



Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation:  
Emerging Population and Development Issues  
Influencing the 2030 Agenda  
18-20 September 2018  
Bali, Indonesia

## **Bali Call for Action**

We, the delegates assembled here in Bali, Indonesia from 18th to 20th September 2018 for the *Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Emerging Population and Development Issues Influencing the 2030 Agenda*, organized by the Government of Indonesia, specifically by the National Population and Family Planning Board of Indonesia (BKKBN), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Partners in Population and Development (PPD), adopt this declaration.

This Inter-Ministerial Conference was held leading up to the 25th anniversary of the implementation of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA) (ICPD@25) and to the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2019 (BAPA+40). The objectives of this Conference were to discuss emerging issues, share successful experiences and good practices in population and development, identify the strategic priorities

and appropriate modalities of South-South Cooperation (SSC) for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and provide inputs to the BAPA+40 deliberations.

A total of 250 delegates from more than 40 countries, including Ministers, Vice Ministers, and senior government officials responsible for population affairs from the PPD member-countries and other developing countries, representatives from UNFPA and the other relevant UN agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor agencies, and experts from the academic and research institutions, participated in this Conference.

**We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSTC:**

***Recognized*** that SSC is guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit, and this Call for Action is based on these principles, which was mandated by the 1955 Bandung Asian-African Conference and other relevant conferences. We also note that SSC is not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation.

***Realized*** that SSC in population and development has become an increasingly critical means to strengthen partnership for the achievement of the ICPD goals and the SDGs. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires careful consideration of population dynamics and trends for planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDG targets.

***Reaffirmed*** our commitment to the goals and principles of the ICPD PoA and the SDGs and resolved to translate these commitments into national agenda and actions to attain universal access to sexual and reproductive health, and realize the demographic dividend and sustainable development. We also

recalled our commitment to the declarations and action plans made at the previous Inter-Ministerial Conferences in Population and Development including the “*Beijing Call for Action*” adopted by the *Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation for Population and Development* held in Beijing, in March 2016.

**Acknowledged** that 86% of the world total population is in developing countries; so, population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and gender equality are at the core of sustainable development, and that deepening South-South cooperation in these fields will contribute to the health and well-being of the people in developing countries and sustainable development.

**Appreciated** the contribution made by all the stakeholders and individuals in advancing SSC since the ICPD in 1994; acknowledged the importance of triangular cooperation in bridging South-South and North-South cooperation; acknowledged UNFPA’s substantial contribution and critical role in advancing SSC in population and development; recognized that PPD has made tremendous progress and achievements for promoting SSC in population and development in the past 24 years.

**Noted with appreciation** funding facilities by Southern countries, especially emerging economies, that are increasing their support to SSC and are allocating more resources to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the attainment of the SDGs.

**Recognized** that many Southern countries have new skills and technologies that can be shared with fellow Southern countries, and that more appropriate solutions to some challenges faced by Southern countries are more readily available in other Southern countries;

**Recognized** that emerging population and development issues such as low fertility and ageing in some developing countries; youth development for demographic dividend, peace and security; sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian and conflict situation; and big data utilization, will influence and contribute to the 2030 agenda.

**Affirmed** that the renewed emphasis on SSC provides an opportunity to broaden the range and scope of contributions, and to leverage their effect for impact-oriented programming, additional resources, innovative SSC and funding models and shaping SSC partnership initiatives that are structured to achieve scaled and longer-term objectives.

**Recognized** challenges and future opportunities for SSC, which include: translating the goals of SSC into specific programmes and policies; realizing the difference between operational and articulate principles; coordinating stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels; strengthening information-sharing; improving the capacity and efficiency of SSC; devoting more resources for SSC; and, increasing engagement of the private sector and civil society.

**Thanked** the Government of Indonesia, as host country, for the excellent arrangement of this Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Emerging Population and Development Issues Influencing the 2030 Agenda, and appreciated Indonesia's active role and longstanding contribution in promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

**We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSTC:**

**Call upon** governments and international organizations to undertake more political commitment to SSC in population and development, particularly in emerging issues of low fertility and ageing in some developing countries; youth development for harnessing the demographic dividend, peace and security; sexual and reproductive health and family planning services in humanitarian and conflict situation, and big data utilization.

**Recommend** the following as the strategic priority areas for SSC: population and development; universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights-based family planning, including in all phases of humanitarian emergency and disaster risk reduction; women's, children's and adolescents' health; gender equality; healthy ageing; migration; and poverty alleviation with particular emphasis on emerging population issues.

**Commit** to making more efforts to the organization of the International Conference on SSTC in Population and Development, which serves as a unique global high-level platform of developing countries for sharing experiences and good practices, conducting policy dialogues, and developing capacity in population and development. PPD is encouraged to continue this annual high-level international forum on SSC and to keep it open to all developing countries. Relevant stakeholders are encouraged to continue their commitment on the Beijing Call for Action in this regard.

**Encourage** the efforts of countries to accelerate international coordination for SSC to better share information, identify and coordinate support for concrete SSC programmes. In order to make SSC successful, the international SSC players need to be working together in a coordinated manner.

**Commit** to make more efforts in strengthening the multi-stakeholder partnerships for SSC. It is critical to renew and expand already existing partnerships and create new ones, among the various existing mechanisms for

SSC, based on the specific mandates and comparative advantages of the diverse organizations involved. We encourage and support the initiative of the Roundtable on SSTC at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), which aims at bringing state and non-state stakeholders together to achieve a solid community of practice in SSC around specific shared/common goals related to ICPD agenda through drawing on each other's strengths.

**Commit** to make more efforts for strengthening human resource development for SSC. As human resource development and knowledge sharing remain at the centre of technical cooperation initiatives among Southern countries, this form of cooperation will be prioritized in the agenda of national governments, international organizations, inter-governmental bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs), including community-based and faith-based organizations. More efforts should be given to providing technical support towards capacity building of the Southern institutions involved in training activities for SSC. UNFPA and PPD are called upon to lead in such efforts.

**Encourage and support** the establishment and development of the Centers of Excellence on SSC for Population and Development. The evidence both inside and outside population and family planning sectors demonstrate that the SSC Centers of Excellence have been playing an active and effective role in knowledge sharing, technical transfer and institutional networking for SSC, and it is a part of the institutionalization efforts for SSC in population and development. More resources at the national and international level should be allocated to assist and promote this initiative in the aspects of providing enabling policies, capacity building, and sustained and regulated financial support.

**Commit** to support the efforts for high-quality and validated evidence on what works on SSC, to be informed by country-led Monitoring and Evaluation systems and research on SSC. As the year 2019 is ICPD+25 and BAPA+40, it is

essential to have a comprehensive review of the progress made and lessons learnt for SSC, and based on which, policy recommendations and strategies should be made to further promote SSC for attaining the ICPD goals and the SDGs. We encourage the national governments, UNFPA, PPD and other international organizations, donor agencies to make joint effort to develop a follow-up and review mechanism of SSC that will promote accountability to citizens, identify good practices, mobilize support to overcome shared challenges, and identify new and emerging issues. It should be aligned with the review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda in order to create synergies and efficiencies by avoiding duplication. We encourage and support more academic research, which may include the comparative advantages and innovative modalities of SSC, and appropriate linkages between South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation in population and development.

***Encourage*** relevant UN agencies and international organizations to follow the example of UNFPA in establishing SSC as a programming strategy in its strategic plan. SSC elements should be incorporated into development and humanitarian programmes of the international organizations and into the national population and reproductive health programmes. Basic indicators such as national strategies, national task force, regular national budget line, and government-funded activities for SSC, as well as results indicators, should be established for monitoring and evaluation of SSC.

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