi Statement should reflect the inextricable links between women’s and girls’ empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustainable development. It should point to areas where more progress and specific commitments are urgently needed, including calling for greater domestic and international funding.

Since it is non-binding, countries and other stakeholders may choose to support it in its entirety, in part, or not at all.

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 is a multi-stakeholder event where governments, civil society, youth groups, activists and experts and many others will have an opportunity to make commitments for achieving the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action.

ICPD Programme of Action:

Adopted in 1994, it emphasizes the value of investing in women and girls, both as an end in itself and as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone. It affirms the importance of sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, as a precondition for women's empowerment. It calls for an end to gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation.

Furthermore, the [Programme of Action](#) highlights the crucial links between sexual and reproductive health and rights with almost every aspect of population and development, from urbanization, migration and ageing to changing family structures and the importance of addressing the rights of young people. It calls attention to the ways in which investing in women and youth, especially in their sexual and reproductive health, can impact environmental sustainability and population dynamics.

The commitments of the high-level conference ICPD25 in Nairobi will be centred on achieving three zeros:

- zero unmet need for family planning information and services;
- zero preventable maternal deaths
- zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls

The Conference will take an integrated approach, covering five themes and highlighting the power of gender equality, youth leadership, political and community leadership, innovation and data, and partnerships to accelerate progress.

The five themes of the ICPD25 will be:

1. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as a part of universal health coverage.
2. Financing required to complete the ICPD Programme of Action, and to sustain the gains made.
3. Drawing on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development.
4. Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices.
5. Upholding the right to sexual and reproductive health care even in humanitarian and fragile contexts.

Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 [Draft Commitments](#)

The Conference aims to:

(1) Intensify the 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.

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 contraceptives.

(3) Zero preventable maternal deaths, and maternal morbidities, such as obstetric fistulas, by, inter alia, integrating a comprehensive approach of the essential sexual and reproductive health package³, including measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortions, and post-abortion care, 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 violence, including zero child, early and forced marriage⁶, as well as zero female genital mutilation⁷, 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**

(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.

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

In 2015, world leaders unanimously adopted [the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), a historic set of goals to eliminate poverty, achieve gender equality, and secure the health and well-being of all people. Reflecting the expanded scope of the agenda and the growing complexity of the challenges to be addressed, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 SDGs with 169 targets. While the number and proportion of people living in poverty declined between 2000 and 2015, eliminating poverty remains the overriding aim of the new global agenda.

But there are new aspects to old challenges, as well as new challenges, that are explicitly acknowledged and targeted in the SDGs. These include climate change and environmental fragility; a growing number of intractable humanitarian and political crises, a consequent increase in the number of people living in fragile and unstable settings; a greater emphasis on the need for domestic financing as well as development aid to build resilience, expand capacity and establish the basis for sustainable economic and social progress.

The SDGs explicitly recognize sexual and reproductive health as essential to equitable development and women's empowerment, referencing sexual and reproductive health under SDG 3, for health, and again under SDG 5, for gender equality, which also references reproductive rights.

As was the case with the ICPD and the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#), however, the SDGs do not acknowledge sexual rights. Other central elements of sexual and reproductive health, including maternal and newborn mortality and HIV, were addressed under targets for SDG 3, and gender-based violence and harmful practices under targets for SDG 5.

The SDGs also call for achieving universal health coverage, specifically by ensuring access to quality essential health-care services and to safe, effective and affordable medicines and vaccines for all. Overall, the SDGs advance an agenda for all people, as the ICPD continues to do, while emphasizing the importance of equity and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Over the past 25 years, in various review meetings and processes related to the ICPD, some regions of the world have called for recognition of sexual rights. A number of current definitions of sexual rights, including those presented in the 2018 report of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Equally, the World Health Organization encompass the rights of people to express their individual sexuality; rights of adolescents to receive comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services as well as rights of women and girls to be free of gender based violence and coercion. These rights have been recognized and endorsed by civil society organizations around the world, and acknowledged in various regional documents negotiated and endorsed by governments.

No consensus on these rights, however, has been reached by the Member States of the United Nations in any globally negotiated document.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s 50th anniversary and ICPD's 25th anniversary present a unique opportunity for the global community to build on the ICPD framework and fully commit to realizing a visionary agenda for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to reaching those who have been left behind.

Accelerate action to complete the ICPD agenda

To finish the unfinished business of the ICPD and to move realistically towards realizing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as well as the three zeros, as mentioned above—no unmet need for contraception, no preventable maternal deaths, and no violence or harmful practices against women and girls—most countries can build on the foundation of recent achievements. Many countries now have basic institutions and policies in place related to population and reproductive health, but need to reach those furthest behind, improve service quality and respond to emerging shifts in demographics and development. They will need to plan strategically, based on correct evidence, which is still often lacking, and appropriate investments, which have grown but remain insufficient.

Finding the money

According to the UNFPA sources, tracking financing for ICPD commitments has proven challenging, albeit with strong indications that funding remains insufficient. The ICPD stipulated that two thirds of the required amount would be mobilized by developing countries themselves, and one third from the international community.

Glossary

- ICPD - International Conference on Population and Development
- UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
- UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- MEPs for SRR – Members of the European Parliament for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- EPF - European parliamentary forum for sexual and reproductive rights
- CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- FGM/C - Female genital mutilation/cutting
- SRHR - *Sexual and reproductive health and rights*
- UHC – Universal health coverages
- GBV – Gender based violence
- SDGs/ MDGs – Sustainable development goals/Millennium development goals
- UNICEF - United Nations Children’s Fund
- WHO - World Health Organization
- OHCHR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- IPPF - International Planned Parenthood Federation
- Plan Int'l - Plan International

- **UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund**

The United Nations Fund for Population Activities was established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969. In 1987, it was officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund, reflecting its lead role in the United Nations system in the area of population. The original abbreviation, UNFPA, was retained.

UNFPA’s full name, the United Nations Population Fund, is the working title used in all languages. To explain our work to a general audience, the organization can be described as the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency.

UNFPA is entirely supported by voluntary [contributions](#) of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and foundations and individuals, not by the United Nations regular budget.

UNFPA is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly. It reports to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board of 36 UN Member States on administrative, financial and programme matters and receives overall policy guidance from the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The [Executive Board](#) is composed of 36 members: eight from Africa, seven from Asia and the Pacific, four from Eastern Europe, five from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 from Western Europe and other developed countries.

The goal of UNFPA is ensure reproductive rights for all. To accomplish this, UNFPA works to ensure that all people, especially women and young people, are able to access high-quality sexual and reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning, so that they can make informed and voluntary choices about their sexual and reproductive lives.

- **MEPs for SRR – Members of the European Parliament for Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

MEPs for Sexual and Reproductive Rights is an all-party group in the European Parliament established in 1991 with members drawn from across political groups and EU member states.

They advocate for the support of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as the basis for sustainable social and human development and achieving gender equality as an integral part of human rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Their main goals are:

1. Provide a forum for dialogue and raising awareness of the need for an integrated approach to SRHR, the response to HIV/AIDS, gender equality and sustainable development.
2. Monitor and increase resources from the EU for SRHR programmes in developing countries.
3. Raise awareness at the EU and Member State level on the need to adopt SRHR policies, laws and programmes.

The Co-Chairs of the group are Sophie in 't Veld, member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Petra De Sutter gynecologist and Member of the European Parliament since 2019.

- **EPF - European parliamentary forum for sexual and reproductive rights**

EPF is a network of members of parliaments from across Europe who are committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health of the world's most vulnerable people, both at home and overseas. The MPs in the network play a role in making sure that their national government meets major commitments (Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 1994 and the Millennium Development Goals, 2000), and educating their peers about the issues. To educate and inform MPs about the importance of supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights initiatives, EPF organizes the following activities:

- Field visits to relevant projects in developing countries for MPs
- Support for parliamentary activities focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Conferences on key topics for MPs and other relevant stakeholders
- Training to develop understanding and expertise in sexual and reproductive health issues.

They provide expertise for UN agencies, inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations that are interested in working with parliamentarians.

Their main partners are: the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Inspire (EuroNGOs), Countdown 2030 Europe.

The members of the Executive Committee are: Petra De Sutter, Öznur Çalık, Petra Bayr, Florian-Dorel Bodog, Alice-Mary Higgins, Malahat Ibrahimqizi, Dovelë Šakalienė, John Mann and Hanna Sarkkinen.

- **IPPF - International Planned Parenthood Federation**

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was founded at the 3rd International Conference on Planned Parenthood in 1952, by 8 national family planning associations. Today, the charity is a Federation of 134 Member Associations working in 145 countries, with 26 Partners working in 21 countries, totalling 166 countries in which IPPF works in.

In 2017, they delivered 208.6 million sexual and reproductive health services.

They commit to lead a locally owned, globally connected civil society movement that provides and enables services and champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, especially the under-served.

The Executive Committee is made-up of three members of Council: Alice Ackermann, Tracy Robinson and Olgah Daphynne Namukuza.

Their services are delivered through an IPPF Member Association (MA). MAs are IPPF accredited organizations within country and they are: the Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA), the Family Planning Association of Albania (FPAA), the Anguilla Family Planning Association (AFPA), the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA), the Asociacon Civil de Planificacion Familia (PLAFAM), the Asociación Chilena de Protección de la Familia (APROFA), the Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña (ADS), the Asociación Dominicana Pro-Bienestar de la Familia (Profamilia), the Honduran Association for Family Planning (ASHONPLAFA), the Asociacion Panameña para el Planeamiento de la Familia (APLAFA)

- **Plan Int'l - Plan International**

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. They strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, supporters and partners.

Plan International was founded over 80 years ago with a mission to promote and protect the rights of children. Today, they are a global organisation that is active in over 75 countries to advance children's rights and equality for girls. Over the next 5 years their ambition is to transform the lives of 100 million girls.

Their strategy is to work with vulnerable children and especially girls so that they can learn, lead, decide and thrive. Within the strategy, they have the ambition to transform the lives of 100 million girls. Child sponsorship and grassroots community work are central to their strategy and achieving their ambition. Over the next 5 years, they will:

- Deliver greater impact for vulnerable children, especially girls
- Lead on girls' rights
- Transform girls' lives
- Leave no one behind
- Deepen partnerships
- Influence greater change at local and global levels

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