

PPD and UNFPA High-Level Panel Discussion on South-South Cooperation for the Achievement of the ICPD PoA and the SDGs



52nd Session of the United Nations
Commission on Population and Development
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Executive Summary

The year 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994 and issued a Programme of Action (PoA) adopted by 179 member states recognizing that reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality are essential in achieving sustainable development. It was observed that remarkable progress has been achieved since Cairo such as decline in maternal death by around 40%, reduction of child marriage and female genital mutilation, increase in life expectancy by seven (7) years since 1994.

Much has been accomplished but still millions of women and adolescent girls in developing countries are unable to exercise their reproductive rights where modern contraceptive methods are not ensured for all, child marriage rate is still high, women are still dying while giving birth and the potential of adolescent and young people is not fulfilled.

In a joint effort to address these issues, PPD, celebrating its 25th anniversary, and UNFPA, celebrating its 50th anniversary, organized a side event on "South-South Cooperation for the Achievement of the ICPD PoA and the SDGs" during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) held from 1st to 5th April 2019. The objectives of the side event were to demonstrate through concrete examples from PPD member countries, that South-South Cooperation (SSC) is an effective tool and efficient modality for the achievement of unfinished ICPD PoA and the SDGs 2030 agenda.

The panel brought ministerial gathering and several high-level delegates from PPD member countries and other developing countries and was chaired by Dr. Natalia Kanem, UN Under-Secretary-General, and UNFPA Executive Director. The panelists shared their views, thoughts and discussed the contribution of SSC for the achievement of ICPD, recognized the role of SSC as the best development solutions across

countries and urged to bring the southern countries together for sharing the lessons of their development success. Panelists and participants appreciated the renewed partnership between PPD and UNFPA and acknowledged their joint efforts in leading international initiatives towards promoting reproductive health and population related matters in developing countries and leave no one behind.

The event concluded with the following recommendations:

- Establishment of Centers of Excellence for SSC with focus on population and development to expedite the progress of ICPD PoA and the SDGs 2030 agenda
- Ensuring capacity building training programs for south-south cooperation focal persons and developing a strategic framework that promotes the role of South-South and triangular cooperation
- Enhancing knowledge and experience sharing among each other to bring South-South Cooperation in Population and Development that together can make greater contributions to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and to improving the wellbeing of people in all developing countries
- Promote data management in the population field through an increasing partnership among institution and countries.
- Increasing support for innovation, new partnership, knowledge sharing and scaling up proven best practices to achieve the ICPD and the 2030 agendas
- Ensure political commitment for national policy and budget allocation for South-South Cooperation and donors commitments to prioritize funding for South-South Cooperation in Population and Development

Introduction

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organized a ministerial level panel discussion at the 52nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in New York on 1st April 2019. The joint initiative took place on commemorating a milestone of the 25th anniversary of PPD and ICPD aiming to promote South-South Cooperation as a key tool for the achievement of the ICPD Program of Action and the SDGs 2030 agenda. The specific objectives are in below;

- To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA)
- To Celebrate the 25th anniversary of PPD as the first Ally for the implementation of this landmark international agreement and as an inspiring example of South-South Cooperation (SSC)
- To rally “every ally who shares our vision of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.” We hope that they continue to provide strong support for the commitments made in Cairo be reflected in the outcome of the 52nd CPD
- In ensuring that no one is left behind, to call on the global community to address the unfinished agenda of ICPD for the achievement of the SDGs

The ministerial panel was chaired by Dr. Natalia Kanem, UN Under-Secretary-General, and UNFPA Executive Director. H.E. Dr. Murad Hasan MP, State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of Bangladesh, H.E. Ms. Cui Li, Former Vice Minister, National Health Commission, People’s Republic of China, H.E. Dr. Hala Mustafa Zaied, Honorable Minister of Health and Population, Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. Carlos Javier ECHARRI Cánovas, Secretary-General, National Population Council (CONAPO) of México; and PPD Board and Executive Committee Member, H.E. Ms Susan Shabangu, Honorable Minister for Social Development, Republic of South Africa; and Secretary of the PPD Board attended as ministerial panelists. Also, the session was participated by many high-level delegates such as Prof. Hicham Nejmi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health of Morocco; H.E. Mr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of State for Housing of Uganda; H.E. Dr. Ernesto Pernia, Minister of Socio-Economic Planning of the Philippine who brought intervention from their country experiences. The Panel discussion started with a presentation of a video illustrating the UNFPA and PPD partnership.

Dr. Natalia Kanem

Executive Director of UNFPA

Dr. Natalia Kanem expressed her thanks to Honorable PPD Board Members from Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Mexico, and South Africa whose presence elevated the Panel at the highest level of importance and commitments. Dr. Kanem stated that SSC could be an effective tool to achieve zero unmet demand for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero violence and harmful practices against women and girls. As she observed, SSC is the best modality for sharing development solutions across countries because these solutions have been proven and are relevant to the developing-country context. Dr. Kanem added that it is important to bring the southern countries together for sharing the lessons of their development success, their greater economic capacity to share, and the genuine eagerness to contribute to global development since more countries from the south have graduated into middle-income country status.



She acknowledged with great satisfaction that PPD and UNFPA built excellent partnership and contributed the successful implementation of joint projects and programs and reaffirmed the full support of UNFPA to PPD Secretariat. Dr. Kanem concluded her remarks by inviting all the delegates to the Nairobi Summit which is a high-level Conference on ICPD25 to advance the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, going to be held from 12-14 November 2019. The conference will offer an inclusive platform, bringing together governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector organizations, women's groups and youth networks to discuss and agree on actions to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, which is critical to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

End of her speech, Dr. Natalia brought some examples of UNFPA leadership in promoting and brokering SSC partnerships with documented success in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, youth empowerment, gender equality, and population and development;

- Cooperation among religious leaders across countries on family planning and sexual and reproductive health.
- Our Husbands Schools, which engage men in promoting gender equality and women's health, are spreading across Africa through SSC.
- As the world approaches the 2020 round of census, developing countries with expertise and capacity in this area are stepping up to help others.
- SSC has proven to be a particularly important tool for addressing emerging concerns, such as healthy ageing and humanitarian issues.

H.E. Dr. Murad Hasan MP State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh

In his intervention, H.E. Dr. Murad Hassan MP, Honorable State Minister for Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh paid attention that Bangladesh has been engaged in promoting south-south cooperation and reiterated that it would continue to use South-South Cooperation (SSC) as effective tools for sharing and exchanging knowledge and best practices in 'Population and Development' among the developing countries in the South for achievements of International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA).



Further, he added that his country is keen to learn from best practices from partner countries, UN agencies, and taking advantage of the South-South Cooperation model to overcome the new challenges.

H.E. Dr. Hasan elaborated on the extraordinary progress of Sheikh Hasina's government in achieving ICPD goals and SDGs in Bangladesh. He also underscored Bangladesh's remarkable success on reducing of infant, children under five and maternal mortality rate; the rise of life expectancy, use of contraceptives; poverty reduction; development of primary and secondary level education and elimination in gender disparities. He also highlighted the support that the Government of Bangladesh provided to PPD since its establishment in Dhaka in 1996.

H. E. Dr. Hasan expressed his satisfaction with the partnership between UNFPA and PPD and acknowledged the challenges and recommendations made by a recent survey conducted by PPD and UNFPA jointly. He emphasized on the implementation of the recommendations, particularly the establishment of Centers of Excellence in countries for strengthening SSC in population and development to expedite the progress of ICPD PoA and the SDGs 2030 agenda. Also, he gave importance on for extensive capacity building training programs for south-south cooperation focal persons and a strategic framework that promotes the role of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Dr. Hasan reaffirmed Bangladesh's support towards UNFPA and PPD for hosting the center of excellence for South-South Cooperation.



H.E. Ms. Cui Li

Former Vice Minister, National Health Commission, People's Republic of China

H.E. Ms Cui Li highlighted that her government has been undertaking different initiatives for promoting South-South Cooperation and achieving ICPD and SDGs which include, the Belt and Road Initiative, establishment of the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to support developing countries in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, setting up International Development Cooperation Agency (China aid), and establishment of the Population and Development South-South Cooperation Center of Excellence (PDSSC) in Beijing.

In her speech, H. E. Li emphasized the importance of the Chinese government's cooperation with UNFPA and PPD for population and development. She greatly appreciated the partnership between PPD and UNFPA and their joint efforts for the organization of events and project implementation. In the year 2016, China, UNFPA and PPD jointly organized the International Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development and adopted the "Beijing Call for Action" as an outcome of the dialogue with six (6) key actions are as follows;



Establish an International Forum on SSC in Population and Development;

- Establish the "Population and Development SSC Center of Excellence."
- Set-up a Coordinating Committee for SSC in Population and Development as a mechanism to identify and coordinate support to SSC programs
- Strengthen partnerships for SSC in Population and Development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender equality.
- Enhance efforts to accelerate reproductive health commodity security in developing countries.
- Strengthen human resource development in population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health.

In conclusion, H.E. Li highlighted the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNFPA, and the 25th birthday of PPD and urged for grasping this historic opportunity, working together, sharing wisdom and experience with each other joint efforts to bring South-South Cooperation in Population and Development to a higher level in the new era. She stated that "Together we will make greater contributions to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and to improving the wellbeing of people in all developing countries".

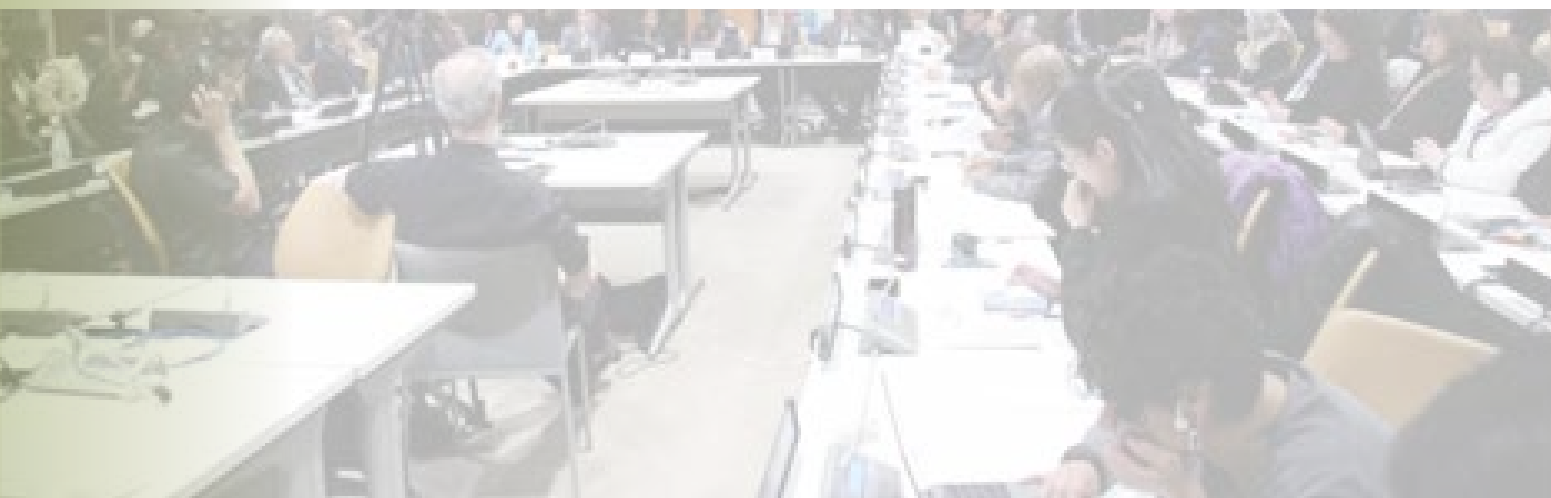
H.E. Dr. Hala Zayed Honorable Minister of Health and Population, Government of Egypt



H.E. Dr. Hala Zayed recalled about the ICPD held in 1994 in Cairo hosted by the Government of Egypt since then it has become a global guiding spirit for international population and development programs. H. E. Dr. Zayed highlighted the dedicated involvement of Government of Egypt in the field of Reproductive health and population since Egypt was elected as the Chair of the PPD board and had paved the way for establishing the Arab Network for south to south cooperation in population and reproductive health in 2001. She had reminded that her government first initiated the PPD South-South Scholarship program in population and demography, offered by Cairo Demographic Center (CDC) for young professionals of its member-states since 1999. Dr. Zayed also mentioned about the establishment of the Cairo Technical Office in 2000-2003 to provide technical assistance to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and neighboring collaborating countries in implementing international training courses for participants from developing countries in the region.

Considering Egypt as pioneer country promoting South-South Cooperation in a capacity building program, H.E. Dr. Zayed emphasized the importance of the establishment of the Center of Excellence for South-South Cooperation and she reiterated for her government support to PPD and UNFPA for hosting the Center of Excellence on SSC in population and development in Egypt.

In conclusion, Dr. Zayed said that her government had made active efforts towards population and development, which is an integral part of the Egyptian political agenda. The President of Egypt had championed the formation of the Egyptian population, sustainable, development strategy, and Egypt vision 2030, followed by an action plan for 2015-2020. The main goals of the action plan are aligned with ICPD goals like family planning and reproductive health; health of youth and adolescents; education; and empowering women.



Dr. Carlos Echarri

Secretary-General, National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico

Dr. Carlos Echarri, in his speech, highlighted the frameworks for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. Montevideo consensus on population and development, which is a Latin America and Caribbean regional framework for the further implementation of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (1994). The first session was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 12 to 15 August 2013, and counted on the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

He referred from Montevideo Consensus as the commitment made by the delegates, to ensure sufficient financial resources and the mobilization of international cooperation resources for Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to expedite the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014; to promote cooperation between national statistical offices and the relevant bodies in the field of statistics to aid in the production and improvement of those statistics, as well as in the use of health-sector administrative records for statistical purposes; adopt a regional agenda on population and development for



Latin America and the Caribbean fully respecting the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014.

Dr. Carlos Echarri, in his presentation, emphasized south-south opportunities that Mexico offers with a long tradition in training and research in demography and population studies. He added that Mexico is providing five master degrees and one doctorate level fulltime scholarships to young professionals from developing countries.

Dr. Echarri concluded by stressing the role of Centers of Excellence like the Mexican global center of excellence in gender statistics under the auspices of UN Women and seizes the increasing demand for capacity building for SDGs indicators and exchange of information. He also underscored about the academic and institutional strengths; spatial analysis, Time Use, longitudinal approaches, and probabilistic population projections and more to improve the population situation globally.



H.E. Ms. Susan Shabangu Honorable Minister of Social Development of South Africa

At the outset of her intervention, H.E. Ms. Susan Shabangu who is also Secretary of PPD Board thanked Dr. Natalia Kanem, ED of UNFPA for resuming cooperation with PPD through signing the MoU and IP agreement and acknowledged the role that played by UNFPA as one of the co-founding architects of PPD. Ms. Shabangu highlighted the role of PPD's national SSC focal person like Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) as a key actor in the country level for promoting SSC and urged for their capacity building in line with the recent PPD-UNFPA survey recommendation.



H.E. Ms. Susan also highlighted South Africa's progress in Achieving ICPD and SDGs, particularly on the population policy impact on improving the lives of youth and adolescent. In South Africa, several national policies are geared towards empowering youth and adolescents to make informed choices, free of discrimination, which will enable them to lead healthy and productive lives. She also mentioned that the South African current National Youth Policy is geared towards prioritizing the needs of the youth concerning education, health and well-being, economic participation, and social cohesion. The policy is seated in addressing the identified gaps and challenges based on the circumstances faced by the youth.

H.E. Ms. Susan Shabangu also her Government's contribution to PPD and South-South Cooperation, also the scholarship the Government of South Africa providing to the PPD member countries are creating a good impact in the young professionals from developing countries.

Ms. Shabangu concluded by recommending joint efforts of UNFPA and PPD to establish "Center of Excellences" on south-south cooperation on population and development in PPD's member countries. She also recommended increasing capacity-building and training sessions in SSC for national focal persons and other government officials in developing countries, establishing a strategic framework for promoting the role of SSTC toward supporting innovation, new partnership, knowledge sharing and scaling up proven best practices to achieve the ICPD and the 2030 agendas.



Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa

Executive Director of PPD

Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director of PPD expressed his gratitude to UNFPA for the collaboration with PPD and reaffirmed towards support to UNFPA for establishing Centers of Excellence on SSC in PPD member countries as PPD has outstanding working experience with UNFPA for establishing centers of excellence in Tunisia, Indonesia, Mexico as well as in Thailand since 1994.

Mr. Adnene thanked honorable Board Members of PPD for continued support to PPD as committed by their predecessors in this 25th anniversary of the PPD and promoted South-South cooperation for the implementation of ICPD program of action. Also, he mentioned that, as an intergovernmental organization of 26 developing countries, PPD built its wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise to go further in achieving remarkable results to ensure Universal health coverage and leaving no one behind not only in its member countries but also in other developing countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.



In this year of the 25th anniversary of PPD and ICPD, Mr. Adnene showed his confidence in the brilliant future of the intergovernmental organization and in its strategic partnership with UNFPA to go forward for the achievement of our common goals including ICPD Programme of Action.

He concluded by appealing the delegates to renew their commitments and design new roadmap to present the forthcoming international inter-ministerial conference on SSC in Population and Development to be held in Tunis in October 2019.



Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov

Director, Policy and Strategy Division, UNFPA



The ministerial panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Director, Policy and Strategy Division of UNFPA. He thanked the high-level panelists for their interesting interventions and their renewed commitments to promote SSC for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and SDGs. He also thanked participants from the floor for their contributions. Dr. Alakbarov thanked the ministerial panelists and participants for making a fruitful event on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of ICPD and PPD.



Other Interventions

Prof. Hicham Nejmi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health of Morocco who reaffirmed the commitment of his Government to support PPD and promote SSC for the implementation of ICPD PoA and the SDGs.



H.E. Mr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of State for Housing of Uganda thanked UNFPA for supporting PPD to organize joint initiatives globally to promote SSC and congratulated UNFPA and PPD for a successful organization of this panel discussion during the 25th anniversary of ICPD and PPD. H. E. Baryomunsi focused the role played by Uganda in supporting PPD with the regional center and all activities in the continent.

H.E. Dr. Ernesto Pernia, Minister of Socio-Economic Planning of the Philippines, expressed interest of his government to learn from PPD Countries, namely Thailand, and share their experiences in RH/FP and population with other countries.



Mr. Quazi AKM Mohiul Islam, Additional Secretary (FW & Prog.), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh emphasized the role of Centers of Excellence in SSC in providing necessary support and transfer of technology to developing countries through capacity building and technical assistance

Views from the conference





Partners In Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation