



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
*An Inter-Governmental Organization for Promoting South-South
Cooperation*

<http://www.partners-popdev.org>

22 September 2014

Statement by

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**Twenty-ninth special session of the General Assembly on
the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International
Conference on Population and Development**

United Nations Headquarters, 22 September 2014

Excellencies,

Partners in Population and Development (PPD), an alliance of 26 developing countries from the Global South congratulates the Secretary General for presenting a comprehensive “Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014’.

We are meeting here to review and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (PoA- ICPD). We have much to celebrate, yet our unfinished agenda is critical.

The ICPD PoA adopted in 1994, represented a remarkable consensus among 179 Governments that individual human rights and dignity, including the equal rights of women and girls and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, are a necessary precondition for sustainable development.

Achievements over the ensuing 20 years have been remarkable, including gains in women’s equality, population health, life expectancy, educational attainment and human rights protection systems and an estimated 1 billion people moving out of extreme poverty.

We particularly acknowledge and appreciate Secretary General’s observation on the need for promoting the partnership of Global South in achieving the ICPD PoA and the contribution of Partners in Population and development towards the goals of ICPD (UN SG Report, A/69/62. 12 February 2014, PP 251)

Our greatest shared, unfinished challenge is that Earth’s resources, are increasingly, inequitably distributed, threatening inclusive development, the environment and our common future.

Unsustainable population growth is still a challenge for many governments. Many countries in Africa and Asia are preparing for the largest cohort of young people the world has ever seen. However, they have yet to develop an investment strategy to benefit from such a “demographic dividend”. Many countries still continue to face premature mortality, high fertility, unmet family planning needs and preventable maternal and child death.

The future we want presents critical challenges.

Dignity and human rights are the fundamental prerequisite of poverty reduction. Need for policy and program response in the area of Women’s empowerment and gender equality remains a critical issue.

Much effort needs to be taken for addressing the needs of Adolescents and youth, older persons, Persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. Sustainable development can only occur when a universal culture of non-discrimination of all persons is being practiced.

Today we have greater understanding of the social cost of discrimination. Promoting Dignity and human rights are key areas for future action. The cost of inequality in achieving sustainable development is much greater than the earlier understanding.

A human rights-based approach to health is essential for ensuring Child survival, Sexual and reproductive health and rights and lifelong health for young people. Non-communicable diseases presents challenges to sustainable develop and unprecedented pressure on fragile public health systems, which further underlines the challenges of the unfinished agenda of health system strengthening.

Unprecedented in the human history, more people are living in urban conglomerates and population are mobile. The structure of households is rapidly changing. The heterogeneity of population dynamics demands careful policy responses.

Internal migration, urbanization and International migration presents unique challenges including the Insecurity of place and violence targeted to persons, including gender based violence

Secretary General's report underscores the importance of good governance and accountability for ensuring sustainable population growth. Which, calls for the establishment of government institutions related to the Programme of Action, strengthening the knowledge sector related to the Programme of Action, creating enabling legal and policy environments for participation and accountability.

Promoting collaboration, partnerships and coherence is critical to the future we want. Promoting collaboration among the Global South is essential to address the unfinished agenda of ICPD.

The path to sustainable development, outlined in the framework presented by the Secretary General demands better leadership and greater innovation to address- unfinished critical needs: to extend human rights and protection of all persons from discrimination and violence, all persons have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from development; invest in the capabilities and creativity, particularly of the young people to assure future growth and innovation; strengthen health systems to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health to enable all women to thrive and all children to grow in a nurturing environment; build sustainable cities that enrich urban and rural lives alike; the contribution of the migrant workers are acknowledged and transform the global economy to one that will sustain the future of the planet and ensure a common future of dignity and well-being for all people.

Excellences! Partners in Population and Development (PPD) takes this opportunity to join all of you to recommit and to enhance our efforts to achieve these goals in our generation.

Thank you.