



Partners in Population and  
Development (PPD)



National Board of Family and Population  
Ministry of Health, Tunisia



United Nations Population Fund  
(UNFPA)



ICPD25  
International Conference on  
Population and Development



## TUNIS COMMITMENTS

ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT (ICPD) AND THE PARTNERS IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PPD)

**16<sup>th</sup> International Inter-Ministerial Conference on  
South-South Cooperation in Population and Development**  
3-4 September 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

We, the Board Members of PPD, representatives of the Governments of PPD Member-Countries, representatives of non-member countries, UN agencies, including United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), other international organizations, representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the academia, gathered in Tunis, Tunisia from 3rd to 4th September 2019, for the **16<sup>th</sup> International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development: Consolidating the Gains and Reaffirming the Commitments for the Achievements of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, which is jointly organized by PPD, the Government of Tunisia, specifically the Ministry of Health, and UNFPA, adopt these Commitments.

The Inter-Ministerial Conference was held on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA) held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, and also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), the fiftieth anniversary of UNFPA, and shortly following the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2019 (BAPA+40).

The Conference focused on the specific thematic subjects concerning PPD member countries' commitments towards promoting South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a key accelerator for achieving the ICPD PoA and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; SSC for improving universal access to reproductive health and family planning services; SSC for addressing gender-based violence through sharing of best practices; SSC for harnessing demographic dividend; SSC for preventing maternal death in developing countries; and investing in Centers of Excellence as a SSC partnership vehicle;

The delegates of the inter-ministerial conference in Tunis concluded that achieving the SDGs will not be possible unless there is an understanding of the urgency of addressing the pressing population and development issues of the present and of the coming years. Promoting South-South cooperation in advancing the ICPD agenda is essential to delivering the SDGs and Agenda 2030. Hence,

### **We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference,**

**Recognized** the remarkable progress made since ICPD in promoting sound coordination between population dynamics and development, ensuring the universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, reducing maternal and child mortality, promoting women empowerment and youth development, accelerating poverty alleviation, and in ensuring healthy ageing, etc. Recognized the remarkable achievements made by PPD and its Member Countries in SSC in these areas.

**Recognized** the importance of policy dialogue, capacity building and technical cooperation, sharing of knowledge, exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices, and the adoption of such practices in expediting the achievement of the ICPD PoA and the SDGs.

**Acknowledged** that SSC has expanded its scope, provided innovative approaches for collective actions and strengthened its contribution to sustainable development. Institutionalization of SSC and its incorporation into policymaking by Southern countries is essential; thus, institutions like the Centers of Excellence for SSC in population and development are an important vehicle for SSC.

**Acknowledged** that PPD Member-Countries tend to share common views of their national strategies and priorities when faced with similar challenges. The proximity of experience is, therefore, a key catalyst in promoting capacity development of the national SSC focal persons and national taskforces.

**Acknowledged** the achievements of experience-sharing and policy dialogues that PPD facilitate by organizing a series of sixteen International Inter-Ministerial conferences on SSC in population and development, becoming a global event, with the support of its Member-Countries and UNFPA. It offers a unique global high-level platform to government officials, representatives from international community including experts to debate on critical and emerging issues in population and development. It also shares solutions to accelerate the implementation of the global population and reproductive health-related objectives including the ICPD PoA.

**Acknowledged** the achievements in human resource development cartelized by PPD and its member countries, which provided among the largest training opportunities for SSC in the world. PPD built its own office building with the contribution from its member countries, indicating the strong commitment toward SSC and recognized as a milestone in the institutionalization of SSC.

**Recognized** that the ICPD PoA is an unfinished agenda. There is still a wide gap in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including that for adolescents. Substantially, there is an unmet need for family planning and modern contraception. Maternal and child mortality remain high in many developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia. Gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all forms of violence against women are still a big challenge. While there are also emerging demographic issues to be addressed a "full and accelerated implementation of ICPD PoA" is strongly needed.

**Reaffirmed** the role of developing countries, United Nations Agencies, UN regional commissions and country teams, various foundations and donors in supporting and promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.

**Recognized** that SSC leads to more diverse opportunities for development. It is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation. Hence there is a need to enhance the developmental effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation.

**Reaffirmed** the strategic priority areas for SSC as stated in the Bali Call for Action: 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 through better health services, with particular emphasis on emerging population issues.

### **We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference,**

**Commit** to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda. PPD Member-Countries commit to take the lead among the developing countries in achieving the population and reproductive health-related goals of ICPD PoA and the SDGs by 2030.

**Commit** to integrate population dynamics into national development plans and programmes to ensure harmonious relations between population on one side and the economy, society and the environment on the other.

**Commit** to develop appropriate laws, policies, investments and innovative approaches that ensure universal access to family planning and the wider sexual and reproductive health agenda to support the initiatives for achieving the Three Zeros by 2030 as articulated by UNFPA; namely, zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilations.

**Commit** to make policies and actions to address emerging population issues including data utilization, low fertility, population ageing, and youth development for harnessing the demographic dividend. We also commit to address sexual and reproductive health and family planning services in hard-to-reach areas, in humanitarian setting and for internally displaced persons in conflict situations.

**Commit** to increase financial resources, including domestic, bilateral and multilateral funding, to increase transformational and effective SSC programs contributing to improved reproductive health, especially reducing maternal and under-five mortality in developing countries.

**Commit** to embody SSC in the specific population and reproductive health strategies and programmes. PPD Member Countries commit to implement PPD Strategic Plan for SSC (2020-2024).

**Commit** to adopt and strengthen national policies to advance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation; to enhance the capacity of national SSC taskforces, particularly that of national SSC focal persons; sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices; and technical cooperation in the field of population and development.

**Commit** to make more efforts in supporting the development of more effective Centers of Excellence on SSC for population and development.

**Call upon** UNFPA and UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and other development partners to keep and to further scale up their efforts in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.

**Call upon** Governments, UN agencies and international organizations, donors, the private sectors and other relevant stakeholders to commit for more investments to meet the needs of young people by scaling up programs for reaping the opportunity inherent in demographic dividend.

**Welcome** the upcoming Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to be held in Kenya on 12-14 November 2019 and encourage the integration of the Outcome Document of the Third China-Africa Conference on Population and Development and the Tunis Commitments with the Nairobi Summit outcome document for enhancing the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation.

**We convey** our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the people and the Government of Tunisia for the successful organization and hosting of the 16th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSC in Population and Development and the warm hospitality extended to all delegates in the historic and beautiful city of Tunis.