



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation

*International Inter-ministerial Conference on
South-South Cooperation for Population and Development*

Outcome Document: Beijing Consensus

South South Cooperation: seizing an opportunity to create new hope for the Global South

I. Preamble:

Recalling our Commitments made at the earlier ICPD and MDG high level platforms, Commitment of the Heads of the States and Governments at the Millennium Summit 2000 on the MDGs and those agreed upon at the General Assembly in 2005 and 2010 and those of our own PPD(Partners in Population and Development) pronouncements in this context;

We the delegates assembled here in Beijing for International Inter-ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation for Population and Development in the Post-ICPD and MDGs, Beijing, on this day the 23rd October, 2013, the eve of the historic 68th United Nations Day, reaffirm our political will and national commitments by according highest urgency to post-2014 ICPD engagement and post 2015 MDG focus, through our redoubled support, participation and commitment to attaining the ICPD and MDG goals and the public goods therein through South-South Cooperation for the enhancement of human life in the Global South.

South-South Cooperation is a unique mechanism for fostering solidarity among the Global South through shared vision and collective coordinated action for delivering public goods through sharing of knowledge, experience and application of appropriate techniques, technologies and methodologies towards attaining holistic human development and common prosperity. Specific South-South partnerships have helped successful implementation of programmes. PPD fosters partnerships; supports member countries develop policies, share resources, exchange experience, transfer knowledge, technology and innovation for the global South. South-South Cooperation employs high level advocacy to galvanize coordinated collective action while aspiring to achieve quality of life at par with the global north.

The Conference unanimously resolved to consolidate the gains of the past and build on the best practices for moving on to the next level of achievements. The Delegates also placed on record their appreciation for the national governments, UN Agencies, bilateral, multilateral donor agencies and civil society who participated in the successful implementation of the ICPD and MDG agenda.

PPD (Partners in Population and Development) was conferred with Permanent Observer Status at the UN General Assembly through its Resolution No 57/29 in November 2002, empowering it to provide strategic leadership for the attainment of ICPD goals and MDGs among its member states.

1. After two decades of global commitment on population and development, the world community eagerly awaits its progress and looks forward to solutions that will shape its destiny. Much achievement, notwithstanding, there are still challenges to be addressed and gaps to be filled. In the last twenty years the global situation has considerably changed; economic slowdown has diminished ODA; and new disease scenarios have emerged. The key challenge is to avert these threats and optimize the demographic dividend. It is against this background of altered realities that the world community explores new solutions to consolidate the success; new strategies to combat the challenges and a new road map to attaining ICPD and MDG commitments.
2. Despite daunting challenges, South-South Cooperation has been at the vanguard of delivering hope to its citizens. Unstinted political will and national commitments translating the aspirations of the people into essential public goods are the hallmarks of the South-South Cooperation. Articulating these aspirations, PPD member states have taken the lead in exploring strategies for approaching the post-2014 scenarios for achievement of the ICPD goals and MDGs beyond 2015 within the realm of South-South Cooperation.
3. Partners in Population and Development (PPD), an alliance of developing countries from Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Middle East and the Latin America, represents 58% of the world's population. PPD has made significant contribution in the area of population and development. Representing close to 4 billion people, PPD has demonstrated that PPD member countries' performance has been better than the non-PPD countries, in the areas of infant and child mortality reduction. In the past twenty years maternal deaths have reduced from eight million to four million, a fifty percent drop both in MMR and in absolute numbers. Child deaths have also reduced by a similar proportion. Strong trajectories of population dividend evident in most PPD countries indicate positive gains as a result of strategic programming.

III. Historic Opportunity for SSC and PPD to lead from the front:

4. The scope of the South-South Cooperation in the context of post –2014 ICPD and MDGs beyond 2015 is vital to the attainment of the global commitments. Hinging on this pivot, South-South Cooperation in conjunction with MDG 8 on partnership is the key ingredient for delivering tangible regional and national actions for the attainment of ICPD goals and MDGs.
5. In this direction, five pathways have been identified to accomplish the global obligations for achieving sustainable development:1) Integrating Population Dynamics into National Development process; 2) Universal access to Family Planning, Sexual and Reproductive Health Services 3) Gender Equity and Women Empowerment; 4, Strengthening Family Capacity building; and 5) South-South Cooperation for Population and Development.

IV. Beijing Consensus:

6. **We the delegates** hereby give the clarion call that ICPD goals and Millennium Development Goals are intricately interlinked and need to be approached in an urgent yet coordinated manner for the attainment of the goals.
7. **Recognizing** that the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, including in particular the commitment to achieve universal

access to sexual and reproductive health by 2015, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, and ensure sustainable development.

8. **Further recognizing** the critical inter-linkages between population and economic growth and sustainable development and their central importance to addressing the challenges and priorities especially in improving the quality of life, promoting reproductive health and rights; combating sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS; and eliminating gender based discrimination.
9. **We are united** in our thought and concur that by approaching through these five streams nearly three-fourths of the ICPD Commitments and almost half of MDG goals will be realized. Hence the focus on the following five streams.
10. **We declare** further that we are committed to the recommendations contained in this Beijing Declaration as under and that we will actively follow the adherence of these recommendations.
11. **We dedicate** ourselves unreservedly to addressing the challenges, constraints and obstacles to the attainment of our commitments to the ICPD goals and MDGs and beyond.

IV a. Integrating Population Dynamics into National Development Process:

12. **Revisiting** our commitments as laid in Pretoria, Agra and Wuhan Declarations identifying the importance of the Population dynamics as decisive in shaping development, We recommend integrating population dynamics into the national development goals.
13. **Recalling** that investing in human capital will increase opportunity for demographic dividend, We see great potential in strengthening our human resource capital through appropriate economic policies. Increased proportion of the working population and less dependency offer countries an opportunity to be benefitted by human capital.
14. **Recognizing** that all population dynamics are central to development in its entirety, We urge our member nations to capture the subtle and complex interdependence of population dynamics vis-à-vis poverty, health, education and access to social amenities, in their national planning endeavors.
15. **Acknowledging** that people are our treasured national assets, We recommend that this valuable human resource be nurtured for high demographic dividend. We also recommend approaching the demographic dividend scientifically with definitive timelines to derive the optimal benefits. We also recommend that our member countries to look at the employment opportunities for engaging rural labour force more productively.
16. **Propose** that greater investments in technical education, job creation and skill upgradation be taken up to match the labour force with employable skills required by the emerging job markets. Expansion of technical education, revamping curriculum and syllabi would be a valuable move in harnessing the technical capital of the human resource base.
17. **Aware** that in the short-term, workforce and skill development are the key drivers of the knowledge economies and We urge our member states to approach this national asset in line with the emerging global trends in process outsourcing. Noting that additional economic investments would maximize the demographic dividend, We recommend our member governments to consider implementing policies that address these issues.

18. **Recognize** that the special populations such as the adolescents and the elderly are increasing over the years; they need special attention, emphasis to cater to their specific needs. We urge our member states to include these details into their national development goals.
19. **Observe** that Migration, both internal and external, needs to be seen in a new perspective and integrated into the national developmental goals to guide the outcomes. We recommend setting up support ad enabling mechanisms to positively uphold the migration process.
20. **Emphasize** that robust collection of data on vital registration, good quality census, morbidity and mortality data are key to demographic planning and forecasting. Hence, member states are called upon to support and strengthen this data architecture.
21. **Acknowledge** that forces of globalization have effected changes in occupational preferences, new economic aspirations and survival strategies among the communities resulting in urbanization and related relocation putting burden on the local governance and infrastructure. It is recommended that national development goals capture these very important and emerging patterns of population dynamics.

IV. b Universal access to Family Planning, Sexual and Reproductive Health Services:

22. **Reinforcing** our commitments of Yogyakarta and Pretoria, We reaffirm strengthening Family Planning programmes and streamlining delivery mechanisms for improved access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services. Family Planning deals with supplies and services that enable individuals and couples make informed choices about their family size. Services include information dissemination and counseling related to family size regulation. Choice and practice of these methods help families attain the ideal family size responsibly.
23. **Recalling** that Universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning services is central to achieving Millennium Development Goals, We the delegates call for upgrading the programmes and services so that SRH gets the priority at the national, provincial and community levels.
24. **Recommend** that all family planning policies and programmes be inclusive, participatory and tailored. By introducing customized family planning, sexual and reproductive health services, with variations catering to the specific requirements of the target communities, including the marginalized, a new idiom of inclusive access and utilization could be built.
25. **Emphasize** the role of local governments, communities and civil society organizations in remaining aligned with the emerging priorities for sustained action towards the achievement of universal access to family planning, sexual and reproductive health services.
26. **Recommit** ourselves to translating the Family planning, sexual and reproductive health linkage into a community empowerment dynamic to guide the regional and national human resource development activities. **Urge** the national governments to not only invest in strengthening national capacities but also draw on the vast knowledge, technology and expertise that is readily available within the South-South Cooperation for Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health interventions.

27. **Acknowledge** that Reproductive Health Commodity Security is very important and crucial to achieving universal sexual and reproductive health. We call upon our member nations to strengthen stocking, supply and distribution aspects of the Reproductive Health commodities.
28. **Emphasize** the focus on adolescent reproductive health and gender for curbing teenage and adolescent health risks that have catastrophic demographic and health outcomes. We concur, that through strengthened community resilience, risks faced by the youth and adolescent populations could be minimized.
29. **Encourage** integration of Reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS programming. By such integration greater benefits for the communities can be achieved, besides reaching the target groups directly.
30. **Acknowledge** the importance of institutionalizing communication and information dissemination mechanisms for behavior change, health promotion, risk reduction and increased participation in the Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health programmes.

IV. c Gender Equity and Women Empowerment:

31. **Re-emphasizing** our commitment to the global cause of Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment, We recommend accelerated actions to empower women, socially, economically and politically.
32. **Aware** that gender equity and women's empowerment are byproducts of social structures, We call upon our member countries to take up legislation and social change activities to address the restrictive activities and forces against women. These changes need to be supported by fostering enabling conditions and inclusive mechanisms in favor of Gender Equity and Women's empowerment.
33. **Recognizing** that Women's empowerment is central to social transformation, economic empowerment through micro-credit, micro-finance and self-help mechanics, a new women-centred economy could be adopted. Such a measure would not only uplift the women economically but significantly contribute to improving family economy and hence the family development.
34. **Further** recognizing that the realization of human potential depends upon guaranteed rights including freedom from violence; the right to development, health, education, employment, shelter and decent livelihoods, through redressing the mal-distribution of wealth and increasing opportunities, ensuring full utilization of human capital to advance socio-economic benefits.
35. **Adopt** Women's empowerment strategy to facilitate greater women's participation in the labor force for their economic empowerment and improved family economy. We recommend improving access to resources for women in the rural, farming and informal business sectors for their economic empowerment.
36. **Review**, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that have discriminatory impact on women, youth, especially girls, without distinction of any kind, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems comply with international human rights regulations and laws.

37. **Protect** the dignity and rights of women and girls by eradicating all harmful practices, including early and/or forced marriages, female genital mutilation /cutting, through adopting and enforcing laws that prohibit such practices and creating awareness around the harmful health consequences.
38. **Recommend** that national actions, including legislation and public sensitization be taken up for curbing violence against women, halting child marriages, preventing trafficking in women to create a safer environment for optimal empowerment of women.

IV. d Strengthening Family Capacity Building:

39. **Recalling** the emphasis laid out in the ICPD PoA, on strengthening capacity of the family in the background of rapid demographic changes, We underscore the need for strengthening the role and capacity of the family in the region. The role, the rights, composition and structure of the family are undergoing serious transformation due to demographic processes such as migration, urbanization and new employment patterns. These have impacted the ways of family formation and its ability to respond.
40. **Recognizing** the need to strengthen family capacity to respond to migration oriented family trauma, We recommend that our member states develop national policies for making migration safe and beneficial to the family. It is also necessary that effective family-friendly counseling, tracking and enabling mechanisms be put in place to support the families affected by the migration process.
41. **Acknowledging** that urbanization an offshoot of rapid economic and industrial development is challenging for many families, We recommend that member countries review and revise their policies of urbanization and include the family dimension as an integral part of urban planning and local governance. Effective registration, tracking and counseling services will enable families become the driving force for development.
42. **Develop** special strategies to address the requirements of the youth and adolescent through life-skill education and putting in place responsive counseling and guidance mechanisms in place to nurture this very important human resource.
43. **Recognizing** the strong linkages between the economic, social and development action, We recommend establishing multi-ministerial taskforces among member countries to improve the well being of the families and its members. It is imperative that we also build a family-friendly development system to enable families realize their full potential of performance and security.
44. **Integrate** government, market and community resources to strengthen family security and support mechanisms. We call upon our member states to effectively integrate existing resources including the community organizations ad voluntary sector

IV. e South-South Cooperation for Population and Development

45. The importance of South-South Dialogue, in dealing with issues related to population and development and health governance is very significant as healthy population forms the core of all development.. Negotiating health and development hence are very important aspects of the modern-day development dialogue. Representing the voice of 58% population of the world, PPD has the mandate to promote highest health standards and

equitable development for the population of the region. By aligning with its member states and advocating external actors, PPD is able to champion the cause of South-South Cooperation for optimal advantage for its member states.

46. **Recognizing** the importance of South-South Cooperation in population and development, We recommend that the critical component of political commitment central to development is harnessed efficiently. Hence member states are encouraged to nurture the valuable political commitment into budgetary allocations for sustained engagement.
47. **Recommend** undertaking South-South dialogue at two levels: Global level and secondly at the South-South Cooperation level. While the former addresses the more universal problems and the resource flow, the latter will attend to more immediate regional and cross-border programme negotiations and joint action.
48. **Aware** that Health is one of the first trans-boundary issues to engage multilateral mechanisms, We accord high priority to the development of South –South Cooperation methodologies for addressing issues of inequity related to access to affordable life saving drugs, diagnostics, treatment commodities to sharpen the regional dimension to health diplomacy to benefit the members states.
49. **Recognize** the urgent need for setting up coordination mechanisms and methodologies specific to the South-South Cooperation to facilitate technology transfer, exchange of experience shared, internalized and practiced among member countries.
50. **Strengthen** partnerships with UN agencies, bilateral, multi-lateral agencies and civil society to coordinate joint action for consolidating appropriate technical and fiscal resources for attainment of global commitments.

We the delegates once again reiterate our commitment to the ICPD/PoA and MDGs and will give our utmost attention and focus towards the attainment of these commitments. At PPD, we have made it our strategic methodology to approach the global goals through South-South partnership, political will, national resilience and community engagement.

We would like to appeal to the global community and the UN General Assembly that we are ready to share our experience of South-South Cooperation for refining the global strategies together for definitive attainment of the post 2014 ICPD and MDGs beyond 2015 actions.

