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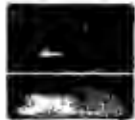
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



To:

Cc:

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Subject: Fw: Summary report of the Secretary General on the Operational Review of the ICPD

From: Babatunde Osotimehin <osotimehin@unfpa.org>  
To: Susana Malcorra <malcorra@un.org>  
Cc: Babatunde Osotimehin <osotimehin@unfpa.org>  
Date: 20/01/2014 04:40 PM  
Subject: Summary report of the Secretary General on the Operational Review of the ICPD

Dear Susanna,

- ✓ I am pleased to share with you the final draft report prepared by UNEPA, per General Assembly Resolution 65/234, which requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. This draft report is a summary version of the
- ✓ review report, which I will send to you under separate cover shortly, with key messages.

The report has been developed in a consultative manner benefitting from the rich and valuable inputs and feedback from UN system partners and is based on the highest-quality data and analysis. It responds to the need identified in the resolution for a systematic, integrated and comprehensive approach to population and development that is responsive to new challenges as well as to the changing development environment while reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development.

The findings and conclusions of the ICPD Review suggest a new framework for population and development beyond 2014, built on five thematic pillars: Dignity and Human Rights; Health; Place and Mobility; Governance and Accountability; and Sustainability. This framework acknowledges that the motivations for development are generated by human aspirations for dignity and human rights, for good health, and for both mobility and security of place and that the future of our world rests on achieving sustainable development, that places individual well-being at the heart of the development process; the attainment of which is dependent on good governance and accountability. This re-framing of the Cairo agenda ensures a better conceptual approach for putting human rights and individual opportunity and well-being at the heart of the development process and for achieving sustainability.

This version of the draft report, I understand, is still with Population Division/DESA, which has been an active part of the process of the report writing and which, last week, after we had all cleared the draft, suggested new revisions. We have reflected in this version all such revisions by DESA that are consistent with the review findings and that improve the quality of the report. Since it has been understood from the resolution and within the UN System that the SG's report would be a summary of the global review report, and not an autonomous report, we have insisted on consistency and coherence between the SG's report and the findings of the review. As the entity mandated by the resolution to lead the review, and in line with practice, UNEPA has the responsibility to clear the final version with EOSG and if Population Division has any

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substantive differences to raise them with your office. We are discharging that responsibility by sending you the draft report.

I can provide you with more details as you deem appropriate.

Best,



Babatunde Final SG Report on Operational Review for submission to DESA DGACM 17 January-1.doc

**Commission on Population and Development**

**Forty-seventh session**

**7-11 April 2014**

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda\***

**Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action  
of the International Conference on Population and Development**

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JAN 21 2014

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the  
Programme of Action of the International Conference  
on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 65/234, which requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, and 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.

The evidence overwhelmingly supports the ICPD consensus that respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights are necessary preconditions to improving the dignity and wellbeing of all people and empowering them to exercise their reproductive rights, particularly for women and adolescent girls; and that sexual and reproductive health and rights, and an understanding of the implications of population dynamics, are critical foundations for sustainable development. Safeguarding the rights of young people and investing in their quality education, decent employment opportunities, effective livelihood skills, and access to sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education strengthen young people's resilience and create the conditions under which they can achieve their full potential.

The path to sustainability, outlined in the framework for further actions, demands better leadership and greater innovation: to extend human rights and protect all persons from discrimination and violence, in order that all persons may have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from development; to invest in the capabilities and creativity of the world's young people to ensure future growth and innovation; to strengthen health systems to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health so that women can thrive and children can grow in a nurturing environment; to build sustainable cities that enrich urban and rural lives alike; and to transform the global economy towards one that will sustain the future of the planet and ensure a common future of dignity and well-being for all people in the years beyond 2014.

\* E/CN.9/2014/1.

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) reflected a remarkable consensus among diverse United Nations Member States and other stakeholders that the central focus of development is human beings. It also established that increasing access to health and education, and greater human rights for women and adolescents, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, would ultimately secure a better social and economic future and lead to slower population growth. The Programme of Action was structured around a set of fundamental principles, defining a new paradigm for population and development that is human centered and permeates all relevant dimensions of the human condition. It broke new ground also by endorsing a holistic approach to development, which incorporated a strong emphasis on the nexus of human well-being and environmental sustainability.

2. The Programme of Action redefined population policies away from quick-fix approaches and the focus on numbers. It aimed at empowering people and securing conditions for equal opportunity and accountable, transparent governance systems, so that each individual can reach the highest level of human well-being and development. The Programme of Action repositioned population as the central element of a more complex yet harmonious whole, acknowledging the interdependence of sustained economic growth, the environment, consumption patterns, governance, social equity and gender equality. It acknowledged human beings as ultimate actors in addressing their quality of life. Over a twenty-year period, Governments were expected to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action by making population and development policies an integral part of comprehensive development planning premised on social equality and poverty reduction frameworks, within an equitable, human rights based and sustainable development strategy.

3. In December 2010, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, requested an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its key actions for follow-up, underscoring the need, based on the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development, responsive to new challenges and the changing development environment, and embedding this approach in global processes related to development.

4. In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 65/234 and in consultation with the General Assembly as well as other relevant partners identified in the resolution, the review was completed through a synthesis of critical inputs, including the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey, undertaken by United Nations Member States and others; consultations at the global and regional levels; thematic consultations on a range of development issues, including on youth, women's health and human rights; and an evidence-based analysis of progress since 1994. The Global Survey was completed by an impressive 176 Governments and 6 territories and areas, representing all regions, and the responses were analyzed at the global and regional levels.

### *Progress since 1994*

5. The evidence of 2014 overwhelmingly supports the validity of the ICPD consensus. Between 1990 and 2010 the number of people living in extreme poverty as a share of the total population in developing countries fell by half (from 47 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010), meaning that almost 1 billion fewer people were living in extreme poverty. Large gains in primary school completion between 1999 and 2009 were observed, especially among girls; 158 countries now have legislation on a minimum age of marriage at or above age 18 years; maternal mortality worldwide fell by 47 per cent between 1990 and 2010, and global fertility fell by 23 per cent.

6. There has been a significant correlation between growing female literacy, healthier families, and stronger GDP growth. The entry of women into the export manufacturing sector of Asia has been one of the key drivers of economic growth. Gains in the educational attainment of girls are contributing to the success of Asia and Latin America in the knowledge-based economy. Many countries have experienced very rapid economic development, which has been accompanied by continued decline in the global population growth rate from 1.5 per cent per year in 1990-1995 to 1.1 in 2010-2015.

### *Progress has not been universal*

7. However, progress has been unequal and fragmented, and new challenges, realities and opportunities have emerged. Commitment to gender equality is not universal, and gender-based discrimination and violence continue to plague societies. Millions of early, forced and child marriages still take place in defiance of laws. Hundreds of millions of women live in countries where domestic violence is not a crime, or where laws against it are not enforced. While all members of the population suffer in conditions of structural poverty, the threats to the survival and well-being of women are especially acute. Lack of access to health care and the burdens of food production, obtaining drinking water and unpaid labour fall disproportionately on poor women. In addition to discrimination and inequalities on the basis of gender, many people still face stigma, violence, structural inequalities and other threats to their well-being because of their age or because they have a disability, are from indigenous groups or racial or ethnic minorities, or on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

8. While the core message of the ICPD was that all persons *have* a right to development, the rise of the global middle-class has been shadowed by rising inequalities both within and between countries. Over 70 per cent of the world's poorest people live in middle- or high-income countries. Less than 1 per cent of the world's population control over 40 per cent of the world's wealth, while the poorest 69 per cent control 3 per cent of global wealth. Inequality impedes trust and social cohesion, threatens public health, and marginalizes the poor and the middle class from political influence and economic and social advancement. Given the environmental costs of economic growth under the existing develop paradigm, the world simply cannot afford current trajectories of wealth concentration and successfully eradicate poverty and advance human progress.



9. The world has made important gains in health and longevity, but these gains are neither shared nor remotely realized for many people. Advances in maternal and child health and family planning over the past two decades have been considerable, yet 800 women a day still die in pregnancy and childbirth, and 8.7 million young women aged 15-24 in developing countries resorted to unsafe abortions in 2008, a factor partly to blame for the high number of pregnancy-related deaths among teenage girls. The advent of antiretroviral drugs has helped to avert 6.6 million AIDS-related deaths, including 5.5 million deaths in low- and middle-income countries, yet in some places HIV incidence is rising or declines have stalled. Nearly 80 per cent of deaths related to non-communicable diseases, now occur in low- and middle-income countries.

10. An estimated 1 billion people are living in the 50 to 60 countries that have seen only limited gains in health and well-being since 1994. It is in this subset of “least developed” places — which can also refer to poorer regions within wealthier countries — where many objectives of the ICPD remain unfulfilled.

#### *New realities, challenges and opportunities*

11. Global population surpassed the 7 billion mark in late 2011, marking a doubling since 1970. The dramatic decline of fertility since the ICPD has led to a decrease in the global population growth rate. Looking ahead, however, medium-variant projections from the United Nations anticipate a population of 8.4 billion by 2030 and 9.6 billion by 2050. Virtually all of this growth will take place in developing and least developed countries, where human and natural resources are already strained or underutilized. Africa’s population is growing the fastest, at 2.5 per cent per year during 2010–2015, a rate more than double that of Asia at 1.0 per cent per year.

12. Global and regional population trends mask considerable and growing heterogeneity of demographic experiences around the world. The demographic transition associated with declining fertility and mortality levels, together with the urban transition that has shifted the locus of human activity from rural to urban areas, has caused unprecedented changes in population size, age structures and spatial distribution.

13. Declining fertility rates — driven in part by marked declines in infant and child mortality and expanded choices for women — have been providing low- and middle-income countries with a window of opportunity known as the demographic dividend. Because the proportion of the population that is in the working age range is historically high, these cohorts can — if provided with adequate education and employment opportunities — help to accelerate economic growth and development. Sub-Saharan Africa will experience a particularly rapid increase in the size of the population aged 15–24 years in the coming decade.

14. Globally, the number of older persons aged 60 years or over is projected to increase from 870 million in 2014 to more than 2 billion by 2050. Older persons are the world’s fastest growing population group, amid rapidly changing family and household structures and declining family support systems. While significant advances have been made in health care over the past decades and life expectancy has increased, many older persons, especially in developing countries, are still living in poor health because they lack access to adequate and affordable

health care. Due to longer life expectancy among women, older women outnumber older men in most societies, and often face greater vulnerability. Population ageing presents social, economic, and cultural challenges to individuals, families and societies, but also the potential for what has been described as the second demographic dividend, an increased accumulation of personal and collective assets that can enrich entire households and the larger society.

15. Marriage patterns and the ways that people organize themselves into households have gone through enormous changes in the last 20 years, resulting in more diverse types of households, including a notable rise in the proportion of people living alone, marrying late or not at all, and a greater incidence of divorce and of children living with a single parent. These changes fundamentally alter how we achieve the objectives of ensuring adequate and secure housing, the well-being of households and children, family support, long-term care for older persons, social protection and, more broadly, sustainable consumption and energy use.

16. Since ICPD, many more people are on the move, both within and between countries. It is estimated that over three quarters of a billion people worldwide were internal migrants in 2005, living in their home countries but outside their region of birth. Increasingly, women are migrating on their own or as heads of households and principal wage earners. More than half the human population had become urban by 2008, and the cities and towns of the world are growing today at around 1.3 million people per week. Urban areas are expected to absorb all population growth over the next 40 years. Despite numerous stresses within urban areas, including evidence of heightened violence and risks associated with informal settlements, urban centres continue to attract rural populations, especially young adults seeking greater economic opportunities and social freedom.

17. Contemporary patterns of international migration are significantly more complex and varied than those of the past, not only because of the sheer numbers of international migrants — 232 million in 2013 — but also because the flows are now global. The growth and diversification of migration patterns have meant that an increasing number of countries are affected by migration, and many countries are now simultaneously places of origin, transit and destination.

18. With global economic growth has come a huge increase in greenhouse gas emissions. In 2013, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere surpassed the milestone of 400 parts per million, suggesting that our chance of keeping climate change below tolerable levels is diminishing. Climate change also poses a particular threat to the livelihoods and well-being of the majority of the world's population that has made only a minor contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. The need for truly global leadership on environmental sustainability grows more pressing each day.

19. Access to cell phones and to the Internet and the spread of social media across countries and regions has made information and knowledge far more widely accessible. Connectivity has helped many people become aware of their rights and made evident the inequalities they experience as they learn how others live. The information revolution has the potential to empower people and increase their capability to achieve dignity. Yet inequalities in access to these technologies also mean that significant numbers of people are being left behind in a globalizing, information-dependent world.



20. The Millennium Development Goals, adopted at the turn of this century, share many of the same impulses and conclusions of the ICPD Programme of Action. They are linked to the ICPD consensus, and both are central for the post-2015 agenda. The Millennium Development Goals have been the unifying global framework for development for almost 15 years. Well-defined, measurable and focused goals have influenced global and national development policies, resource allocations and development accountability benchmarking. However, recent reviews of the MDGs have highlighted the critical importance of overarching guiding principles such as human rights and equality and sustainability, which were missing from the MDG framework. Also missing were complementary and necessary policy areas, such as inclusive economic growth and a significantly greater and sustained investment in the social sector.

21. Investment across and within countries in bridging social and economic disparities is both a process and an ultimate dividend of human and sustainable development. Supporting groups that are at a structural disadvantage, including women of all ages, people living in poverty, and other marginalized and vulnerable groups, is critical for reducing such inequalities. As the United Nations considers the continuation and expansion of the vision the MDGs represent, the goals, objectives and vision of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the findings of this operational review and recommendations for the ICPD beyond 2014, should be integral to the emerging post-2015 development agenda.

#### *Population and development beyond 2014*

22. The Programme of Action included 16 chapters that defined objectives and actions along more than 44 dimensions of population and development, including the interests of distinct population groups, calls for investments in young women's capabilities, concern for the implications of demographic patterns and trends, and recommended governance actions. This breadth offered the potential for a comprehensive and integrated agenda. In practice, however, Governments and development agencies were rather selective and sectoral in implementation. In some cases, for example, post-ICPD programmes suggested that they were promoting reproductive rights while ignoring quality of care and inequalities in access to services. Similarly, investments in cities failed to account effectively for and embrace urban population growth, and in doing so left large numbers of the urban poor and other marginalized groups without land and housing security or access to critical services. And despite decades of attention to international migration, large numbers of migrants, whether documented or in an irregular situation, continue to be excluded from full participation in their societies of destination. In numerous examples across multiple sectors, development efforts lack the fundamental message of the ICPD: investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity, across multiple sectors and throughout the life-course, is a foundation of sustainable development.



23. The results of this operational review point to a possible approach for framing the population and development agenda beyond 2014 that is built on five integrated thematic pillars of dignity and human rights, health, mobility and place, governance and accountability, and sustainability. While these aspirations are interlinked and re-affirm one another, they offer distinct organizing dimensions for reviewing the numerous principles, objectives and actions contained within all chapters of the ICPD Programme of Action.

24. The ICPD Programme of Action recognized that dignity of the human person is not only a fundamental right in itself but also constitutes the basis of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are a precondition for a thriving, inclusive society composed of resilient individuals who can innovate and adapt, and which ensure a shared and vibrant future for all persons. At the centre of realizing dignity and human rights for all lay the eradication of extreme poverty, ending discrimination and human rights violations, and ensuring social inclusiveness. While the world has seen significant poverty reduction and economic growth since the ICPD, economic inequalities have been increasing within and between many countries. Current levels of economic inequality may be unsustainable, as they threaten future economic growth, the security of societies, and the capacity of people to adapt and innovate in response to changing environmental conditions. Discrimination against select population groups, one of many causes of inequality, remains common in many countries, while discrimination against women is evident in all societies. The social cost of discrimination is high as it negatively affects mental health, childbearing and productivity. Therefore, active efforts are needed to eliminate discrimination and marginalization, and promote a culture of respect for all. The elaboration and fulfilment of rights are critical metrics for determining whether, for whom, and to what extent these aspirations have been achieved. The principal message of the ICPD in 1994 – that the fulfillment of individual rights and capabilities is the foundation of sustainable development – is even more relevant today, with ample evidence that investments in substantive equality for all persons results in long-term development and population well-being.

25. Changes in population health have shifted the global health burden towards non-communicable diseases and injuries, notwithstanding that communicable, maternal, nutritional and neonatal conditions remain persistent problems in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. There have been significant improvements in sexual and reproductive health, yet many people are being left behind, and continued progress will depend on sustained attention to strengthening the reach, comprehensiveness and quality of health systems. If women are to achieve dignity and contribute to the enrichment and growth of society, to innovation and to sustainable development, they must have the opportunity to decide on the number and timing of their children, and to do so free from violence or coercion, with full confidence that pregnancy and childbirth can proceed without fear of illness, disability or death and with confidence in the probable health and survival of children.

26. The importance of mobility and security of place to dignity and health is underscored by the scale of internal and international movements, and particularly the extent of urbanization. The current growth of cities and towns reflects people's aspirations for better prospects and presents a critical opportunity for achieving sustainable development, if the right policies are put in place to plan for this growth. A growing number of countries are affected by international

migration, and today's international migrants come from a broader spectrum of backgrounds than ever before. While many are taking advantage of new opportunities, others have become victims of trafficking, exploitation, discrimination and other abuses. For those moving and for those displaced within or beyond national borders, insecurity of place represents a fundamental threat to dignity, and leads to a disproportionate risk of violence, poverty and adverse health outcomes.

27. Governance and accountability are critical ends in their own right, as well as the primary means of achieving dignity, health, security of place and mobility. The world has seen important shifts in the diffusion of authority and leadership since 1994, with a growing multiplicity of national, municipal, civil society and other non-State actors. International human rights protection systems have gained in authority, jurisdiction and monitoring power, and the formal participation of civil society as a political force has grown measurably since 1994, yielding important shifts in rights-based investments. Globally, the ICPD generated momentum for the creation and renewal of institutions to address population dynamics, sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health, the needs of adolescents and youth, and gender equality. It also enhanced recognition of the critical role of population data for development, documenting how the characteristics of people affect the potential for development, how they interact with their environment, where they are living or moving, whether or not they are well or living with fear and insecurity, and what social protections and public services they may need. The past 20 years have seen a measureable increase in the formal participation of intended beneficiaries in the planning and evaluation of population and development-related investments, and in the elaboration of common indicators to measure development. As the world re-appraises goals for the future, progress in participation is at the core, along with the generation and use of knowledge, adequate resources and cooperation, and the critical and continuing need for global leadership to implement population and development objectives beyond 2014.

28. A focus on sustainability reaffirms the intrinsic linkages between dignity, health, mobility and place, and governance and accountability, and clarifies that non-discrimination and equality must be prioritized within both the ICPD beyond 2014 and the post-2015 development agenda for the well-being of the human population and the planet. Deeply desired and much debated, sustainable development has become a singular challenge to humankind in the 21st century. The fact that the poor bear the brunt of environmental burdens, and that the accustomed model for improving living standards, expanding opportunities and guaranteeing dignity and human rights is proving unsustainable, is one of the major ethical quandaries in human history. The integrated and comprehensive approach to population and development based on the results of the operational review is essential for achieving sustainable development, as envisaged by the post-2015 development agenda.

29. While the objectives of the ICPD touched on many different dimensions of well-being across the life course and on many domains of population and development, they each contribute, in the main, to the fulfillment of dignity and human rights, good health, a safe and secure place to live, and mobility. Because the respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of human rights are necessary preconditions for realizing all of the unfulfilled objectives of the Programme of Action, the elaboration and fulfillment of rights are a critical metric for determining whether, for whom, and to what extent, aspirations have been achieved.

30. The vital importance of the paradigm shift of the ICPD, subsequently affirmed by progress in the two decades since, was precisely in demonstrating that individual *and* collective development aspirations benefit from a central focus on individual dignity and human rights. By updating and advancing the implementation of such principles, Governments can achieve the goals set forth in 1994, while accelerating progress towards a resilient society and a sustainable future for all. Central to this update are laws and policies to ensure respect and protection of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals.



## II. Dignity and human rights

31. The principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development affirm that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and that “they are entitled to all rights and freedoms as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind.” The Programme of Action calls for the eradication of all forms of discrimination, including on grounds of sex, and asserts that the principal aim of population-related goals and policies is to improve the quality of life of all people. The principles of the Programme of Action establish the link between dignity and rights and individual well-being. Addressing the underlying structural factors that shape economic, political and social realities, while ending discrimination and human rights violations, on the basis of equity and social inclusiveness, is the key to assuring dignity.

### *Poverty and inequality*

32. Poverty has many manifestations. It is the lack of income and wealth but also includes many other deprivations, such as food insecurity; lack of health care, education and other basic services; inadequate or no housing; lack of safety or means of redress; and lack of voice or access to information or political participation. Poverty is dynamic, with some trapped in it while others move in and out. Some people fall into, or deeper into, poverty as the result of external shocks, such as poor governance, financial crises, natural disasters, conflict and health or family crises.

33. Poverty occurs in all countries and women often bear a disproportionate burden of its consequences, as do children. Because poverty has historically been measured at the household level, without measures of intra-household inequality, the differential poverty of women and men has been obscured. When comparing households occupied by a single adult (with or without children), the greater poverty among women compared to men is irrefutable. Poverty among specific population groups (e.g., persons with disabilities, older persons) is also difficult to measure. Nonetheless, globally, poverty is higher among those who belong to population groups that are structurally at a disadvantage or experience sustained social stigma. In this regard, poverty both results from, and is reinforced by, discrimination. Ending large social and economic disparities is at the centre of achieving dignity for all.

34. Over the past decades great progress has been made in reducing the number of persons living in extreme poverty. About 700 million fewer people lived in conditions of extreme poverty in 2010 than in 1990. However, while levels of absolute poverty have been declining, income and wealth inequality have been growing in recent years. Political, economic and social factors contribute to sustaining and at times worsening inequality, which is manifest in stark differences in wealth not only between countries, but also within countries. Wealth inequality threatens future economic growth, the security of societies, and the capacity of people to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

35. The principal message of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 — that the fulfillment of individual human rights and capabilities as a foundation of sustainable development — is even more relevant today, with ample evidence that investments in

equality for all persons result in long-term development and population well-being. **Governments should develop, strengthen and implement effective, integrated, coordinated and coherent national strategies, including through equitable livelihood opportunities, to eradicate poverty and break the cycles of exclusion and inequality as a condition for achieving development, also targeting persons belonging to marginalized or disadvantaged groups, in both urban and rural areas, guaranteeing for all people an opportunity to live a life free from poverty, and to enjoy protection and full exercise of their human rights.**

#### *Women's empowerment and gender inequality*

36. The empowerment of women and gender equality remain unfulfilled objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action. Discrimination of select **populations** is common in many countries, but the discrimination of women is nearly universal. Women continue to have fewer opportunities than men to exercise their human rights, expand their capabilities and contribute to society. Achieving gender equality is not only a human rights imperative but also an effective way of advancing the goal of inclusive and thus more sustainable development.

37. Child marriage—a violation of the rights of the child—remains widespread in many countries. If current trends continue, by 2020, an additional 142 million girls will marry before their 18th birthday. Other harmful practices, in particular female genital mutilation/cutting and prenatal sex selection, continue to be prevalent. Despite gains in universal primary education for both sexes, adolescent girls are disproportionately excluded from lower and higher secondary education. Investments in the education of girls produce important benefits for the girls themselves, as well as for society at large, including reductions in child mortality.

38. The gender gap in labour force participation has narrowed only slightly since 1990. Women continue to be paid less than men for equal work and are substantially over-represented in vulnerable and informal employment where jobs are less secure and provide fewer benefits. Women also bear a disproportionate share of unpaid household labour. Further, they remain substantially under-represented in positions of power and decision-making in politics, business, and public life, the very arenas where norms of equality and non-discrimination would have far-reaching influence on society.

39. Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent forms of human rights violations worldwide, resulting in extreme insecurity and lifelong costs. An estimated one in three women worldwide report they have experienced physical or sexual abuse, mostly at the hands of an intimate partner. A 2013 United Nations multi-country study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific found that nearly half of the 10,000 men interviewed reported using physical or sexual violence against a female partner, ranging from 26 to 80 per cent across sites. Nearly a quarter of men interviewed reported perpetrating rape against a woman or girl, ranging from 10 to 62 per cent across the sites. Men begin perpetrating violence at young ages, with half of those who admitted to rape reporting a first perpetration when they were teenagers, and some even younger than 14. Of those men who admitted to rape, the vast majority (from 72 to 97 per cent in most sites) had experienced no legal consequences, confirming that impunity remains a serious issue in the region. Across all sites, the most common motivation that men cited for rape



was related to sexual entitlement — a belief that men have a right to sex with women regardless of consent.

40. Lack of education and ill-health are the most common risk factors and manifestations of poverty, curtailing economic growth and human happiness and limiting the capability of both individuals and societies to innovate and thrive in a changing world. Investments in the education and health of girls and women have been historically neglected, and provide especially high returns for societies, as evident in the accelerated progress that greater women's empowerment, education and sexual and reproductive health and rights have contributed to global development over the past 50 years.

41. **Governments should facilitate and ensure equal opportunities for women to contribute to society as leaders, managers and decision-makers, granting them access to positions of power equal to that of men in all sectors of public life. As part of these efforts, it is important to address public views and values regarding sexism or other forms of discrimination, including through creative communication and education campaigns, and to monitor these on a regular basis as indicators of social development. They should also the equality of men and women before the law and in practice , the elimination of all forms of violence, and empowerment of women in exercising their reproductive rights.**

#### *Adolescents and youth*

42. Adolescents and youth are central to the development agenda of the coming two decades, particularly in the global South, in part because the relative size of the population approaching the productive and reproductive ages is historically large. The population aged 10 to 24 years accounted for 28 per cent of the total population in developing regions in 2010 and over 31 per cent in Africa. While this proportion will decline in most regions in the coming 25 years, it will remain above 20 per cent in all regions except Europe and Northern America until 2035, and above 30 per cent until 2035 in Africa.

43. Substantial gains have been made concerning primary and secondary school attainment globally, with primary school enrollment rates having now reached 90 per cent worldwide. At the same time there is considerable variation across regions, as well as within countries, and in many countries girls continue to lag behind boys. Access to secondary education remains a challenge for girls in many regions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern and Western Asia. The disproportionate exclusion of girls from access to education is greater at the secondary than at the primary level, and it increases from lower to upper secondary levels. Numerous factors may be the cause, pointing to the disadvantages girls face due to gender discrimination both inside and outside of schools. These include early marriage, family and social pressures for girls to devote more time to household labour, emotional and physical dangers of sexual harassment and assault, lack of sanitation facilities, familial unwillingness to pay school fees for girls, and hazards of the daily journey to school. **Governments should ensure that every child and young person, regardless of circumstances, has access to quality pre-primary, primary and secondary education and has a rapid, safe and productive transition from school to working life and adulthood. Governments should make special efforts to address school-drop among boys and girls and create a conducive environment to enroll those who have**

**never been to school as well as to keep girls in school, including married or pregnant girls and ensure admission or re-entry to school after delivery.**

44. Lack of quality education as well as differences in quality also create serious challenges at all levels of education. When asked in the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey to identify public policy priorities for education over the next five to ten years, over half of Governments highlighted the importance of “improving quality standards in education, including the curriculum” (61 per cent) and “maximizing social inclusion, equal access and rights” (55 per cent). The need to improve the quality and coverage of education were in fact the top two priorities identified by Governments in all regions. Africa was the only region where a higher proportion of Governments mentioned coverage (61 per cent) over quality (55 per cent), pointing towards the unfinished agenda of universal enrolment.

45. For youth overall, Governments responding to the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey prioritized economic empowerment and employment (70 per cent), and social inclusion and education (both 56 per cent). These priorities underscore the intersections between the right to productive employment and decent work, and key links to education, training, social integration, and mobility, taking into account gender equality, as affirmed in Resolution 2012/1 of the Commission on Population and Development. In addition, a number of intergovernmental outcomes, including 2012/1, the regional review outcomes and the multi-stakeholder Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration, highlight the importance of the full and effective participation of young people, as well as the importance of investing in young people as key agents of development and social change.

46. Achieving decent work for young people is crucial for the progression towards wealthier economies, fairer societies and stronger democracies. The challenge to provide decent work for young people is a concern for both industrialized and developing countries. Of the estimated 197 million unemployed people in 2012, nearly 40 per cent were between 15 and 24 years of age. The global economy will need to create 600 million new, productive jobs over the next decade in order to reduce current unemployment levels and provide opportunities for the anticipated 40 million labour market entrants each year over the next decade.

47. In many countries, the unemployment scenario is further aggravated by the large numbers of young people working in poor-quality and low-paid jobs with intermittent and insecure work arrangements. As many as 60 per cent of young persons in developing regions are either without work, not studying, or engaged in irregular employment and thus not achieving their full economic potential. The 49 least developed countries face a stark demographic challenge, as their collective population – about 60 per cent of which is under the age of 25 – is projected to double to 1.7 billion by 2050. For the coming decade these countries will have to create about 95 million jobs to absorb new entrants to the labour market, and another 160 million jobs in the 2020s. Governments should invest in building the capabilities of young people and equipping them with the skills to meet the labour demands of current and emerging economies. They should develop labour protection policies and programmes that ensure employment that is safe, secure and non-discriminatory, and that provides a decent wage and opportunities for career development. These efforts should include a focus on



**productive investment in technologies, machinery, and infrastructure, and the sustainable use of natural resources to create employment opportunities for young people.**

#### *Older Persons*

48. An inevitable consequence of demographic changes resulting from fertility decline and increased longevity is population ageing. While population ageing poses social, economic, and cultural challenges to individuals, families and societies, it also presents opportunities. Globally, in the last 20 years, the number of persons aged 60 years or over increased by 56 per cent, from 490 million in 1990 to 765 million in 2010. Populations in all regions are ageing, with more than 20 per cent of the global population projected to be above 60 years of age by 2050.

49. Adult illiteracy remains high, and is directly linked to poverty. Among persons aged 65 or older, the illiteracy rate is 25.9 per cent globally, ranging from 24.6 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean to 67.6 per cent in Africa, with rates among women consistently above those of men. Illiteracy rates are higher in rural areas and conflict zones, and among persons with disabilities and ethnic minority populations. A large majority of the world's older persons have no formal social protection. Many older persons face discrimination, abuse and violence. Older women are particularly vulnerable. **Governments should ensure the social protection and income security of older persons, with particular consideration for older women, those living in isolation and those providing unpaid care, by extending pension systems and noncontributory allowances, by strengthening intergenerational solidarity, and by ensuring the inclusion and equitable participation of older persons in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and plans that affect their lives.**

50. ~~Many older persons continue to work and provide invaluable contributions to their families, communities and societies well into old age. In developed countries, concerns about the financial sustainability of public pensions, health care for older persons and old-age social care benefits, all of which need to be paid over longer periods as people live longer, are leading to important policy amendments. There are also concerns about the long-term viability of intergenerational social support systems, which are crucial for the well-being of both the older and younger generations. Not all older persons require support, nor do all persons of working age provide direct or indirect support to older persons. In fact, older persons in societies with generous pension schemes often provide substantial financial support to their adult children and grandchildren.~~ **Governments should ensure opportunities for flexible employment, lifelong learning and retraining, which are critical to enable and encourage older persons to remain in the labor market — for their own benefit, for that of their families, and as an essential resource for successful economies that cannot afford to lose their experience and expertise.**

#### *Persons with disabilities*

51. Disability is a circumstance experienced by a majority of people in the world at some point in their lives — some throughout their entire lives, some for only a phase. While estimates vary, between 15 and 20 per cent of persons 15 years or older around the world are estimated to be living with a disability. Of these, between two and four per cent have significant or severe disabilities. Disability is often unevenly distributed across societies and is related to factors such

as gender, poverty and ageing. The number of disabled persons is growing as a result both of population ageing and the spread of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and dementia.

52. Though under-studied, available evidence suggests that disability can be both a driver and a consequence of poverty. Studies in developed and developing countries have shown that disability hampers educational attainment and limits labour market participation. **Governments should monitor and eradicate all forms of discrimination in employment against persons with disabilities and develop enabling policies and programmes that ensure employment that is safe and secure, and that provides a decent wage.**

53. Persons experiencing disabilities are more likely to experience violations of dignity and rights than able-bodied persons, including social exclusion, violence and prejudice. The implications of disability, including the need for social support, extend beyond the individual to households and families impacted by disability, as reflected in the resources spent on health care, loss of income, social stigma, and the need for support systems for caregivers. **Governments should monitor and eradicate all forms of direct and indirect discrimination towards persons with disabilities, in order to meet their needs in education, employment, rehabilitation, housing, transportation, recreation and communal life. Governments should also design national programmes to support family caretakers.**

#### *Indigenous peoples*

54. There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people worldwide. Many indigenous people have historically been subject to social and political marginalization. They have often been denied the opportunity to sustain their own cultural heritage as well as to fully integrate into the prevailing social, political and economic system of the countries where they reside.

55. For many indigenous peoples, structural discrimination includes the violence of forced displacements, loss of homeland and property, separation of families, enforced loss of language and culture, the commodification of their cultures and a disproportionate burden of the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. **Governments should adopt, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, the measures needed to ensure that all indigenous peoples enjoy protection from, and full guarantees against, all forms of discrimination and violence, and take measures to ensure that their human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. Governments should respect and guarantee the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, including those living in voluntary isolation and those in the initial phase of contact, with special attention to the challenges presented by extractive industries and other global investments, and by mobility and forced displacements. Governments should design policies that respect the principle of free, prior and informed consultation on matters that affect indigenous peoples, pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**



*Non-discrimination applies to all persons*

56. Many individuals and groups continue to be frequently exposed to discriminatory behavior, including stigma, unfair treatment, or social exclusion, due to dimensions of their identity or circumstances. In addition to the discrimination experienced by women and girls, young and older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, persistent inequalities are faced by other groups that are discriminated against on the basis of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, sex workers, people living with HIV, and migrants. Discrimination may be compounded by laws criminalizing their behavior; or laws that remain silent regarding their need for social protection. The persistence of discriminatory laws, or the unfair and discriminatory application of law, may reflect underlying stigma held by powerful sectors of society, generalized public indifference, and/or weak political leverage of those suffering discrimination.

57. For ethnic and racial minorities, historic and sustained discrimination can lead to intergenerational cycles of poverty and disadvantage. Estimates of global ethnic diversity have documented 822 ethnic groups in 160 countries. In a wide range of countries, public health data illustrate persistent disparities in morbidity and mortality among racial and ethnic minorities, reflecting the collective impact of numerous overlapping discriminations in access to health care, education, paid employment, nutrition and housing; socioeconomic and wealth disparities; and limited opportunities for advancement over the life-course. **Governments should guarantee opportunities for the full and equal participation of racial and ethnic minorities in social, economic and political life; guarantee free and safe integration in housing; lead open dialogue on agreed public reconciliation and/or redress for past wrongs; and actively promote ties of mutual regard.**

58. The ICPD beyond 2014 regional ministerial review meetings focused particular attention on the many people throughout the world who continue to suffer from discrimination. The outcomes of the regional reviews reinforced the importance of the principles of freedom and equality in dignity and rights, as well as non-discrimination. Yet the commitment of Governments to non-discrimination in response to the regional review findings, and the gap between such commitments and available evidence on the discrimination or the risk of harassment and physical violence that certain groups or individuals face, remains considerable. **The discrimination and structural violence that people face, including on the basis of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity or disability, contradict the principles of the ICPD and hinder the right of such individuals to well-being, limiting their capacity to fully contribute to and benefit from society. The commitment to individual well-being cannot co-exist with tolerance of hate crimes or any form of discrimination. Governments and the international community should express grave concern about acts of violence, discrimination and hate crimes committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and call upon national leaders to advocate for the rights of all persons, without distinction of any kind.**

59. The Global Survey and the regional reviews and outcomes highlight the continuing gaps in fulfilling the human rights principle of non-discrimination affirmed at the ICPD in cases where the rights of individuals or groups remain vulnerable, with direct effects on their health,



including risks of HIV and AIDS, and their exposure to violence including sexual violence. The regional review outcomes contain various commitments regarding addressing these gaps. Addressing these gaps requires protecting the human rights of all individuals, including the right to gainful employment, residence, access to services and equality before the law. **Governments should guarantee equality before the law and non-discrimination for all people by adopting laws and policies to protect all individuals, without distinction of any kind, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights. Governments should also promulgate laws, where they are absent, and enforce laws to prevent and punish any kind of violence or hate crimes, and take active steps to protect all persons from discrimination, stigma and violence.**

### *The social cost of discrimination*

60. The past 20 years have witnessed enormous leaps in scientific understanding of how discrimination and stigma impact both physical and mental health, suggesting that a climate of discrimination curtails the well-being and productivity of persons and nations. Yet physical harassment, bullying and violence are not the only causes of compromised health and productivity. Similar effects are prompted by pervasive negative stereotypes, the experience of stigma, and fear of discrimination. The costs to society of having substantial proportions of its citizens undergoing a sustained struggle for protecting and upholding their dignity and well-being should be a concern for political leaders, given the evident loss of human resources to discrimination (including the loss to health and productivity) and the potential for increased social instability where human suffering is not addressed.

61. **Comprehensive measures are needed to ensure non-discrimination, equality and the realization of human potential for all population groups. Governments should address the multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, disempowerment and discrimination, through commitment to equality and non-discrimination for all persons, without distinction of any kind, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights, including the right to gainful employment, residence and access to services, as well as the need to promulgate and enforce laws that take active steps to protect people from discrimination, stigma and violence.**

62. **Governments should adapt legal frameworks and formulate necessary policies with the full participation of those who are discriminated against, including women, adolescents, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic and racial minorities, migrants, persons living with HIV, persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and sex workers. Governments should invite and encourage the participation of civil society throughout the process of design, implementation and evaluation of those policies.**

## **III. Health**

63. Trends in global population health between 1990 and 2010 are striking in two ways: first, the composition of the global health burden has shifted dramatically away from communicable diseases and towards non-communicable diseases and injuries, in part due to global population

ageing; and, second, communicable diseases, as well as maternal, nutritional and neonatal conditions — often referred to as diseases of poverty — have persisted as leading causes of death in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. **Improvements in the quality and accessibility of health services since the ICPD have led to significant gains in many health indicators, including many sexual and reproductive health indicators. Yet aggregate improvements mask growing inequalities both within and between countries, with far too many countries exhibiting progress among households in the upper wealth quintiles, while progress is flat or marginal among poor households.**

64. The persistence of poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes among the poor, particularly in Africa and Southern Asia, underscores the need to strengthen the reach, comprehensiveness and quality of health systems. The responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health recognized in the Programme of Action obligates Governments to identify and eliminate economic, social, systemic and service-related barriers and to protect and promote the right to education and information.

#### *Child survival*

65. There has been substantial progress since the ICPD towards reducing infant and child mortality. Under-five mortality declined by 47 per cent globally, from 90 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 48 in 2012. The number of under-five deaths in the world has fallen from 12.6 million in 1990 to 6.6 million in 2012. Still, preventable diseases cause most under-five deaths, more than half of which are due to pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria. Progress in reducing deaths that occur within the first month of life (the neonatal period) has been slower. The share of neonatal deaths among deaths under age five worldwide increased from 37 per cent in 1990 to 44 per cent in 2012. **Child survival efforts must increasingly focus on newborns and pregnant women. Simple, cost-effective interventions, such as postnatal home visits, have proven effective in saving newborn lives. Since one third of neonatal deaths are caused by complications from preterm birth, antenatal care and skilled attendance at birth increase the chances of newborn survival.**

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

66. The largest generation of adolescents ever in history is now entering sexual and reproductive life. Their access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services are essential to achieving the goals set out in the Programme of Action twenty years ago. The Programme of Action requires that countries “meet the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality, and ensure that health-care providers do not restrict the access of adolescents to services and information, and that “...these services must safeguard the rights of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs”. ...”**In this context, Governments should remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information, education and services for adolescents. Governments should also take action on their commitment in Resolution 2012/1 of the Commission on Population and Development on the right of adolescents and youth to**



**have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.**

67. Pregnancy has major consequences for a girl's health. About 70,000 adolescents in developing countries die annually of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Girls under age 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women over age 20, and pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among 15-19 year olds in low- and middle-income countries; they also have a higher risk of developing obstetric fistula.. There are also significant health risks to children born to adolescent mothers. Rates of stillbirth and newborn death, for example, are 50 per cent higher among adolescent mothers than among mothers between the ages of 20 and 29. Each year, about 1 million children born to adolescent mothers do not survive to their first birthday. Nine of ten births to girls below age 18 occur within marriage. In addition to reducing the health risks associated with early pregnancy, increasing the age at marriage and delaying **childbearing** affords girls more time to pursue education and develop skills.

68. The expanding window between the onset of puberty and the age of first marriage may leave a growing number of unmarried young persons without access to much-needed sexual and reproductive health services, as neither pediatric nor adult health systems are fully suited to their needs. Health systems must adapt to ensure that the needs of adolescents and young people are met, irrespective of their marital status.

69. Young people also often lack access to accurate and comprehensive information regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Comprehensive sexuality education includes youth-friendly programmes that provide accurate information about human sexuality, including growth and development, sexual anatomy and physiology; reproduction and contraception; pregnancy and childbirth; HIV, AIDS and other STIs; family life and inter-personal relationships; culture and sexuality; human rights and empowerment; non-discrimination, equality and gender roles; and sexual behaviour, sexual abuse, gender-based violence and harmful practices. Comprehensive sexuality education also provides young people with opportunities to explore values, attitudes and norms concerning sexual and social relationships, promotes the acquisition of skills and encourages young people to assume responsibility for their own behaviour and to respect the rights of others. It equips young people with the life skills and knowledge needed to be gender-sensitive and to make informed decisions about their sexuality, taking into account available scientific data and evidence. There is growing evidence that comprehensive sexuality education has a greater positive impact on the health behaviour of adolescents and youth when it includes modules on gender norms and the social values of gender equality and non-violence.

70. Many lifestyle choices with consequences for long-term health — such as unprotected sexual activity, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol or drugs — tend to be initiated during adolescence and young adulthood. Such behaviours are intertwined with aspects of identity formation and aspirations for adulthood.

71. **Governments should ensure equitable access to quality health information and services for young people, including sexual and reproductive health information and**

services, starting at ages 10-14. The information provided should include attention to lifelong habits of good health and the social value of gender equality. Addressing young people's sexual and reproductive health also requires action outside the health system to change social norms and create empowering community resources. Comprehensive sexuality education for in- and out-of-school young people, consistent with their evolving capacities, is integral to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the ICPD. Governments should also promote healthy behaviors among children and adolescents, including by equipping them with the skills to resist tobacco use and other substance abuse, and by promoting healthy eating and nutrition, movement and exercise, and stress management and mental health care.

#### *Sexual and reproductive health and rights*

72. ICPD affirmed the right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information, education and means to do so. In the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, less than two-thirds of countries (63 per cent) have promulgated and enforced a law protecting the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, a percentage that increases to 80 per cent in the case of Europe and remains around the world average for the remaining regions (Asia: 66 per cent; Oceania: 62 per cent; Americas: 58 per cent; Africa: 55 per cent). **Efforts to fulfil sexual and reproductive health and rights should prioritize and effectively deliver the essential set of sexual and reproductive health services required across the life course, and should aim to improve their quality, including their integration with each other.**

#### *Contraception and unmet need for family planning*

73. Despite progress, the ability to exercise reproductive rights is neither universal nor equitable. Contraceptive prevalence among married or in-union women rose globally from 58 per cent in 1994 to 64 per cent in 2012. Nevertheless, serious gaps still exist between levels of contraceptive use and the proportion of individuals expressing a desire to avoid pregnancy.

74. Global unmet need for modern methods of contraception among married or in-union women declined modestly from 21 per cent in 1994 to 19 per cent in 2012. Ninety per cent of women with unmet need live in developing countries, with the greatest unmet need among those in Africa. In 28 sub-Saharan African countries, less than 25 per cent of married or in-union women use a modern method of contraception, with unmet need for modern methods as high as 40 per cent or more. **Governments should take the necessary measures to provide a full range of safe and reliable family planning methods to meet the unmet need, particularly among under served and hard-to-reach groups, including young people.**

75. Quality family planning programmes require a selection of methods with distinct features that can be safely and affordably offered to clients. Over the past twenty years, the diversification of modern contraceptive method mix has been considerable, and product innovations have moved in the direction of making administration and removal easier, lowering doses and reducing side effects.



76. Because method preferences and needs vary across clients, and may shift over the life course, a range of distinct contraceptive method types is necessary to ensure safe and quality family planning services. Moreover adding method choices typically increases contraceptive prevalence overall. Yet many women live in countries where contraceptive use is dominated by a single method. **A mix of contraceptive methods should be available and accessible to meet the diverse needs of individuals, so that they can choose the type of method that is best for their circumstances. Decisions about contraceptive method mix, particularly as regards contraceptive sterilization, IUDs and hormonal implants, should be carefully considered in light of the capacities of the health system and the skills of service providers in order to ensure the highest quality of clinical care. In addition, outreach strategies and communications content should be designed to facilitate free and informed decision making about the use of contraception.**

### *Abortion*

77. The use of abortion reflects many circumstances that can be difficult for women to prevent, including contraceptive failure, lack of knowledge about the fertile period or how to use contraception, shortfalls in access to or affordability of contraceptives, changing fertility aspirations, disparities in the desire for a pregnancy between a woman and her partner, fear of asking a partner to use contraception, and unplanned or forced sex, as well as incest. The latest estimates indicate that there were 43.8 million induced abortions worldwide in 2008 (27.3 million in Asia, 6.4 million in Africa and 4.4 million in Latin America). Nearly half (49 per cent) of these abortions were unsafe. Unsafe abortion poses grave risks for women and adolescent girls. It continues to be a major cause of preventable maternal mortality, accounting for almost 13 per cent of maternal deaths worldwide.

78. At the global level, the overall rate of abortions declined from 35 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age in 1995 to 28 in 2008. However, the results of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey indicate that when countries are grouped according to their current abortion laws (most, less, least restrictive), the proportion of countries that addressed the issue of “preventing and managing the consequences of unsafe abortion” is lowest (72 per cent) among countries with the most restrictive laws. Likewise, only 48 per cent of countries with the most restrictive laws are likely to have addressed the issue of “access to safe abortion to the extent of the law.” **Governments should strive to reduce the need for abortion by providing: sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning and modern methods of contraception, to all persons in need; widespread affordable access to male and female condoms; school and media programmes that foster gender-equitable values and couple negotiations over issues of sex and contraception; and means of timely and confidential access to good-quality counseling and emergency contraception.**

79. Governments committed themselves in the Programme of Action to place the highest priority on preventing unwanted pregnancies, and thereby to make “every attempt to eliminate the need for abortion”. The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey found that only 50 per cent of countries addressed the issue of “providing access to safe abortion services to the extent of the law” during the past five years. A larger proportion of countries (65 per cent), however,



addressed the issue of “preventing and managing the consequences of unsafe abortion.” The proportion of Governments addressing the issue of unsafe abortion is inversely proportional to the wealth of the countries. Thus, while 69 per cent of the lowest-income countries addressed unsafe abortion via policy, budget and concrete actions, only 29 per cent of the wealthiest countries did. This contrast may reflect the higher prevalence of unsafe abortion in low-income countries.

80. Nearly all abortions in Africa and in Central and South America are unsafe. The risk of death due to complications of unsafe abortion is decreasing at both global and regional levels, an improvement widely attributed to improved technologies, increased use of the WHO guidelines for safe abortion and post-abortion care, and greater access to safe abortion. Important gains have been made in reducing deaths due to unsafe abortion since 1994, most notably in countries that have made changes in law and practice to treat abortion as a public health concern, including through the provision of post-abortion care and counseling. **Governments should immediately take concrete measures to reduce abortion-related complications and deaths by increasing access to non-discriminatory post-abortion care, ensuring that all providers follow the WHO guidelines for safe abortion and post-abortion care. Governments are encouraged to remove legal barriers preventing women and adolescent girls from access to safe abortion, including revising restrictions within existing abortion laws, in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls; and, where legal, Governments should ensure the availability of safe, good-quality abortion services for women and girls.**

#### *Maternal health*

81. Much progress has been made since 1994 in reducing maternal mortality ratios. Globally, the ratio declined by 47 per cent over the past two decades, from 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 210 in 2010. All regions have made progress, with the largest reductions in Eastern Asia (69 per cent), Northern Africa (66 per cent) and Southern Asia (64 per cent). However, an estimated 800 women in the world still die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications each day, and the differences within and between countries remain stark.

82. Gains in maternal survival over the past 20 years can be attributed, in part, to advances in the use of antenatal care, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric and newborn care, and increased use of contraception. Aggregate gains, however, mask notable socio-economic and spatial inequalities in access to these services, impacting all sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including maternal mortality. The majority of developing countries are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal 5 targets to a) reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015; or b) achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health. In no region is the gap more pronounced than in sub-Saharan Africa. **Governments should eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity as urgently as possible by strengthening health systems, investing in the training of midwives, and bringing sexual and reproductive health services to where people live, especially to rural, remote and poor populations, and to urban slum-dwellers.**

### *Sexually transmitted infections*

83. New cases of sexually transmitted infections increased by more than 10 percent between 2005 and 2008, due largely to a rise in trichomoniasis and gonorrhea, and driven in part by population growth of young people in areas with high STI incidence, including the Americas and sub-Saharan Africa. The highest rates of STIs are generally found among urban men and women between the ages of 15 and 35 years. Data reflect widespread weaknesses in surveillance. Effective treatments for many STIs are available, but prompt and accurate diagnosis is required in order to deliver them to the most at-risk populations. Overall, because STIs are more often symptomatic in men than in women, diagnostic screening and treatment for males can be a cost-effective means to control STIs in a population. **Governments should, as a matter of urgency, address the rising incidence of sexually transmitted infections and focus on prevention, accurate and rapid diagnostic tests and treatment, particularly in low-resource and remote settings. Of particular importance is the diagnosis and treatment of STIs among men and boys. Governments should commit to strengthening global surveillance on the incidence and prevalence of STIs.**

### *HIV and AIDS*

84. Globally, new HIV infections have declined by 33 per cent from a high of 3.4 million per year in 2001 to 2.3 million in 2012. Declines in rates of new HIV infections among adults largely reflect a reduction in sexual transmission. Yet regional achievements in HIV prevention mask critical disparities within and between countries; some countries are experiencing a slowing rate of decline, new infections have risen in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in recent years, and new infections continue to rise in the Middle East and North Africa. Effectiveness of prevention approaches has differed by region. Significant increases in the number of sexual partners and declines in condom use in some countries are evidence of a need to catalyze HIV prevention efforts. **Governments and global health partners should address the stark disparities in the success of HIV prevention in different parts of the world and among different population groups; undertake research to understand the underlying causes of such disparities; and share proven policy lessons to reduce HIV infections in high-incidence populations.**

85. In 2012, antiretroviral treatment (ART) reached 9.7 million people in low- and middle-income countries, representing 34 per cent of treatment eligible persons. While the scale up of prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) now reaches 62 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV, there is great variation in coverage within and across countries. Among countries with generalized epidemics, 13 countries provide ART to fewer than 50 per cent of women with HIV. Coverage for children needing ART is only about half the level of adult coverage, and scale up continues to favor adults. **Governments are called upon to ensure universal access to HIV information, education and counseling services, including voluntary and confidential HIV testing, with a particular focus on young persons, vulnerable groups and persons at increased risk. Governments should, in the shortest time possible, commit to extending universal access to antiretroviral therapy with the aim of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, improving follow up of HIV-exposed infants, improving the life-expectancy and quality of life of HIV-positive mothers and all**



**people living with HIV and AIDS, and protecting the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS, prohibiting all forms of stigma, discrimination or violence against them.**

#### *Reproductive cancers*

86. More than half a million women each year develop cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women of reproductive age, and more than 275,000 women die of cervical cancer, the great majority (242,000) in developing regions. While cervical cancer is the easiest to prevent among cancers affecting women, it requires regular screening through a Pap smear or an HPV (human papillomavirus) virus test. The HPV vaccine also has significant promise for curtailing cervical cancer. Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women in high-income countries, currently affecting 70 per 100,000 women. Incidence is estimated to be less than half of that rate in low-income countries. However, because of poor access to diagnosis and treatment, breast cancer mortality in developing regions is similar to that in developed regions. **Governments should recognize and address the growing burden of reproductive cancers, especially breast and cervical cancers, and the need for greater investments into the routine screening at primary care, and for referrals to skilled cancer care providers at higher levels of care.**

#### *Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)*

87. In all regions of the world except Africa, deaths from non-communicable diseases exceed those caused by maternal, perinatal, communicable, and nutritional disorders combined. In developing countries where communicable diseases continue to account for a sizable proportion of deaths, NCD-related mortality is occurring at earlier ages than in developed countries, taxing health systems with a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases are responsible for the majority of illnesses and deaths from non-communicable diseases. The growing burden of NCDs reflects population growth and ageing, as well as significant changes in risk behaviours, including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, poor nutrition and obesity. In 2011, the Political Declaration from the first-ever High-level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases identified prevention as the cornerstone of international efforts to address NCDs. The Global Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted by the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in 2013, outlined a multisectoral approach to addressing risk factors for NCDs and set targets for reducing premature mortality from NCDs, building in part on resolutions related to ageing and health, including that focusing on strengthening NCD policies to promote active ageing adopted by the 65<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in 2012. **Governments should promote health literacy at all ages, focusing on the prevention of non-communicable diseases, healthy eating and nutrition, stress management and mental healthcare, risks of tobacco and other substance abuse, as well as the benefits of physical activity and exercise.**

#### *Health disparities of indigenous peoples*

88. Despite efforts to address the needs of indigenous peoples, significant disparities persist, with indigenous peoples experiencing significantly higher prevalence of tuberculosis,

non-communicable diseases and poor mental health, and a shorter life expectancy compared to non-indigenous nationals of the same country. For example, it is estimated that more than 50 per cent of indigenous adults suffer from type-2 diabetes worldwide. The gap in life expectancy at birth between an indigenous and non-indigenous child in various countries ranges from 11 to 20 years. **Governments should guarantee indigenous peoples' right to both the highest standard of care and respectful accommodation of their own traditional medicines and health practices, especially as regards reducing maternal and child mortality, considering their social, cultural and territorial circumstances, as well as the structural factors that hinder the exercise of this right.**

*Unfinished agenda of health system strengthening*

89. Despite decades of unprecedented medical advances and innovations in healthcare, stark inequalities persist in the accessibility and quality of health systems across and within countries. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia continue to have some of the least accessible and most fragile health systems, as measured by indicators such as health worker density, coverage of critical services, health information systems, commodity stock-outs and quality assurance. Within some middle- and high-income countries, pockets of weak and poor health system coverage or low-quality services abound for certain areas or populations, such as for older persons, indigenous peoples and residents of urban slums, and for uninsured or undocumented persons.

90. Further progress in the realization of health for all persons will not be achieved without sustained attention to strengthening the reach, comprehensiveness and quality of health systems. **Governments, with the support of donors, should give the highest priority to strengthening the structure, organization and management of health systems, including the development and maintenance of necessary infrastructure such as roads, electricity, clean water, facilities, equipment and commodities, to ensure fair and equal access of all persons to comprehensive, integrated and quality primary care, and proximity to referral centers of excellence for higher levels of care.**

91. There is a strong link between low health worker density and poor health outcomes, impeding progress towards achieving the MDGs. Globally, health workforce shortages are estimated to number 7.2 million, with the most serious shortfalls in countries of sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. The global distribution of health workers is such that countries with the highest disease burdens typically have the fewest health workers per capita. Shortages are exacerbated by sub-optimal spatial distribution within countries, with a greater proportion of health workers, especially the most highly skilled, concentrated in urban centres. **Governments should review and improve policies for training, recruiting and rewarding health care workers, including sexual and reproductive health service providers, midwives and professionally trained skilled birth attendants, to increase their numbers and strengthen their capacity, with a focus on ensuring equitable geographic distribution and a sustainable health workforce that is responsive to the changing needs of the population.**



## IV. Mobility and Place

92. Place has both social and spatial dimensions. A secure place is essential for human development, just as human security — freedom from hunger, fear, violence and discrimination — is a precondition for the development and well-being of all persons. A secure place for people on the move is also essential, underscoring the importance of attention to international migration and to planning for rapidly growing cities that can integrate and support rural urban migrants as well as the urban poor. The core international human rights instruments protect both rights related to human security through the “right of everyone to an adequate standard of living ... including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions” as well as those related to mobility, including a person’s “right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence” and the freedom to “leave any country.”

93. The scale of the human population living without a safe or reliable home underscores the urgency of enhancing global attention to human security. At the end of 2012, at least 10 million persons were stateless and some 45 million persons had been displaced within or across international borders. In addition, an estimated 863 million persons were living in slums, meaning that they lacked access to improved water or sanitation, durable housing or secure tenure. Further, millions of persons worldwide were homeless. **To address these challenges, Governments should abide by their international obligations and redouble their efforts to find durable solutions for displaced persons. Governments should also promote inclusive land use planning, linked urban and rural health systems, and address the need for safe and secure housing.**

### *Internal migration*

94. Whether people move within or across international borders, be it permanently, temporarily or cyclically, their underlying motivations remain the same: to improve their well-being and life circumstances, to seek employment, to form or maintain a family, or to find security. While accurate estimates of internal migration are difficult to obtain, analysis suggests that in 2005 over three quarters of a billion people worldwide were living in their home countries but outside their region of birth. Increasingly, women are migrating on their own or as heads of households and principal wage earners. Moreover, because migration requires a range of resources, migrants do not generally come from the very poorest strata of rural society, except in movements forced by factors such as famine, war or natural disasters.

95. Mobility occurs on a continuum from voluntary migration to forced displacement. Movement associated with natural disasters is often short-term and local, whereas displacement due to political crises or conflict is more likely to be international and long-term. Movement, whether short-term or long-term, whether voluntary or not, demands resources; resources that the poor are often lacking. **Governments should support people’s right to move internally as a means of improving their lives and adapting to changing social, economic, political and environmental conditions; should prevent and find lasting solutions for situations of forced displacement; and should provide all internal migrants with equal opportunities and access to social protection.**

## *Urbanization*

96. The world's urban areas are currently growing at a rate of more than 1.3 million each week. Globally, urban areas are expected to absorb all population growth over the next 40 years. Since 2008, for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population was living in urban areas. Urban settlements vary widely in size: over 50 per cent of urban residents live in cities or towns with fewer than half a million inhabitants, 40 per cent of all urban dwellers reside in cities with half a million to 10 million inhabitants, and about 10 per cent of the urban population is living in megacities with populations over 10 million. Between 1990 and 2010, 90 per cent of the growth in the urban population occurred in developing countries, where the population of urban dwellers increased from 35 per cent to 46 per cent of the total population. The world's urban areas are projected to gain 2.6 billion inhabitants by mid-century. Meanwhile, the rural population globally is projected to start decreasing, with an expected 300 million fewer rural inhabitants in 2050 than today.

97. The sheer scale of urbanization in the coming decades ushers unprecedented opportunities and challenges, and requires innovative responses. The benefits of proximity, concentration and scale in urban areas makes it easier and cheaper for public authorities to provide basic health, welfare and education services, while at the same time maximizing energy and resource use efficiency. Cities provide major economic advantages for work and entrepreneurship, and similar advantages for social and political participation and empowerment. Yet the rise of urban inequality has also led to increased marginalization in cities, including through the expansion of urban slums, has exacerbated urban sprawl, and has limited the ability of government to ensure the safety of urban residents. As cities grow, urban management, including traffic, service provision and housing, is increasingly under strain. The poorest residents are often the most heavily impacted. Whether urbanization will meet the needs and aspirations of urbanizing populations, particularly the poor, greatly depends on the policy choices governments make regarding urban population growth, land use, housing, service delivery and infrastructure. **Governments should recognize the phenomenon of urbanization and capitalize on the opportunities it provides, including its contribution to dignity and sustainability, by extending the full set of potential benefits of urban life to all current and future urban residents, particularly through ensuring land, services and affordable housing for the urban poor.**

## *Homelessness and internal displacement*

98. Millions of people around the world go to sleep every night without a roof over their head or without assurance that they will have one the next day. One of the most basic of needs — a foundational aspect of human dignity — is land and housing security. People without a secure place of residence and adequate registration are often unable to access basic services or decent work, which contributes to their precarious living conditions and increases their risk of being exploited and abused. Insecurity of place, therefore, is a threat to human dignity and leads to a disproportionate risk of exposure to violence, poverty, and adverse health outcomes. As new approaches to address insecurity of place, including forced evictions, are being developed, there is a need to improve data collection on homelessness, to address its causes, and to provide social protection to those affected. **Greater public policy attention should be given to those without**



**security of place, including those displaced by conflict or natural disasters, stateless persons, those living in areas of conflict or in temporary or insecure housing, and the homeless.**

99. While most countries allow property ownership, and many do not legally differentiate between men and women, in practice women are often denied their right to land and property ownership. Where they are unable to exercise their rights to own land, women are at heightened risk of eviction following widowhood. Furthermore, as access to formal credit often depends on the possession of assets, borrowers who do not own resources are at a disadvantage, limiting their economic opportunity. Lack of, or disputes over, property rights also undermines return following displacement. **Governments should ensure that women have equal access to security of tenure, to owning land and other property, and to inheritance, as well as to credit, capital and markets.**

#### *International migration*

100. The estimated number of international migrants in the world increased from 154 million in 1990 to 232 million in 2013. Today, there is as much international migration between developing countries as there is from developing countries to developed countries. The increase in mobility and the diversification of migration patterns means that many countries are now concurrently countries of origin, transit and destination. Today's migrants come from a broad spectrum of cultural, economic and social backgrounds. Approximately half of all international migrants are women; many of whom migrated on their own or as heads of households. Since women often live longer than men, they tend to be overrepresented among older migrant populations. The call for increased international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the field of international migration, made at the ICPD in 1994, is still relevant today, given the continuing need to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of international migrants regardless of their migration status.

101. Recorded financial transfers in the form of remittances, sent by migrants to their family members in low- and middle-income countries, reached US \$401 billion in 2012. Remittances are often invested in health and education and thus contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

102. Migration is a key enabler for social and economic development in countries of origin and destination. It is also important for the human development of migrants and their families, enlarging their capabilities, opportunities and choices. Migrants are also important for the transmission of "social remittances" including the transfer of new ideas, information and technology. However, there are also social costs related to migration, including for children and older persons who remain in countries of origin, as well as the challenge of the so-called "brain drain". The migration of highly educated or skilled segments of the population can have negative impacts on development, especially in small developing countries. In destination countries, the skills of migrants are often underutilized due to difficulties in obtaining legal documentation and recognition for qualifications acquired abroad. **Governments should embrace the contributions that migrants and migration make to countries of origin and destination, address the challenges associated with migration, and improve data collection and**

### **dissemination on the contributions of migration and migrants.**

103. As the number of international migrants continues to rise, destination countries are confronted with the challenge of promoting their social, political and economic integration. Integration is often best achieved at a young age, underscoring the importance of education and services and full participation for young migrants in host societies. Racism and xenophobia, fuelled by the global economic crisis, have strained relations between migrant and non-migrant communities in a number of countries. **Governments should promote and effectively protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status. Governments should also provide social protection to all migrants, combat discrimination, hatred and other crimes perpetrated against migrants, safeguard their physical integrity and dignity, and ensure their rights to exercise their religious beliefs and cultural values.**

### *Refugees*

104. The number of refugees worldwide, which peaked in 1992 at almost 18 million, reached 15 million people in 2012. The largest number of refugees in 2012, as reported by UNHCR, originated from Afghanistan (2.6 million), Somalia (1.1 million) and Iraq (750,000). The three main developing countries hosting refugees were Pakistan (1.6 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (870,000) and Kenya (565,000), while Jordan and Lebanon have been particularly affected by the recent influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic.

105. In 2012, more than eight of every ten refugees in the world lived in developing countries. Western Asia, in particular, is bearing a disproportional responsibility in hosting refugees, including approximately five million refugees under the care of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In relation to their national capacity, Pakistan, followed by Ethiopia and Kenya, shouldered the highest refugee burden in 2012.

106. Refugees experience many of the same vulnerabilities as internally displaced persons, including the double vulnerability of displacement and loss of livelihoods in points of settlement. As refugees face persecution and lack protection from their own state, countries of destination have the responsibility to provide asylum and assistance in order to ensure the basic human rights and dignity of refugees. The continued presence of large, protracted refugee situations is a stark reminder of the need to redouble the efforts of the international community to provide durable solutions to the plight of refugees. **Governments, supported by the international community, should strengthen the protection and assistance of refugees through the granting of temporary asylum as well as the provision of food, shelter, health, education and social services, and should promote their local integration, voluntary repatriation or resettlement in third countries.**



## V. Governance and accountability

107. As a cornerstone of good governance, accountability requires national leadership, effective state institutions, and enabling laws, policies, institutions and procedures for the free, active, informed and meaningful participation of people without discrimination. Accountability represents a shift from needs to rights, to which all individuals are entitled. This shift has the potential to transform power relations between men and women, service providers and users, and governments and citizens. The ICPD generated momentum in the creation and renewal of institutions to address population and sustainable development, the needs of adolescents and youth, and women's empowerment and gender equality. Critical to effective governance are data and information systems, yet much existing data remain under-utilized and are not adequately brought to bear on development planning, budgeting or evaluation. The past 20 years have seen a measureable increase in the formal participation of intended beneficiaries in the planning and evaluation of investments related to the ICPD, via recognition and integration of wide networks of civil society and non-governmental organizations.

### *Integrating population dynamics into development planning*

108. Data on population dynamics must not be regarded as numeric abstractions but rather as fundamental information on the human experience. Population data document how the characteristics of people affect the potential for development, how they interact with their environment, where they are living or moving, whether or not they are well or living with fear and insecurity, and what social protections and public services they may need. Population dynamics today reflect the world's dramatic demographic disparities and varied trends: rising numbers of older persons worldwide, especially in Europe and parts of Latin America and Asia; **young populations and continued high fertility in Africa**; and the changing nature of households in many regions, with increasing proportions of one-person and single-parent households. The capacity to monitor and project changing population dynamics and evolving demographic age structures must be a core investment for development, informing the response of Governments to where and how best to invest development resources and promote human rights and dignity. **Governments should integrate population dynamics into the planning and implementation of development initiatives within all sectors, at both national and sub-national levels, creating or strengthening institutions for this purpose if necessary. Governments should also commit to gathering, analyzing and disseminating data on the development status of key population groups in order to monitor progress, address gaps in implementation and assure public accountability.**

### *Strengthening the knowledge sector*

109. Considerable weaknesses exist in the knowledge sector related to population and development in countries of the global South, including incomplete or unreliable data from civil registration and censuses, limited use of innovations such as geographic information systems, and, more generally, an underdeveloped capacity for using data for development. There is a pressing need to strengthen capacity in demographic studies and related social sciences, and to improve productive linkages between population and health researchers and development

planners and policymakers, allowing population data to foster knowledge-driven governance at the national and sub-national levels.

110. Since 1994, new institutions related to ICPD objectives have been created, particularly in the areas of population dynamics and sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment, and adolescents and youth. New types of data have begun to be collected, and new methodologies and technologies have been adopted for the collection of conventional data. While there is important potential yet to be realized, particularly with respect to upgrading systems of data collection, processing and dissemination for greater efficiencies and cost savings, progress in many countries has not yet been sufficient to foster effective knowledge-driven governance and development planning and strategies. **Governments must urgently strengthen their leadership in overall planning for the knowledge sector, including resource allocation and investments in human resources.**

111. Pressing needs in the ICPD-related knowledge sector include increasing the number and quality of human resources, strengthening civil registration and other administrative data sources, as well as migration statistics; integrating new methods and technologies; circulating and disseminating data and democratizing data use; and ensuring that population data inform policy decisions. A shift should be made from dependence on survey data to a balanced use of all relevant data sources, including civil registration and other administrative data sources. **Governments and international institutions should strengthen efforts to improve data availability, quality and accessibility and place more population, health and development data in the public domain in order to facilitate sharing and use of knowledge. Governments should also strengthen national and civil society capacity to utilize national and sub-national data for planning and accountability. Governments should spearhead the introduction of social architecture that makes data and knowledge accessible to all persons, so that it can form the basis of public debate and policy, across and between all sectors of society without exclusion.**

#### *Systematic and inclusive participation*

112. The responsibility for ensuring the dignity and rights of the individual, which are cornerstones of sustainable development, lies with Governments, as well as institutions that operate on the local, national, regional and international levels. All people — men and women, from youth to old age, as individuals and as members of diverse communities — need to be free and able to participate socially, politically and economically in the discourse and activities surrounding development, and to monitor government actions. It is essential that women and youth in particular should be able to participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of public policies, including through elected membership in parliaments or other assemblies at various levels of government, and that women have opportunities to serve in legal institutions as lawyers and judges.

113. Since ICPD, several countries have established separate chambers with female judges for adjudicating cases of violence against women. When law enforcement jobs are open to women, they can play important community roles and can serve as focal points for women facing abuse. **At the national level, Governments should guarantee and facilitate active participation of**



**all people, including through non-governmental actors, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes and in the quality delivery of basic social and health services to all. Representatives of those living in poverty, of groups who frequently experience discrimination, exclusion or marginalization, and of other intended beneficiaries of development programmes should be intentionally included and empowered. Institutions, including international organizations, should devise mechanisms to enable such groups to be part of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.**

*Building better accountability systems*

114. Multilateral collaboration and effective partnership building has proven essential for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and is critical to ensuring effective global development processes. At the national level, attention has moved towards building broad-based partnerships for governance. Internationally, multilateral, regional, South-South and triangular cooperation have become critical mechanisms for convening global actors and Governments, developing effective and harmonized global leadership, and transmitting best practices between countries facing similar population and development challenges. But effective cooperation must be grounded in principles of coherence and accountability to ensure that development aid and new global partnerships harness development potential, rather than increasing fragmentation and duplicating efforts.

115. As a cornerstone of good governance, systems of accountability provide a foundation for realizing rights-based development **objectives**; ensure that **quality** data and knowledge are accessible to the public and to all decision-makers; and create enabling environments that allow **all citizens**, their informed representatives and civil society actors to put a check on the actions of Governments and other key actors and public authorities. National and international law, administrative practices, and protection systems are needed to ensure equal access to programmes and quality services, prevent abuses, address systemic gaps and failures, and provide opportunities for redress and remedy. **Governments should assure effective mechanisms of review and oversight of government administration, including national human rights protections systems, courts, administrative review bodies, standing parliamentary procedures and forums for community participation.**

## VI. Sustainability

116. The current development paradigm is predicated on a social and economic model that favors the production, accumulation and consumption of goods and services in ever-greater amounts, with at first increasing but eventually decreasing returns in well-being. While global population growth is slowing, levels of production and consumption have risen and are expected to continue to rise as long as natural resources can sustain them. Ever-rising levels of consumption by the wealthiest, coupled with a rapid expansion in the number of persons with sufficient resources to consume at levels that adversely impacts the environment, has and is taking place at the expense of the environment.

117. The risks of ignoring the planet's environmental constraints in pursuit of ever-rising production and consumption levels are becoming more apparent. Some experts have suggested that anthropogenic activities have already or will soon surpass ecological thresholds with respect to critical Earth systems and natural cycles. Among the most urgent concerns are threats to biodiversity, the nitrogen cycle and climate change, with other serious concerns including degradation of land and soils, excess production of phosphorus, depletion of stratospheric ozone, ocean acidification, depletion and degradation of freshwater resources, changes in land use and land cover, and air and chemical pollution. **Governments should promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption to slow the depletion and degradation of natural resources, to refocus development aspirations on achieving dignity for all, and to enrich and sustain prospects for economic and social wellbeing for all future generations.**

118. Technology has historically been relied upon to relieve natural resource constraints and environmental impacts. Technological progress can, and should, contribute to efforts aimed at reconciling economic growth, consumption and environmental resources. While certain technologies are proven and being deployed widely, innovation to develop new technologies will be critical to achieving the ambitious reductions in environmental impacts that will be required in coming decades. Improvements in both energy efficiency and conservation are necessary for a sustainable future. **Governments should remove all barriers to sustainability through increased use of clean technology and innovation, and should promote and develop sustainable production and consumption patterns through research on clean technologies and technical cooperation between countries and regions, including mutually agreed sharing of all relevant technologies.**

119. Change in consumption begins at the societal level. Governments should provide efficient basic public infrastructure and services, including: clean water; a strong, functioning public health system accessible to all; universal public education; energy-efficient public transport systems; regulated, reliable utilities; and affordable housing. Similarly, Governments should provide incentives to facilitate a transition to greener production systems while ending subsidies for non-renewables. The provision of these services and incentives can contribute to reducing overall consumption and to achieving dignity, opportunity and changes in individual behavior. **Governments can influence the trajectory of consumption while enhancing dignity and social sustainability by investing in universal public services, which ensure that the fruits of development are distributed to all, without discrimination.**



120. Individuals also bear responsibility for changing consumption patterns. While the poor have little or no choice regarding consumption, and indeed consume comparatively little, they bear most of the environmental costs of industrial waste and byproducts, as well as the current and future impacts of climate change. At higher incomes people have significant choices, and too often choose unsustainable consumption behaviours.

*Inter-linkages between population and the environment*

121. An inaccuracy often made in discussing demographics and climate change or other environmental impacts is to equate one population unit with one consumption unit and to assume that fertility decline in poor, high-fertility countries is the primary solution to the environmental quandary. One study indicated that only 35 per cent of the global population — around 2.5 billion people — has consumption profiles that contribute even minimally to global emissions. Of this total, less than one billion consume enough to have a significant impact on emissions and an even smaller minority is responsible for an overwhelming share of the damage.

122. While an immediate stabilization of population size would improve the situation in the long term, it would have a limited impact on the global ecological predicament in the short run. With few exceptions, countries displaying higher rates and levels of consumption have fertility levels that are already low or below replacement. On the other hand, higher fertility countries tend to be mired in poverty and have low levels of consumption. Poor countries and their populations have the right to development and to improve their living standards, a feat that requires economic growth. Economic growth brings increases in consumption; unless this increase happens in a radically different manner than has been the case for wealthier countries, it will have a further adverse impact on the environment and undermine sustainability. A paradigm shift is required that recognizes that development is not and must not be based solely on increasing consumption. **A collective shift should be made towards well-being derived from modes of living and livelihoods that are more equitable and have less impact on the environment, with a focus on innovation and more effective collective action on global challenges.**

## VII. Financing the ICPD Programme of Action

123. At the ICPD in 1994, the international community agreed that US \$17 billion would be needed in 2000, \$18.5 billion in 2005, \$20.5 billion in 2010 and \$21.7 billion in 2015 to finance four core programmes in the area of population and development: family planning; basic reproductive health; sexually transmitted diseases/HIV/AIDS prevention; and programmes that address the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data. Two thirds of the required amount would be mobilized by developing countries themselves and one third would come from the international community.

124. The immediate post-ICPD period saw a significant increase in the flow of financial resources for these population activities — in 1995, assistance stood at \$2 billion. The momentum of Cairo did not last, however, and the level of funding hovered around \$2 billion per annum for a few years. Thanks in part to advocacy efforts as a result of the five-year review of the ICPD Programme of Action, assistance increased to almost \$2.6 billion in 2000 and reached \$3.2 billion in 2002. After that, it began to increase at a more rapid pace, reaching \$7.3 billion in 2005 and \$10.5 billion in 2008. Subsequently, the funding level increased much more slowly, in part due to the lingering effects of the global financial crisis. Assistance stood at \$11.4 billion in 2011, nearly \$9 billion short of the level agreed in 1994.

125. Although funding for population activities has been rising, it was not meeting the growing needs in developing countries. To ensure adequate funding for these components of the ICPD Programme of Action, in 2009 the United Nations Population Fund reviewed the existing estimates for the four categories of the ICPD costed population package (ICPD para. 13.14) and revised them to reflect current needs and costs. The revised estimate for 2010 was \$64.7 billion, which was expected to rise to \$69.8 billion by 2015. The revised estimates were much higher than the original ICPD estimates agreed upon in 1994 because the new estimates took into account both current needs and current costs and because they included interventions such as AIDS treatment and care and screening and treatment for reproductive cancers, that were not part of the original costed population package. The revised costs are considered minimum estimates to meet growing needs in these four categories. Further revisions may now be warranted based on the findings of this review.

126. The largest proportion of population assistance — 66 per cent in 2011 — went to activities related to prevention of sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS, the majority of which was allocated to HIV/AIDS. A total of 8 per cent of population assistance was expended for family planning services, 22 per cent for basic reproductive health services and 4 per cent for basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. Over the years, the percentage of funding for STI/HIV/AIDS increased from 9 per cent of total population assistance in 1995 to a high of 75 per cent in 2007. During the same period, the share of assistance decreased significantly for the other three costed ICPD components: it decreased from 55 to 5 per cent for family planning services, from 18 to 17 per cent for basic reproductive health services, and from 18 to 3 per cent for basic research, data and policy analysis. In actual dollar amounts, funding for family planning services, which had plummeted to \$393.5 million in 2006, had begun to increase, reaching a new high of \$992.5 million in 2011. Funding for basic



reproductive health services decreased in 2011 both in actual dollar amounts and as a percentage of the total.

127. Domestically generated financial resources, which include government, national NGO and private out-of-pocket expenditures, account for the majority of funding the costed components of the ICPD. Although much harder to measure, it is estimated that developing countries and countries in transition mobilized \$55 billion for population activities in 2011, the largest amount ever. The considerable increase from previous years is due in part to the large expenditures reported for family planning in China, but the latest numbers may not be entirely comparable to past estimates due to the inclusion of new data on out-of-pocket expenditures from the World Health Organization.

128. The global figure for domestic expenditures reflects the commitment of developing countries, regardless of the amount mobilized, and masks significant variations among countries in their ability to mobilize resources for population activities. Most domestic resources originate in a few large countries. Many developing countries, especially the least developed countries, are not able to generate the necessary resources to finance their own population and development programmes. They rely to a large extent on donor assistance.

129. As the international community moves beyond the original twenty-year time line for the Programme of Action of the ICPD, there is an urgent need to: **1) Re-commit to mobilize adequate resources to fully implement the ICPD agenda, and undertake a revised costing based on the findings of this review; 2) Strengthen collaboration and coordinate donor financing policies and planning procedures to avoid duplication, identify funding gaps and ensure that resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible; 3) Increase the role of the private sector in the mobilization of resources for population and development; and 4) Monitor population expenditures and ensure that financial targets are met.**

## VIII. ICPD Beyond 2014

### *ICPD Beyond 2014 monitoring framework*

130. The review of the ICPD implementation reveals that the broad scope of the Programme of Action has been an essential attribute in its strength and relevance, yet has also raised some inherent difficulties in its operationalization. The Programme of Action did not include a systematic proposal for monitoring progress or achievements in ICPD-related goals. On the one hand, this reflects the groundbreaking scope of objectives and actions related to the ICPD, for which generating specific indicators would have been an enormous task unto itself. On the other hand, it reflects the primacy given to achieving broad consensus on principles of human rights and equality, in contrast to the pre-1994 emphasis on demographic or contraceptive targets. In the two decades since 1994, there has been an elaboration of efforts to measure the evolution of human rights protection systems, develop new indicators of gender equality and empowerment, appraise the quality of sexual and reproductive health services, and define national and global indicators of human development, such as those to measure progress towards the MDGs.

131. The proposed ICPD Beyond 2014 Monitoring Framework, which was included as an annex to the framework of actions, will provide a basis for national and global reporting on progress that can enhance the review and appraisal of implementation of the Programme of Action functions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. Both the global score card and the global report will also provide readily available input for any monitoring under the Post 2015 development agenda. Reporting against commitments related to the ICPD in treaty bodies as well as in the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations that take place separately or independently will be more easily integrated into the processes of the Commission on Population and Development. Both the global score card and the global report will also provide readily available input for monitoring progress and impact under the Post-2015 development agenda. Reporting against commitments related to the ICPD in treaty bodies as well as in the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations that take place separately or independently will be more easily integrated into the processes of the Commission on Population and Development.

### *ICPD Beyond 2014 in relation to the post-2015 development agenda*

132. The imperative of the post-2015 development agenda is to bring social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development together within one set of global aspirations. The findings and conclusions of the operational review of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD provide an illustrative roadmap for integrating these often disparate aims. The new agenda should go beyond addressing narrow quantitative targets such as increasing access to services above a minimum threshold, or achieving minimum results to reduce levels of absolute deprivation. The originality and essential added value of the ICPD largely rest in the unique features of its Programme of Action. The Programme of Action is structured around a set of fundamental principles, defining a paradigm for population and development that is human-centered and permeates all relevant dimensions of the human condition, where people are seen as agents of change with the autonomy and capability for



resilience that is strengthened by social assets, including access to skills, information and options, and the exercise of choices that uphold their own rights while respecting the rights of others.

133. Evidence from the last 20 years overwhelmingly supports the ICPD consensus that the respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of human rights are necessary preconditions to improving the dignity and well-being of people and to empowering them to exercise their reproductive rights; and that sexual and reproductive health and rights, and an understanding of the implications of population dynamics, are critical foundations for sustainable development. In addition, safeguarding the rights of young people and investing in their quality education, decent employment opportunities, effective livelihood skills, and access to sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education strengthen young people's resilience and create the conditions under which they can achieve their full potential. Building a world that ensures the dignity of people therefore creates a solid foundation for the achievement of the global collective goal of sustainable development. By updating and advancing the human rights-based agenda laid out in the Programme of Action, Governments can achieve the goals set forth in 1994, while building a stronger foundation for integrated and sustainable development into the future.

#### *Follow-up actions*

134. Effective collective action on the global challenges outlined in the framework, on the basis of the findings of the review, will require the leadership of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the governing bodies of the UN system, to undertake a review of the existing institutional and governance mechanisms for addressing global issues with a view to ensuring effective coordination, integration and coherence at national, regional and global levels consistent with the scale of the comprehensive response required to ensure rights-based sustainable development.

135. The Special Session of the General Assembly on the Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 has the defining opportunity to act on the findings and recommendations of this report on the operational review for the further implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014. The sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly is invited to consider ways to integrate the findings and recommendations of this review into the initial consideration of the Post-2015 development agenda, as well as in the preparations towards the Special Session, in order to fully extend the principles of equality, dignity and rights to future generations and ensure sustainable development.