



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Population and Development

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**Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**

### **Statement submitted by International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

This statement is co-sponsored by Action Canada for Population and Development, International Federation of Medical Students' Association, Gestos Soropositividade Comunicação e Gênero, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), Rutgers, and Women Deliver, Inc., non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The statement is also co-sponsored by Plan International, Inc. and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The statement is endorsed by Vaestoliitto - Family Federation of Finland, a non-governmental organization on the roster with the Economic and Social Council.

### A. About the International Planned Parenthood Federation

A leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and a global service provider, the International Planned Parenthood Federation is a locally owned, globally connected federation that works through Member Associations and collaborative partners in over 145 countries to empower people in the most vulnerable situations to access life-saving services and programmes and live with dignity. We have had general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1973 ([E/2010/INF/4](#)).

### B. Introduction

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) welcomes the theme of the 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57) on “Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.” CPD57 provides a unique and valuable opportunity to review the progress made thus far, identify, and address the challenges to implementation, and to strengthen the commitments related to the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda. CPD57 comes at a crucial time, following the SDG Summit in 2023 and ahead of the Summit of the Future in 2024. Looking at how the international community can better cooperate to respond to critical geopolitical challenges, address global gaps in governance and reinvigorate a multilateral system to positively impact peoples' lives and planet requires speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda thus far. Since 2019 and the ICPD+25 review, the world has experienced a global Covid-19 pandemic, which has in many ways hindered and rolled back progress in terms of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) and the full realization of sexual and reproductive rights as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Severe and acute consequences of multiple crises and conflicts around the globe, including the climate crisis, wars, health, and humanitarian crises have severely impacted the health and rights of women, girls, young people in all their diversity and the most structurally excluded communities. Those who are furthest left behind and facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are the same hardest hit by these crises, with their sexual and reproductive health and rights undermined. The Covid-19 pandemic, the triple planetary crisis, in combination with the ongoing economic crises have exacerbated the barriers for the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the outcome of its review conferences as well as the SDGs, resulting in the decline of the progress in these last five years, particularly in relation to the ICPD

PoA and the SDGs commitments related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and undermining the Leaving No one Behind (LNOB) agenda.

Yet, the linkages between and positive outcomes of advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights and the achievement of sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental rights, is proven with abundant evidence. The full implementation and realization of the ICPD PoA, and its continued integral part of the SDGs and in the post 2030 agenda, is therefore more important than ever. It is urgent that in the CPD57 Member States, UN System and civil society must come together to identify means to accelerate the implementation of the commitments made and ensure that universal access to SRHR is a reality for all.

### **C. Sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustainable development**

The achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment are facing significant barriers, despite international commitment to advance these goals. 1.1 billion women of reproductive age (15–49) have an unmet need for family planning and nearly half of all pregnancies, totaling 121 million each year throughout the world, are unintended. Negative social norms, patriarchy, discrimination, and inequalities are embedded in our global societies and continue to fail women and girls while different forms of violence have increased.

It is very concerning that according to the 2023 Gender Snapshot report, of the 18 indicators and sub-indicators of SDG 5, none have met their targets and only two are close, undermining progress towards all 17 SDGs. Moreover, despite commitments to advance the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda and gender-responsive humanitarian action, the needs of women and girls in conflict and crisis situations continue to be underserved, with women largely excluded from conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. IPPF globally and in each region has increased the efforts to support women and girls, in all their diversity in the conflict settings and has publicly called for stopping the wars, to invest in education and social protection and implement rights-based policies in all countries, created through timely and systematic multi sectoral disaggregated data, with gender lens. And once again IPPF calls for increased investments targeted at gender equality objectives to achieve transformational impact: USD \$360 billion per year is needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment across key SDGs, including in the goal to end poverty and hunger and it is a target possible to be achieved.

### **D. Recommendations**

Although IPPF welcomes the progress made thus far to achieving the goals and challenges of the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs, challenges remain in the effective implementation, therefore IPPF has the following recommendations:

#### **1. Reaffirming success and effective action to overcome challenges**

As we move towards the second half of the SDG era, we must ensure that the ICPD PoA and its implementation builds on and expands the understanding of SRHR; the groups that are in most need and invest adequately in responses to ensure that no one is left behind. In this regard, it is key that the international community pledges to undertake further action to ensure its full and accelerated implementation. To be successful, the ICPD and the SDG and post 2030 agendas must be linked, as they are mutually reinforcing. Governments must therefore clearly reaffirm their support for

and leadership of the continuation and full implementation of the ICPD agenda at national, regional, and global levels, and champion it publicly where possible. This includes ensuring that the ICPD and its review conferences priorities are meaningfully integrated into the work on the post 2030 agenda, including implementation, monitoring and accountability, and in the Summit of the Future. This also includes accelerated mobilization of resources at the national and international levels for the full implementation of the ICPD PoA, as well as new and additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources.

## **2. Inclusion of youth, adolescents and civil society**

IPPF also recommends the active recognition of adolescents and youth in all countries as key agents for change in the implementation of the ICPD PoA and in promotion of sustainable development, sustained and inclusive economic growth and digital and technological innovation. Being key agents for change, there is a need to increase the participation of youth in social change and giving youth access to equitable opportunities to contribute to social change, including resources for youth-led community initiatives. Young people should therefore be involved to the largest extent possible in all processes to implement the ICPD agenda and in ensuring its full integration into the post 2030 agenda and Summit of the Future. Civil society's local and grass-roots insights can be highly effective drivers of change. National and local government bodies as well as United Nations processes should seek to engage with CSOs and youth organizations in an ongoing manner to ensure continuation of efforts to address gender inequality, including during times of political change, as well as by raising the needs and priorities of youth and adolescents at the grass-roots level and at the international level. In this regard, governments must ensure a legal and social environment that supports sustainable civil society engagement, free from violence, stigma and discrimination and pressure, to allow civil society organizations to contribute to society and policy making. Further, they must ensure the protection of human rights and women and youth human rights defenders' ability to meaningfully participate in public and policy debates and guarantee that their views are taken on board.

## **3. Reaching those furthest left behind in the implementation and accountability**

To achieve the goals and objectives of the PoA and the SDGs, a concerted effort needs to be made to reach the furthest left behind, especially those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalized communities. For this to be possible, governments should prioritize addressing the gaps in implementation of the ICPD PoA, identifying barriers and prioritizing urgent actions to fulfill their commitments on SRHR especially regarding underserved and marginalized communities. In this regard, the availability of, and access to, high-quality disaggregated data (by age, gender/sex, ethnic group, disability, and other relevant attributes) is essential for measuring progress towards and achieving the SDGs and the ICPD PoA and understanding the needs of these communities. It is also imperative that the commitments made by governments are implemented through timely, respectful, and quality care and education, including access to comprehensive sexuality education. Governments must ensure that there are national laws, policies, regulations, and programmes well-funded by domestic resources to achieve the ICPD PoA and reaching those furthest behind first.