



ICPD =



International Conference on
Population and Development
Beyond 2014

ICPD Beyond 2014

High-Level Global Commitments

Implementing the Population and Development Agenda







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International Conference on
Population and Development
Beyond 2014



29th United Nations General Assembly
Special Session on the follow-up to the
Programme of Action of the International
Conference on Population and
Development Beyond 2014

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I. Introduction



Background

The General Assembly convened a Special Session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 in the General Assembly Hall, New York, on 22 September 2014. The session was convened on the basis of General Assembly Resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the ICPD Beyond 2014, and General Assembly Resolution 67/250 on the organization of the Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD Beyond 2014.

The Special Session, which brought together heads of state and government, ministers, as well as other high-level government officials, was a culmination of the operational review processes launched by GA Res 65/234 which called for an operational 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, responding to new challenges and to the changing development environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development.

II. Methodology



This report draws on the official statements of United Nations Member States at the Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

A total of 146 Member States were inscribed to speak at the session: 143 in an individual capacity and three in a group capacity (the G-77 and China, the European Union and the Pacific Islands Forum).

Table 1 shows the 127 Member States that either delivered a statement orally during the session (88 Member States) or submitted it to the President of the General Assembly after the session due to time constraints (39 Member States marked with an asterisk). Among the former, the statements of seven Member States were not available for analysis (marked with a double asterisk).

Table 1. List of 128 Member States that delivered (or submitted) a statement during the UNGASS

Afghanistan	Egypt	Lesotho *	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines *
Algeria *	El Salvador	Luxembourg	Sao Tome and Principe
Antigua and Barbuda	Estonia	Malawi *	Senegal *
Australia	Ethiopia	Malaysia	Serbia
Azerbaijan	European Union	Maldives	Seychelles *
Bangladesh	Fiji *	Mali *	Sierra Leone
Barbados	Finland	Malta *	South Africa
Belarus	France	Marshall Islands **	South Sudan
Belgium	G-77 and China	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gambia	Mexico *	Suriname
Bhutan *	Georgia	Mongolia *	Swaziland
Botswana	Germany	Morocco *	Sweden **
Brazil *	Ghana	Mozambique	Switzerland
Burkina Faso	Grenada	Myanmar	Syrian Arab Republic *
Burundi	Guinea	Namibia **	Tajikistan *

Cabo Verde *	Guinea-Bissau	Nepal	Thailand *
Cambodia *	Guyana **	Netherlands	Togo
Cameroon **	Haiti *	New Zealand *	Trinidad & Tobago
Canada	Honduras	Nicaragua *	Tunisia
Chad	Iceland	Niger	Turkmenistan
Chile	Indonesia *	Nigeria *	Tuvalu
China	Iran (Islamic Republic of) *	Norway *	Uganda **
Colombia *	Ireland *	Pakistan	Ukraine
Congo	Israel *	Palau	United Kingdom *
Costa Rica	Italy	Panama	United Republic of Tanzania
Cote d'Ivoire *	Jamaica	Paraguay *	United States *
Cuba	Japan*	Peru	Uruguay
Denmark	Kazakhstan	Philippines *	Vanuatu
Dominican Republic	Kenya	Poland	Viet Nam
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kiribati *	Qatar *	Zambia
Djibouti **	Kyrgyzstan *	Republic of Moldova	Zimbabwe
Ecuador	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Russian Federation *	India *

* Denotes Member States that submitted their statements to the President of the General Assembly after the UNGASS due to time constraints.

** Denotes Member States that orally delivered a statement during the UNGASS that was not available for analysis.

Table 2 displays the remaining 19 Member States that, despite being inscribed to speak at the UNGASS, neither delivered nor submitted a statement orally during the session, nor submitted one to the President of the General Assembly afterwards.

Table 2. List of 18 Member States inscribed to speak during the UNGASS that did not deliver a statement

Angola	Gabon	Saint Kitts and Nevis	United Arab Emirates
Argentina	Iraq	Spain	Vanuatu
Belize	Libya	Sudan	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Liechtenstein	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
Eritrea	Madagascar	Turkey	

Thus, a total of 121 statements – 81 delivered orally and 40 submitted to the President of the General Assembly – were reviewed and used to populate a matrix of themes based on the chapters of the two reports of the Secretary-General on the *Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development* (A/69/62) and (E/CN.9/2014/4 and Corr.1).

Each statement's commitments for future action were independently summarized within the matrix by different analysts; and the corresponding summaries were compared and discussed to ensure agreement. This generated a quantitative assessment of the frequency with which themes were addressed, and a qualitative analysis of the actions called for.

Once the matrix was fully populated, the Member States' commitments under each theme were independently reviewed by analysts, and the key takeaway commitments agreed upon were captured in the narrative for each theme.

The key takeaway commitments in the report hence represent a compilation of commitments, made at the highest political level, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

A. Dignity

Women's empowerment and gender inequality

Member States acknowledged that those who have been left behind by inequality and discrimination, particularly women and girls, must now be given absolute priority.

Member States agreed that women's empowerment and gender equality are a prerequisite to sustainable development.

Member States overwhelmingly recognized the impact of population dynamics, reproductive health and gender on poverty, with women's empowerment and gender equality seen not only as a means of eradicating poverty, but also as a prerequisite for sustainable development. Member States emphasized the centrality of women to sustainable development and called for the inclusion of a dedicated goal to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. There were also calls for embedding sexual and reproductive health in the future development agenda.

Member States stated that women's empowerment and gender equality cannot be achieved without investing in the rights of women and girls; eradicating gender-based violence; providing equal educational opportunities for women and girls; eliminating harmful traditional practices; and increasing the economic and political participation of women.

Member States called for the protection, promotion and fulfilment of the fundamental human rights of women and girls to be placed at the centre of development.

Member States expressed support for a future in which the fundamental human rights of women and girls and their well-being are placed at the centre of population and development. Member States agreed that investing in women is a critical investment as it provides economic benefits, while at the same time guaranteeing their human rights. The importance of fulfilling the right to health, without discrimination, including the vital role of sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls was emphasized. As a means of fulfilling the right to health for women, Member States committed to reducing high maternal mortality in many countries, and preventing unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions including by providing universal access to family planning.

Member States recognized that in order to truly protect the human rights of women and girls, gender-based violence must be eradicated.

Member States acknowledged the high rates of violence against women and girls and stressed the urgent need to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence. The importance of improving capacity to recognize and prevent violence, guaranteeing the provision of services that can mitigate the consequences of violence and the full rehabilitation of those who experience it were emphasized by a number of Member States.

The adolescent girl

Member States committed to focusing on educating young girls and reaching gender parity in education at all levels.

Member States called for increased investments in adolescents and youth, particularly in girls. Member States highlighted the importance of paying special attention to the education of girls and achieving gender parity at all levels of education. Girls' education was also seen as a means of reducing early marriage, advancing women's empowerment, family planning and reproductive health.

Member States highlighted the importance of comprehensive sexuality education in enabling the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and other adverse health outcomes in young women.

Member States emphasized the pivotal role of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in the education of young girls. Consistent with the needs and evolving capacities of the individual, Member States agreed that CSE is crucial to preventing adolescent pregnancy and improving maternal, newborn and child health, while enabling young women to make informed decisions, plan their lives, and protect themselves from adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

Member States committed to the elimination of harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and early and forced marriage, and agreed that the elimination of these are essential to ensuring young women's and girls' human rights.

Member States identified female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage as critical barriers to women and girls' empowerment. They described those harmful practices as a grave violation of girls' and young women's human rights that also harm the health of young women; destroy their chances for an education; and limit opportunities for a higher quality of life.

Member States acknowledged that increasing women's participation and decision-making in politics and economically empowering women are enablers for economic growth.

Member States reaffirmed the central role of women and the need to ensure their full participation and leadership on an equal basis in all areas of sustainable development. They stressed that political participation and economic empowerment are necessary for providing equal opportunities for women. Member States also declared that the eradication of absolute poverty requires the economic empowerment and inclusion of women, and vulnerable populations, in all aspects of life. Member States expressed commitment to advancing the role of women in leadership, with many noting that they have already adopted quotas to ensure the adequate participation of women in public and private sectors.

Adolescents and youth

Member States expressed strong recognition of the needs of adolescents and youth, and of the opportunity that the youth bulge creates for future economic growth and sustainable development.

Member States committed to strengthening multisectoral investments in adolescents and youth to fully harness their potential and realize the demographic dividend.

Member States emphasized that reaping the demographic dividend requires strengthening and coordinating policies and investments across the fields of education, employment, social protection, poverty reduction, health, and in particular sexual and reproductive health, participation and protection from violence.

Member States committed to achieving universal, quality education and skills development, without discrimination, at all levels.

Member States acknowledged that girls, adolescent girls and young women are often at a disadvantage in terms of access to education and emphasized the need to promote gender equality in education at all levels. They stressed that female adolescents and young women should be able to complete their schooling and professional training without facing early and forced marriages, early pregnancy or violence, noting that girls who go to school and stay in school can delay marriage; make informed choices for their future; access better jobs; and lead their communities as powerful drivers of development.

The need to ensure that young people, particularly those that are vulnerable, benefit from skills and vocational training programmes was also stressed by Member States as a means to reduce poverty and strengthen the economy. Similarly, the crucial role of education in conflict settings, to advance the pursuit of knowledge and the acquisition of skills, and to promote peaceful societies was also highlighted.

Member States called for both the creation of employment opportunities for young people, as well as quality education that better responds to existing and emerging labour market needs.

Member States committed to supporting young people in making the transition to employment and in accessing decent work.

Member States expressed deep concern at the level of youth unemployment and underemployment, describing the situation as a waste of human capital that condemned young people capable of innovation and creativity to live on the margins of society.

They called for strategies for engaging the private sector in creating jobs for youth and imparting training and skills development; promoting foreign direct investment and the direct promotion of small and medium enterprises to enhance gainful employment opportunities for youth; promoting self-employment and creating supportive environments for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. There was recognition that increasing education and employment are the most efficient ways to reduce poverty among adolescents and youth. Some

Member States highlighted support grants they provide to these population groups as a means to ensure a social protection floor, noting that these transfers have resulted in decreases in poverty and inequality as well as declines in risky sexual behaviour.

Member States committed to upholding the right of adolescents and youth to access comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Member States highlighted that many of the world's adolescents and youth have low levels of access to and utilization of health care, including sexual and reproductive health information and services. Meeting their specific health needs, particularly for adequate information, and services for preventing unwanted pregnancies, risks linked to unsafe abortions, and preventing and treating HIV and STIs was considered a priority by Member States, in order to empower young people and break the intergenerational cycles of poverty, inequality and deprivation.

Member States committed to promoting comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) as a key investment within the education sector.

Comprehensive sexual education was seen as crucial to enabling young people to make informed decisions and plan their lives, since it promotes respect for human rights and gender equality as well as mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, tolerance, responsible parenthood and equal rights within families and relationships. Member States identified strategies within and outside the education system which include involving men in addressing gender inequality and implementing intersectoral strategies.

Member States also committed to strengthening the participation of young people in political decision-making and planning at all levels.

Member States stressed that participation of young people is relevant in conflict and post-conflict settings, where special attention needs to be placed on youth participation in peace, reconciliation, and in policy and programme development.

Member States committed to eradicating violence against women and girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices.

Member States noted that girls, adolescent girls and young women continue to be the subject of violence, abuse and exploitation. They committed to actions to end impunity and achieve gender equality.

Member States called for the inclusion of the needs of adolescents and youth in the post-2015 development framework.

Member States identified the areas of education, skills development, employment, sexual and reproductive health and participation of youth for inclusion in the post-2015 development framework.

Poverty and income/economic inequality

There was widespread recognition that eradication of poverty and inequality remain the greatest challenge for global development beyond 2014.

Member States noted that despite significant gains in poverty reduction and economic growth since the ICPD adoption, further efforts are required to eradicate extreme poverty, eliminate income and wealth inequalities, and adapt to changing environmental conditions. They emphasized that poverty is an affront to human dignity and that its eradication remains a guiding objective of the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States committed to taking measures to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities, promote strong economic growth, and improve living conditions of all population groups.

Growing wealth and income inequalities were recognized as major obstacles that preclude sustainable development, exacerbate social segmentation and prevent large sectors of the population from rising out of poverty. There was broad agreement that the current state of wealth distribution deeply impacts all societies, affecting in particular vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, rural populations, women and youth. Member States stressed that reducing inequalities among various population groups was a precondition for ensuring inclusive social development and economic growth.

Concern was expressed over the disproportionate burden that the poor carry due to the emerging environmental crises, including climate change and natural disasters. Member States noted that the global financial and economic crisis, continuing food insecurity, volatility of capital flows and prices of basic goods, as well as lack of access to potable water and energy sources have further exacerbated progress towards poverty eradication.

Member States voiced their support for programmes that facilitate inclusive economic growth, enable job creation and provide access to basic health services and quality education.

Increased public spending on targeted social programmes was identified by Member States as one of the most significant factors in reducing poverty. Among these are pro-poor investments in basic services such as access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, food security, housing, clean water and sanitation. Creating employment opportunities and increasing access to quality education, especially for women and youth, was also highlighted. Member States expressed commitment to facilitate job creation, invest in human capital, and ensure participation of all social groups in the development process, including through the adoption of appropriate laws, policies and national programmes which guarantee and protect human rights, dignity and equality.

Human rights and equality

Member States emphasized that realizing human rights for all is a precondition for sustainable development and expressed their support for the Programme of Action as a human rights agenda.

There was widespread endorsement of the centrality of human rights as a necessary precondition for achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty and ensuring the well-being of all people. Member States recognized the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as a landmark document in advancing the human rights agenda and noted that its implementation has substantially improved the lives of many people. They expressed support for the conclusions of the Framework of Actions (A/69/62) that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity, across multiple sectors of the ICPD, and throughout the life-course, is integral to equitable and inclusive development.

Member States acknowledged their obligation to uphold human rights, dignity and equality, and promote a culture of respect for all, free of discrimination.

Noting that progress has been unequal across different segments of society, Member States emphasized the importance of protecting and promoting the human rights for all, particularly the most vulnerable, and strongly called for the principles of non-discrimination and equality to be upheld. The situations of women, young people, indigenous people, people with disabilities and the elderly who continue to face persistent inequalities was highlighted. Member States expressed concern that, due to discrimination, these groups often face significant barriers in exercising their human rights and often lack access to basic services, including sexual and reproductive health, education, social protection, and opportunities for meaningful work. In this regard, the need to harmonize national laws with regional and international agreements was also noted.

There was broad agreement among Member States that adopting a rights-based approach to development, investing in health and education, and advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls was essential to reducing economic inequalities and eradicating poverty.

Member States described violations of human rights as both a cause and consequence of poverty. They reiterated their commitment to ensure that policies, programmes and national laws become instruments for the implementation of human rights principles. The need to affirm the right to development as an integral and inalienable part of all human rights was also highlighted. Some Member States expressed concern about the failure to protect the human rights of individuals living in war zones, under foreign occupation, and under conditions of escalating violence and terrorism.

Older persons/population ageing

Member States agreed that population ageing demands action nationally and internationally, and that policies on ageing should be based on human rights principles.

In the context of population dynamics, population ageing and the importance of addressing the needs of older people was acknowledged by Member States. Ageing was seen as an emerging reality, with social and economic implications, that demand adequate responses both nationally and internationally.

Member States endorsed rights-based and gender-responsive policies in addressing population dynamics, including ageing. They also highlighted the importance of integrating ageing into development planning and the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States highlighted the importance of empowering older people and ensuring their well-being including through social protection systems.

Member States called for initiating and implementing comprehensive policies, programmes and services to ensure the well-being of older persons. Given the socioeconomic implications of ageing on both the individual and society, Member States highlighted population ageing as both a challenge and an opportunity. Investing in people, including empowering older persons through life-long learning and gainful economic activities were seen as necessary conditions for sustainable and inclusive development. Member States also called for social protection systems to ensure the well-being of older persons, identifying pensions and health services as crucial in this regard. They noted increased pressure on pension systems, and the systems of social security and health care as challenges to providing social protection.

Non-discrimination

Member States committed to adopt and implement measures that promote non-discrimination and equality for all.

Member States overwhelmingly endorsed the need to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to eliminate inequalities, with particular emphasis on groups that have been historically marginalized and who live under conditions of vulnerability. They acknowledged that completing the unfinished agenda of the ICPD will require an inclusive approach to all individuals without distinction of any kind. Strong support was voiced for the need to ensure social environments that provide stability, physical and psychological well-being, guarantee equal rights, and expand opportunities for all persons to achieve their full potential and deploy their capabilities to contribute to development.

Member States committed themselves to uphold anti-discrimination laws and policies that address intersecting forms of discrimination, including those based on age, sex, economic status, language, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and other social categories. Special emphasis was placed on the needs of women, children and young people. Persistent inequalities faced by people living with HIV and migrants were also highlighted.

Member States agreed on the need to provide equitable access to health and social services for all population groups, without discrimination of any kind.

Member States stressed that inequality and multiple forms of discrimination remain crucial barriers to the well-being and health of individuals. They identified the lack of equitable access to health and social services, education and information as major obstacles to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Noting the findings of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review, Member States stressed the need for social inclusion, non-discrimination and the right of individuals to lead their lives free from violence as a priority for the future development.

Persons with disability

Member States agreed on the need to eradicate discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Member States emphasized the need to improve the lives of persons with disabilities through the adoption of national strategies that afford them equal opportunities and ensure their full participation in all social, economic and political aspects of life. Specific action plans and policies to promote employment opportunities and access to services for people with disabilities were highlighted. Member States also called for the promotion of the human rights, including through social protection programmes, for persons with disabilities. The need for interventions targeted at persons with disabilities was considered a necessary precondition for the eradication of poverty.

Indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples continue to face disparities compared to other population groups and they lack access to appropriate services and resources. Member States noted that indigenous peoples experience higher rates of poverty, higher infant and maternal mortality rates, negative sexual and reproductive health outcomes, unmet needs for family planning and limited opportunities to fully participate in the social, economic and political aspects of life.

Member States expressed commitment to promote and protect the human rights of indigenous peoples.

Member States described the investment in human capital, equity and dignity throughout the life-course as the foundation for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this vein, upholding the land and territorial rights of indigenous peoples as well as improving their access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and other services were highlighted as priorities. Member States called for comprehensive and inclusive population policies to encourage participation of indigenous peoples in governance, to ensure adequate representation and equitable policies. They expressed commitment to implement effective, integrated, coordinated and coherent national strategies targeted at indigenous peoples to eradicate poverty and inequalities. The need for accurate, disaggregated data by ethnic group, department, province and district, poverty, infant mortality, migration status, and language was seen as essential to addressing the inequalities as well as the social and economic disadvantages faced by indigenous peoples.

B. Health

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Member States noted that progress in realizing fundamental human rights including sexual and reproductive rights has been slow and fragmented, and highlighted the need to accelerate progress towards achieving universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and the fulfilment of sexual and reproductive rights for all.

Member States noted the importance of providing access to quality health care that includes sexual and reproductive health in order to ensure the dignity and equality of all people, and committed to work towards this end within a framework of international cooperation and strengthened partnerships.

Member States emphasized that necessary conditions for the achievement of inclusive sustainable development included the achievement of gender equality, universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and the empowerment of women, young people and the elderly through the fulfilment of their human rights.

Member States emphasized their determination to ensure that gender equality, women's empowerment, and sexual and reproductive health and rights are firmly embedded in the post-2015 development agenda.

They noted that the goals of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women and girls, gender equality and women's empowerment remained elusive and emphasized the need to address the many remaining challenges ahead if the world is to continue to make progress towards the achievement of real gender equality, empowerment of women, eradication of diverse forms of violence against women and girls, the fight to eradicate poverty, non-discrimination on grounds of sexual diversity and to guarantee sexual and reproductive rights without discrimination in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States highlighted the guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights to all without distinction or discrimination as one of the many challenges to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

Member states emphasized that placing individuals and their human rights at the centre of development necessitates a continued focus on the achievement of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the fulfilment of gender equality.

Member States stressed that working towards development would not be complete until every individual can fully exercise his/her human rights including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Some Member States emphasized that the translation of sexual and reproductive health and rights into national legislation was necessary for the achievement of universal access.

Members States also recognized that universal access to reproductive health and services including for the prevention and treatment HIV/AIDS are a prerequisite for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

They reaffirmed that the fulfilment of the human rights of all people is a necessary precondition to their development, dignity and well-being; and that sexual and reproductive health and rights, and an understanding of the implications of population dynamics are critical foundations for sustainable development.

Member States reiterated their commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, and to sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of 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.

Moreover, they noted that promoting and ensuring universal, affordable, and gender-sensitive access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, as well as to comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, consistent with the needs and evolving capacities of the individual, including boys and girls, is crucial to improving maternal, newborn and child health, to improving family planning and access to quality modern methods of contraception, to preventing and managing HIV and AIDS, free from stigma and discrimination, and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Member States highlighted that universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, provided inter alia through integrated quality health care, was one of the highest priorities for the global agenda beyond 2014 and was essential to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights and lifelong health for young people

Member States noted that the search for gender equality, access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and the effective achievement of the rights of women, young people and the elderly, as well as their empowerment, are necessary conditions for cooperative, sustainable and inclusive development.

They highlighted with concern the high rates of adolescent pregnancy and rising prevalence of HIV among young people, particularly adolescent girls, and emphasized that maternal mortality levels and adolescent pregnancy need to decline more rapidly.

Member States proposed that universal access to the right to sexual and reproductive health be prioritized in the post-2015 development agenda, and expressed their support for all efforts concerning education including comprehensive sexuality education, especially for girls as well as boys in order to address high rates of adolescent pregnancy and rising prevalence of HIV among young people, particularly adolescent girls, and maternal mortality.

Member States emphasized the need to ensure that each woman and each girl is able to exercise her fundamental rights, including her sexual and reproductive rights, and that each woman and each girl has access to equal opportunities and can live her life free from all forms of violence.

Member States emphasized the need to accelerate progress towards achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services that protect the rights to privacy, confidentiality, informed choice and voluntary consent and prohibit any form of discrimination, coercion or violence, and placed emphasis on adolescent girls, particularly in the context of ending maternal deaths and morbidities due to unsafe abortion.

Member States highlighted the importance of comprehensive sexuality education for all young people to enable them to make informed decisions and plan their lives and protect themselves from sexual and reproductive health problems.

They noted that such education also promotes respect for human rights and gender equality as well as mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, tolerance, responsible parenthood and equal rights within families and relationships.

They emphasized the protection and fulfilment of the rights of adolescents and youth to accurate information, comprehensive sexuality education, and health services for their well-being and lifelong health.

Member States also noted the need to expand and improve the quality of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including the integration of comprehensive sexuality education and life skills education into school curricula.

They reiterated that young people should be able to make informed decisions on their future, and should have access to information and sexual and reproductive health services as well as related rights. They also emphasized the need to ensure that female adolescents and young women in particular are able to complete their schooling and professional training without facing early and forced marriages, early pregnancy or violence.

Member States highlighted as immediate priorities the need to invest in youth, and women's empowerment, to promote active ageing, and to improve reproductive health.

They noted that as the world sees the largest ever generation of young people, it is imperative to secure their sexual and reproductive health and rights through youth-friendly services regardless of marital status and through the removal of barriers. This also means addressing challenges facing adolescent girls including lack of access to education, unwanted pregnancies, preventable maternal death and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage.

In order to sustain the progress made in decreasing maternal mortality and to enhance sustainable development, Member States emphasized the need to provide universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services with particular attention to adolescents and youth. They recognized the importance of comprehensive sexuality education, both

within the formal and informal educational systems for the protection and empowerment of young people and for averting unwanted pregnancies, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

In this respect, Member States reaffirmed their commitments to the principles, charters and protocols that advance the agenda of population and development particularly the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights and enhance the decision-making powers of women and youth at all levels.

Members States congratulated UNFPA for its increased focus on adolescents, young people, and especially young girls, highlighting their need for life skills, youth-friendly services, including comprehensive sexuality education and information.

They also highlighted the findings of the Secretary-General's Index Report that Governments from all regions of the world consider universal access to comprehensive, quality and integrated sexual and reproductive health to be one of the highest priorities for the global development agenda beyond 2014, and considered it essential to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Health system strengthening

Member States committed to fulfilling the right to health for all people at all ages. They noted that the future development goals cannot be achieved if vast numbers of the global population remained without access to high-quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health services.

There was widespread acknowledgement of the state of health systems in various regions of the world, including the fragility of health systems in the developing world, persistent challenges in quality and accessibility of care, and the urgent need to strengthen health systems, and ensure universal access to a wide range of quality services including modern methods of family planning, among other sexual and reproductive health services.

Member States committed to invest in strengthening health systems, including as a means of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.

They noted that addressing the inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health services in a targeted manner, including through strengthening health systems in both rural and urban areas, had significant implications for development policy. Member States emphasized the importance of ensuring strong accessible health systems as a necessary component for eliminating economic and social barriers and other structural inequalities.

Member States committed to the progressive realization of universal health coverage, with some Member States highlighting ongoing efforts in this regard.

The need to ensure that health services were of high quality, affordable and accessible, particularly to vulnerable groups including minorities, women and young people was reiterated by Member States as crucial for poverty eradication, to ensure healthy populations and to fulfil the right to health. They emphasized the importance of international cooperation

and strengthened partnerships that provided technical and financial support to realize these commitments.

Member States also emphasized the necessity of tailoring health systems to respond to changing population dynamics and needs.

With increasing life expectancies, growing younger and older cohorts, and the persistent rise in non-communicable diseases, the importance of preventive services, primary care, long-term nursing care and assisted living where needed, was acknowledged by Member States. Also acknowledged was the need to ensure health systems responsive to the varying needs of diverse population groups.

Member States committed to addressing the Ebola outbreak in a systematic and integrated manner, including addressing its root causes that included weak health systems and health worker shortages.

Member States noted that the ongoing Ebola virus outbreak served to shine a light on the state of health systems including the lack of adequate infrastructure and human resources for health in the affected regions. Member States also acknowledged and lauded ongoing support and relief efforts; highlighting lessons learned including the lack of and need for adequate emergency preparedness, while committing to addressing the crisis in a systematic and integrated manner.

Member States noted that integrated delivery of quality sexual and reproductive health services was a priority that would also strengthen health systems and save lives.

Member states stressed that population issues must be addressed by the sustainable development goals and central to this was responding to the basic health care needs of populations, particularly vulnerable groups. They also highlighted that fully functional and efficient health systems are required in all countries for the fulfilment of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the future development agenda.

Maternal health

Member States acknowledged that much progress has been made as maternal mortality has fallen substantially in developing countries in some regions; however, women in other regions face a higher risk of dying as a result of pregnancy and birth, with a growing number of girls and adolescents affected.

Member States committed to making the eradication of maternal mortality a priority for development.

Member States committed to reducing maternal mortality and advancing progress towards the unfinished MDG 5 agenda. MDG 5 was described as a top development priority that requires targeted policies and programmes, both nationally and internationally. Member States acknowledged that sexual and reproductive health and the reduction of maternal mortality are crucial to achieving women's empowerment and gender equality, in addition

to their positive impact on economic development.

Member States acknowledged that provision of an integrated package of sexual and reproductive health services requires fully functioning health care systems.

Member States emphasized the importance of an integrated approach in addressing maternal mortality within national health systems, with policies that include maternal health care, contraception as well as treatment and prevention of STIs and HIV. Member States acknowledged the disparities in maternal health outcomes both at global and local levels. Disparities between rural and urban areas as well as the lack of access to services among low-income women were highlighted as requiring targeted interventions. Providing women with quality and accessible services throughout their pregnancy and delivery was identified as a key factor in reducing maternal mortality. Member States highlighted the importance of antenatal and postnatal care as well as skilled birth attendance and called for strengthening health systems in order to ensure these services for all women, with special attention to rural and indigenous women. They noted that health systems should also be equipped for ending preventable maternal deaths and morbidities due to unsafe abortion.

Member States identified the need for targeted interventions and comprehensive sexuality education for eliminating the increasing maternal mortality ratios among young women.

Member States acknowledged the ever-growing number of adolescent pregnancies and the large proportion of maternal death occurring among young women. They identified pregnancy and childbirth-related causes to be among the most frequent causes of death for young women and girls. Comprehensive sexuality education was seen as crucial to reducing adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality.

Contraception and unmet need for family planning

Member States acknowledged the efforts and progress made in providing access to family planning while noting that despite these, over 200 million women lacked access to modern methods of contraception. They highlighted the need to urgently address these persistent gaps. Furthermore they emphasized the importance of family planning for reducing unwanted pregnancies and preventable maternal mortality, and acknowledged that providing universal access to family planning could prevent nearly one third of the estimated 300,000 maternal deaths that occur every year.

Member States committed to increasing access to family planning in order to eradicate preventable maternal mortality.

Member States identified universal access to family planning as a priority, and expressed commitment to continuing the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at increasing contraception prevalence rates.

Some Member States noted the importance of creating demand for family planning and shifting the paradigm away from a target-driven orientation to one based on the concept of demand fulfilment. They also noted that increased attention to quality of life was an effective way to address unmet need for family planning and other reproductive health information and services.

Member States agreed that family planning has to be universally accessible, acceptable and of high quality.

Member States described family planning as an integral part of the sexual and reproductive health service package. They called for the accessibility of modern contraception, noting that providing a wide range of quality contraception is crucial in ensuring quality of care for women. Member States called for universal access to modern methods of contraception as a method of preventing unwanted pregnancies, for the prevention of STIs and HIV as well as for reducing the need for unsafe abortion. Comprehensive sexuality education was seen as instrumental in removing barriers to access and increasing adequate utilization of contraception among adolescents and youth.

Member States identified the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, as cost effective and beneficial to society.

Member States described sexual and reproductive health services, through relatively inexpensive family planning services, maternal health services, HIV prevention, information and education, as a sound economic investment with clear benefits to society as a whole, with a potential return on investment as high as \$ 150 per dollar spent.

Child survival

Despite persistent challenges, Member States acknowledged the significant global progress in child survival.

Member States celebrated the remarkable progress in child survival rates worldwide as a result of reinforced health coverage in certain segments of the population including children, adolescents and pregnant women, while recognizing the need to scale up efforts to further reduce childhood and infant mortality rates and improve maternal and infant health services in regions that continued to fall short.

The achievements highlighted include lower fertility rates due to increased availability and accessibility to modern family planning methods, increased access to skilled antenatal care, increased immunization coverage and better protection for children and mothers against malaria, HIV and other communicable diseases. Member States noted that despite these gains, common causes of early childhood mortality and morbidity including pneumonia, malaria, malnutrition and neonatal conditions, all of which are both preventable and treatable, persist in some regions.

Member States committed to improving maternal and child health services and placed a high focus on the reduction of maternal and infant mortality globally.

Member States specified programmes, policies and strategies to reduce mortality rates through universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services. They noted the importance of preventing adolescent pregnancy, and ensuring accessible family planning services and antenatal care to promote safe motherhood and allow women and young people to control their fertility.

Member States committed to address developmental challenges that resulted in higher preventable mortality rates in low-resource settings.

The concentration of high mortality rates in rural and indigenous areas and low-resourced countries, including due to limited physical access to basic health services coupled with financial barriers, was acknowledged by Member States which committed to reduce these developmental challenges through various initiatives.

Advancing the health of mothers, newborns and children was labeled a top development priority and Member States highlighted sexual and reproductive health, including comprehensive sexuality education as crucial. Some Member States committed to providing free maternal and child health services at public health facilities in addition to universal immunization coverage and malaria prevention and management for pregnant women.

Member States noted the issue of infant malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies, calling for the provision of clean drinking water, sanitation and food security for all children. The inclusion of maternal and child health into national systems with plans and interventions at subnational and national levels was emphasized. Member States additionally committed to increasing the number of qualified midwives, trained staff and delivery facilities in addition to policies to include prevention and treatment of HIV and sexually transmitted infections and provide maternal, infant and neonatal health services.

HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections

Member States committed to combatting HIV by reducing and ultimately eliminating new infections with an end goal of complete eradication.

They emphasized the importance of universal access to HIV prevention and treatment, and the need for adequate care and support for people living with HIV.

The need for greater awareness, preventative measures, provisions for voluntary testing and counseling and easy access to treatment were highlighted as necessary in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Member States noted the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights of all persons living with HIV and those at risk of the disease in order to ensure that they can live full and productive lives free from stigma and discrimination and with access to health and social services.

The importance of enforcing specific protective laws that guarantee the right to equality and the prohibition of discrimination for persons living with HIV and their partners was noted.

Member States agreed that efforts to protect young people and women from HIV and sexually transmitted infections must be scaled up through comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services.

Member States identified the increasingly high prevalence of HIV and sexually transmitted infections among young people and women. With over two million young people living with HIV, the vulnerability and lack of protection for young people was noted with concern, and the important role of comprehensive sexuality education both within the formal and informal educational systems in tackling this problem was emphasized.

Member States also observed that in some regions of the world, women and girls were at significantly higher risk of HIV infection, with two thirds of persons living with HIV being female in these regions.

Member States highlighted the need for gender-equitable access to quality sexual and reproductive health services including for the prevention and treatment HIV and AIDS.

Further, Member States committed to intensify efforts to reduce and eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Member States noted the link between strategies to combat HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections in young people with those aimed at decreasing and averting early and unwanted pregnancies and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Member States committed to strengthening health systems and recognized the need for the integration of HIV and AIDS-related services with sexual and reproductive health services.

Governments underscored the need for timely and adequate support at domestic, regional and international levels, both in the public and private sectors, for improved availability of infrastructure, equipment, medicines and human resources to tackle the challenge of HIV and rising sexually transmitted infections.

The overall cost benefit to society of investing in preventative strategies was mentioned. Member States committed to improving access to quality health care and providing universal access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) through various comprehensive national strategies, plans and policies. Some Member States also endorsed policies to include the free provision of sexual and reproductive health services and free treatments for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. The relevance of lessons learned from the HIV and AIDS epidemic to overall health system strengthening was noted.

Member States recognized the impact of development on the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, including developmental factors such as income, wealth, education, gender equality, employment status, life expectancy, the quality of prenatal and perinatal services, and cultural or religious practices.

Member States described functioning health care systems and universal access to sexual and reproductive health services as prerequisites for the attainment of the ICPD Beyond 2014, sustainable development goals and a world without poverty.

Safe abortion and post-abortion care

Member States acknowledged the huge burden of unsafe abortions which occurred far too frequently and affected many, disproportionately impacting young women and girls, the poor, minorities and other vulnerable groups. They noted that over 200 million women in developing countries lack access to modern methods of contraception with devastating results including deaths from unsafe abortions.

Member States committed to addressing maternal mortality and morbidity resulting from unsafe abortion.

Member States also identified access to comprehensive integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights as a priority of the global development agenda beyond 2014 and considered this essential to poverty reduction and to sustainable development. They noted that alongside modern methods of contraception, access to safe abortion and post-abortion care would go a long way toward reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.

Some Member States highlighted the progressive liberalization of safe abortion policies as part of public policies aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls in order to achieve reductions in preventable maternal deaths, and ensure the ability of women and girls to exercise their right to health, equality and autonomy in decision-making.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Member States acknowledged with concern the rising rates of non-communicable diseases in the global population including obesity, hypertension, diabetes and cancers among others, which they described as serious health and development challenges. They emphasized the deleterious impact of these conditions on the health of populations and in particular on work-force productivity, and considered them as obstacles to economic growth.

Member States committed to addressing the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases.

They also noted the increasing numbers of untimely deaths resulting from non-communicable diseases and the need for financial, technical and technological support to tackling these challenges.

Member States emphasized the need for an integrated health system with essential services to address sexual and reproductive health needs, HIV, as well as non-communicable diseases.

Member States highlighted the major risk factors in the development of non-communicable diseases stemming from preventable behaviour including smoking, alcohol use, unhealthy eating habits and lack of physical activity. They stressed the importance of strategies and

programmes to tackle non-communicable diseases as part of an integrated health strategy.

Member States emphasized the need for awareness-raising and prevention programmes as a means to tackle non-communicable diseases.

They noted ongoing preventive measures and strategies for reduction of major risk factors for non-communicable diseases, including raising awareness around the deleterious effects of tobacco use, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity, increasing access to essential services, and regulatory control measures on harmful substances, including increased taxation to reduce consumption.

C. Place and mobility

Internal migration and urbanization

Member States noted that many developing countries are undergoing rapid internal migration and urbanization. Unemployment and the absence of economic opportunities, particularly among the youth, as well as the lack of access to services and insecurity were identified as the main factors behind rural-urban migration.

Member States emphasized the need to plan and build sustainable cities.

They acknowledged that internal migration and urbanization will intensify in the coming years, and expressed concern about their limited ability to provide basic public services and infrastructure for all current and future urban residents. Member States considered rapid urbanization as a challenge and called for the latest demographic data available, as well as information on the needs of internal migrants and local residents, to be integrated in urban planning at the micro and macro levels.

Member States also committed to pursue inclusive development policies in order to support people's right to move internally and improve their quality of life in urban areas, targeting both internal migrants and local residents, with such efforts aimed at providing equitable access to basic services such as health care, water, sanitation, energy transportation and waste management.

In particular, the need to strengthen health systems to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for rural-urban migrants was noted by Member States. They called for greater attention to policies on access of urban residents to land, decent housing, social protection, employment and a safe environment.

Member States called for the strengthening of urban-rural linkages to reduce urban-rural disparities.

Member States identified the following strategies for effective urban-rural policies: encouraging urban consolidation; promoting the growth of small and medium-sized urban centres and the sustainable development of rural areas, including the adoption of labour-intensive projects; training of young people for non-agricultural jobs; and developing effective transport and communication systems.

International migration

Member States committed to promoting and protecting the rights and the fundamental freedoms of migrants and their families, especially those of women and children, by addressing migration and development in a holistic manner.

Member States called for linkages between migration and development to be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental factors that lead persons to migrate, including through a cultural and human perspective, and

recognizing the functions and responsibilities of the countries of origin, transit and destination. They stressed the need for efforts to be directed at preventing human trafficking.

Member States called for increased international cooperation and coordination to develop new political, legal and institutional instruments to improve the governance of international migration.

Some Member States expressed support for the promotion of an international convention on migration that would establish minimum standards for the adequate mobility of persons, and enhance the contribution of migration to development.

A small number of Member States mentioned the negative effects of international labour migration in their domestic contexts, stating that brain drain impacts labour power, competitiveness of the economy and the family institution.

Member States called for the involvement of the diaspora in national development, facilitating the return of citizens living abroad and collecting data on the migrant population.

Internally displaced persons and refugees

Member States committed to upholding the rights and improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Member States noted that forced displacement represents a threat to dignity and development, and stressed the need to develop policies to recognize and safeguard the rights of internally displaced persons and refugees, promote their socioeconomic integration and facilitate their safe and voluntary return

Member States called for the prioritization of macro-level population dynamics – internal migration and urbanization, international migration and displacement – in the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States acknowledged that the continuation and consequences of population trends through internal migration and urbanization, international migration and displacement will present both opportunities and challenges for the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development framework.

D. Governance

Member States overwhelmingly acknowledged changing population dynamics and agreed that the topic will require increased focus in the future. In order to achieve good governance with accountability and transparency, Member States highlighted the importance of international cooperation, systematic and inclusive participation, as well as integrating population dynamics into development planning.

International cooperation

The role of international cooperation in achieving the ICPD Beyond 2014 was reiterated by Member States. They acknowledged the leadership role of United Nations in development activities and made specific reference to the role of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in population and development activities. International cooperation at the international, regional and national level, including the importance of both multilateral and bilateral assistance, was highlighted by Member States.

There was a strong recognition of the need for adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels for the implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014, including through new and additional resources from all available funding mechanisms from multilateral, bilateral and private sources, taking into account the recommendations of the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action beyond 2014.

Member States called for greater international cooperation, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to realize sustainable development, stressing in particular technical and financial support to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health. While acknowledging the responsibility of national governments in achieving development objectives, Member States stressed the importance of global alliances in tackling current challenges.

Donor countries and international organizations were urged by Member States to strengthen financial, technical and technological support for developing countries in order to supplement developing countries' efforts to provide universal health coverage and basic health services for all. Some of the specific areas mentioned for development assistance are family planning, maternal and child health, and humanitarian settings.

Member States identified some initiatives taken with the help of regional organizations, highlighting the important role of cooperation at regional level. They noted the significant role of civil society organizations and the private sector in achieving the ICPD Beyond 2014.

Member States called for attention to the constraints resulting from lack of concessional funding and emerging challenges like climate change and non-communicable diseases that put at risk development gains, including in the health sector.

There also called for urgent action by the international community on the Ebola virus epidemic to speed up assistance and necessary support to defeat it and to help affected African countries.

Systematic and inclusive participation at the national level

Member States acknowledged the role of different stakeholders for systematic and inclusive implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and stressed that the current development challenges require systematic participation of all stakeholders in crafting responses. They highlighted the importance of participation of civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to leverage innovation and greater investment in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and plans that affect the lives of individuals and different societies across the globe. Member States noted the role of different social organizations and the importance of the full participation of young people, the elderly and marginalized groups, especially persons with disabilities, in implementing the ICPD Beyond 2014 and achieving development goals.

They also stated that enabling systematic participation of all stakeholders is critical in order to reduce inequalities; and, through the global leadership of the United Nations, increase global support for promoting dignity and well-being for all and sustainable development. UNFPA, they noted, can play a role in forging stronger partnerships for the implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014.

Strengthening the knowledge sector and advancing the integration of population dynamics into development planning.

Member States highlighted population data as a prerequisite for accountability that is also crucial for development planning.

Member States highlighted the importance of strengthening national statistics systems in order to ensure quality and timely data on population dynamics.

Member States stressed the vital importance of the availability of quality population data for the proper integration of population matters into development planning and highlighted the need for both data collection and strengthening of national statistical institutions in this context. They noted that Governments can be more effective in planning their policies and national strategies when they have access to comprehensive and reliable statistics and trend analyses. They called for reinforcing both national and international action to ensure a more effective and efficient collection and analysis of population data. Several Member States emphasized the crucial role of censuses, civil registration and the collection of vital statistics for socioeconomic development and accountability. To enable the effective collection of this data in all countries, there was a call for support for human resource development and capacity strengthening.

Member States called for the integration of population dynamics into all levels of development planning.

Member States called for interlinkage between population and development, describing it as a prerequisite for sustainable development. Member States agreed that the impact of population dynamics on the micro and macro levels requires the integration of population dynamics into development planning at the national, regional and international levels.

Member States described the nature of integration of population dynamics as either population dynamics being mainstreamed throughout sectoral policies or included in broad population policies.

Some Member States focused on pertinent population dynamics issues in their respective contexts, including youth, ageing, population growth and urbanization. A number of Member States also expressed commitment to integrating population dynamics in development planning through one of two modalities, more frequently through developing and implementing broad population policies or alternatively through mainstreaming population dynamics into sectoral policies.

Global economic inequalities

Some Member States highlighted global economic inequalities and emphasized the varying challenges they presented as barriers to development. Member States emphasized the need to translate economic growth into inclusive development, with a focus on reducing the major gaps that hinder the full integration of all persons into the development process.

Building better accountability systems

Member States highlighted three major themes within the realm of accountability, namely, transparency and good governance, data for accountability and accountability as some of the enabling factors for the future post-2015 development agenda.

Member States called for accountability as a cornerstone of good governance.

Member States called for increased accountability on all levels. They highlighted transparency and strengthening the capacity of citizens to hold their governments to account in promoting good governance as essential for the implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014. Likewise, Member States saw governance and accountability as essential to defining the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States placed non-discrimination, population data and transparency at the centre of accountability.

In addition to mutual responsibility of the international community and national governments, Member States identified non-discrimination and inclusion as critical components in achieving accountability. They declared that accountability is not possible without functioning data collection, and that the availability of data was a prerequisite to improving transparency and accountability.

E. Sustainability

Population dynamics, environmental sustainability and climate change

Member States stressed that the relationship between population, resources, the environment and development must be recognized, managed appropriately and linked in a harmonious and dynamic balance with biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Member States called for improved integration of population dynamics into development planning, and in particular in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management strategies, as well as in environmental preservation efforts.

Member States identified climate change as a human rights and human dignity issue, since it represents a threat to the very survival and future of millions of people around the world, affecting the most vulnerable populations such as women, children and older persons, as well as the poor whose economic activities are weather dependent. There was a call for adaptation strategies to address structural problems such as poverty and social exclusion.

Member States also committed to preventing the degradation of the environment, as well as to ensuring sustainable management and use of natural resources.

The need to protect the environment and for improved management of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations was highlighted by Member States.

Member States committed to investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity, across the multiple sectors of the ICPD and throughout the life-course as the foundation for sustainable development.

Member States identified investments in universal public services in the education, health, transportation and energy sectors, creating decent work and employment, facilitating access to social protection and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women as key strategies to develop human capital, facilitate economic stability and competitiveness, and promote environmental resilience and appropriate climate change responses.

Some Member States committed to transitioning to green economies.

Some Member States identified technological innovation, as well as continued support and cooperation among countries, particularly in building the necessary infrastructure and productive capacities, as essential for transitioning to green economies.

A number of Member States emphasized the need of all international actors to make specific and measurable commitments in terms of protecting the environment and addressing climate change in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States noted that the solutions to challenges of protecting the environment and climate change lie beyond the capacity of any single nation and require collective action and sector-wide strategies.

F. ICPD Beyond 2014

Member States declared that the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was a landmark achievement in the history of human rights, empowerment of women and pursuit of sustainable development. They emphasized the centrality of the ICPD agenda to global development and reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on the Framework of Actions and their respective national circumstances. There was a near universal call for integrating population issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

Commitment to full implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014

Member States emphasized that the ICPD agenda remains relevant and must be fully implemented beyond 2014, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review.

Member States noted that the Programme of Action has significantly contributed towards achieving poverty reduction, gender equality and improvements in health and education and emphasized that the landmark agreement, together with its subsequent reviews, continue to be a guiding framework for mainstreaming population and development agenda into national and international policies.

Member States, at the highest political level, renewed their commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and expressed support for its full and effective implementation beyond 2014. They called for special attention to be paid to the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's report as well as gaps and challenges identified in the ICPD global review. They noted the importance of the recommendations and pledged support for the respective outcomes and commitments of the five regional conferences as they applied to them. Support for the centrality of the ICPD agenda in achieving sustainable development was underscored by many delegations.

Member States committed themselves to address the challenges hindering the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

While recognizing significant achievements in the implementation of the Programme of Action, Member States expressed concern over its unequal and fragmented progress and called on the international community to address the remaining challenges. They identified especially challenges related to reducing poverty, embracing sustainability, eradicating discrimination, raising the status of women, expanding opportunities for young people, and improving sexual and reproductive health. Other areas of concern include inadequate investments in skills and institutional structures, lack of human capital, research and data, modern technology, and financial constraints. The importance of continued international cooperation and development of mutually supportive partnerships was also given prominent attention.

ICPD Beyond 2014 and post-2015 development agenda

Member States emphasized that ICPD Beyond 2014 should be at the core of the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States stressed the importance of the ICPD Programme of Action and its review outcomes for the future development framework and underscored the need to ground future development aspirations in the principles of human rights and equality. The failure to deliver on the promise of the ICPD, they stated, would undermine the fulfilment of fundamental human rights and the fight against poverty and inequality.

The close linkage between ICPD principles and objectives and the post-2015 development agenda was highlighted by many delegations. Member States expressed commitment to sustainable development and emphasized the importance of integrating ICPD Beyond 2014 in the post-2015 discussions. A strong call was made to include the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report¹ into the post-2015 development agenda. Some States also voiced support for the inclusion of the regional review outcomes in the future development agenda.

There was widespread recognition that the successful implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014 was a precondition for achieving the three pillars of sustainable development.

Member States spoke about the linkage of the ICPD Agenda with the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, calling for population issues to be addressed in an integrated manner. They further asked for the relationship between population, resources, environment and development to be recognized and managed appropriately and in a harmonious and dynamic equilibrium.

Member States called for the post-2015 development framework to give priority to the core goals of gender equality, empowerment of women, investment in young people, high-quality health care and education, inclusive economic growth, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Member States urged the international community to capitalize on the potential for a demographic dividend, ensure environmental sustainability and address the effects of climate change. Broad support was also given to the importance of population data and increased financial and technical support for developing countries.

Support for reports of the Secretary-General

Member States in their statements welcomed the two reports before the Special Session - the Secretary-General's Report on the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (A/69/62) and (A/69/122).

¹ Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (A/69/62)

Member States appreciated the inclusive approach used in the preparation of the report, Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (A/69/62), and highlighted its analytical nature that was based on the principles of human rights and equality. Countries noted their own contributions to the reports through the ICPD Beyond 2014 global survey.

Member States expressed agreement with the overall messages of the report and shared the conclusion of the report that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity, across the multiple sectors of the ICPD is the foundation of sustainable development.

Member States expressed support for actions identified in the Framework of Actions for achieving non-discriminatory and equitable access to services, education and information for all.

Member States also expressed strong support for the Secretary-General's report on recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development (A/69/122) and noted that the index report highlights some of the most pressing challenges.

Member States mentioned that together the two reports form the basis for guiding future actions on full implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014. They acknowledged that gaps identified in the reports require urgent attention, and called on the global community to build further on the findings and conclusions as documented in the two reports including the knowledge about the state of sexual and reproductive health globally.

There was a near universal call to carry forward the substance of two reports to the post-2015 discussions.

Support for the regional outcomes

Member States in their statements acknowledged the respective regional outcome documents and also cited other subregional outcomes on Population and Development.

On the Addis Ababa Declaration, some Member States from the region said it would enable their region leverage the potential for a demographic dividend through more effective tools and a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues. Latin America and the Caribbean countries welcomed the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its call to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action after 2014. On the outcome from the Arab region, it was stated that its unanimous adoption made it possible to establish a united Arab position on the International Conference on Population and Development in the beyond 2014 phase. Member States from Asia and Europe also expressed support for the regional review outcome and Chair's summary, respectively, and expressed the need to integrate them into the post-2015 discussions.

A few Member States expressed the right to apply their regional review outcomes in line with national laws and development priorities.

Support for the Outcome of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development

Member States expressed appreciation for the organization of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development and recalled their participation and support for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 as expressed in the Outcome.

Continuing work of United Nations system

Member States expressed appreciation for the ongoing implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the support extended by UNFPA in carrying out the ICPD Beyond 2014 review at national, regional and global levels.

Member States committed to work hand-in-hand to achieve ICPD goals and objectives beyond 2014 and said strong leadership from the United Nations is key to this end. They called for further strengthening of cooperation with regional and international development agencies, such as UNFPA, as well as between subregional entities and groups and encouraged the promotion of North-South, South-South and Triangular, regional and extraregional cooperation.

G. Conclusion of the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly

At the end of the debate, the General Assembly, following a request by the President of the General Assembly adopted an oral decision as follows:

“... may I take it that the General Assembly decides to take note of the reports of the Secretary-General circulated in documents A/S-29/3 and A/S-29/4 and the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-seventh session, circulated in document A/S-29/5, and wishes to take note of the deliberations of the special session of the General Assembly on its findings and recommendations contained in that document?”

As no objections were raised, it was so decided².

² A/S-29/PV.1 (pages 95-96/98) of 22/09/2014

Annex



Annex 1

Concluding statement by the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly

The President:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the end of this Special Session, I wish to congratulate all participants on the quality of debate and sharing of national experiences over the course of this afternoon and evening. Your commitment to ensuring the well-being of every human being and to achieving sustainable development is inspiring. This session has benefitted from the invaluable contributions of Member States, many of whom were represented by Heads of State or Government. Civil society organizations, particularly those representing the hopes and aspirations of young people were also instrumental in our proceedings. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment shown by these organizations has been a driving force for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). We recall that the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), taking into account the findings of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Operational Review, and the regional review outcomes, adopted a resolution reaffirming commitment to further implementation of the ICPD agenda, which is clearly reflected in the Secretary-General's Report before us. During our deliberations throughout this session, we heard leaders affirm support for the Programme of Action, while also reiterating many of the recommendations found in the Framework of Actions. This has been a remarkable opportunity to commit, in one voice, our collective intent to address the challenges to population and development in the 21st Century. It is evident from what we have heard that the world has reached a turning point. Global progress is increasingly uneven and characterized by the exploitation of the Earth's resources, coupled with increased human consumption. This paradigm threatens inclusive development, the environment and our common future.

Excellencies,

The Session participants highlighted a vast range of formidable challenges facing our world, including unfulfilled gender equality and women's empowerment; the need for lifelong learning opportunities; inequalities in universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, just to mention a few. We have to ensure that these issues, in view of their significant implications for development policy, are effectively addressed. Similarly, we heard that increasing urbanization requires us to plan and build sustainable cities and strengthen urban-rural linkages. The impact of population dynamics at the micro and macro levels also requires the integration of these elements into development planning at the national, regional and international level. The respect for and promotion of human rights was emphasized by speakers as being critical to building individual capability and resilience, both of which are essential for sustainable development. Many speakers stressed that further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, taking into account the respective regional reviews and the findings and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review will be a critical first step. Many also called for the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report and the regional review outcomes to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. It is clear from our discussions that the development challenges we face require cooperation from all stakeholders, with a strong emphasis on partnerships and global leadership from the United Nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must act quickly and decisively to put our plans into action on all the key development challenges at all levels in our countries. We have all worked hard to this point, but, in fact, the real work starts now. We must proceed in this endeavour with a new determination, commitment and vision. We have now come to the end of the twenty-ninth special session of the General Assembly. May I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

Credits:

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