

17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference
on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development:
Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking stock and
looking ahead in post COVID-19 crisis

Conference Report



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Foreword

The 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development titled *Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead in Post COVID-19 Crisis*, held on 19 and 27 November and 8 December 2020. The Conference took place virtually this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, exactly one year after the Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25. During the summit the Governments and organizations made numerous commitments, among others, to end: preventable maternal deaths; unmet need for family planning; and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. Partners in Population and Development (PPD), in collaboration with the National Health Commission (NHC) of China and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has taken initiative to examine progress made particularly by PPD Member Countries and other partners in implementing these commitments and explore best ways to move forward in keeping the promise of ICPD through South-South Cooperation.



The Conference offered an excellent opportunity to policymakers, subject specialists, youth activists and professionals from PPD member countries, partners and stakeholders from across the world to share their views, thoughts, approaches and experiences in integrating Nairobi Commitments into their annual plans and translate them into concrete actions, despite the difficult circumstances caused by COVID-19, which formidably challenged the health systems in all countries and forced reorientation of their programmatic and fiscal priorities.

The 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development concluded with a Call for Action exhorting PPD Member States, UN Agencies, partners and stakeholders to fulfill their commitments, advocate increasingly for promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) through sharing of best practices, developing youth-inclusive COVID-19 responses and increase investments on health including reproductive health, family planning and population.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the Honorable Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators of PPD Member States, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNSSC) and to the Gillespie Foundation for their generous technical and financial contributions to the success of the Conference. I wish also to thank wholeheartedly the Young Panelists who reiterated their fullest and continued engagement to the Nairobi Summit Commitments and demonstrated their spontaneous involvement and collective support to contribute to our work.

Last but not least, the 17th International and Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development would not have been successful without the hard work and dedication of PPD Secretariat Staff, who have challenged the debilitating adversity imposed by COVID-19 Pandemic and ensured all necessary preparations in place in a very highly professional manner and under the “New Normal” situation.

Adnene Ben Haj Aissa
Executive Director

Introduction

The global pandemic COVID-19 has had a profound impact on women, adolescents and elderly population in how they access and utilize SRH services including unmet needs for family planning and maternal and child health. COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated gender-based violence and created additional challenges everywhere in the world that hindered the advance towards the achievement of the Nairobi Summit Commitments, particularly the Three Zeros objectives.

There is an urgent need to identify the solutions in population and development and reproductive health for countries in the South during and at post-COVID-19. In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and address the COVID-19 impact, it is important for developing countries to adopt and strengthen national policies to advance SSTC, and to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national coordinating mechanisms, as appropriate, in order to improve policy coordination, sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices, and the adaptation of such practices that also encouraged by the outcome document of the BAPA+40 UN Conference held in March 2019 in Buenos Aires.

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery efforts have to mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, capitalizing on their creativity and enthusiasm to build back better and stronger. From the onset of the pandemic, young people started to meaningfully engage as service providers, educators and change agents among their peers, communities and their countries. Policy makers need to provide more opportunities for young people to contribute as young professionals, mobilizers and activists. They should include them in key consultations and decision-making processes, listening to and integrating their views and suggestions when planning for and implementing the collective response to COVID-19. The engagement of youth in formal political mechanisms contributes to more effective and sustainable policies, helps to restore young people's trust in governance mechanisms and processes during these trying times.

The challenges that humanity is currently facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic require concerted national action, global solidarity and meaningful engagement of young people to be addressed. The power of new technologies and modes of communication have been crucial dimensions in transforming young people's engagement and how their voices are much more easily expressed and amplified in countries of the South. Since these countries host a large proportion of the world's youth. Involving young people in conceptualizing and planning will be critical to advance progress to achieve sustainable development and ensure that no one will be left behind.

Partners in Population and Development (PPD), National Health Commission of China (NHC) and UNFPA have jointly organized the 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development on two technical sessions and one ministerial meeting to facilitate an exchange among Southern countries to support and accelerate proactive engagement of high level political leaders including ministers, experts and youth to advocate for and implement innovative programs for the full achievement of the ICPD unfinished business during and at post-COVID-19 era. The sessions were dedicated to discuss experiences, share successful examples on integrating appropriate policies, implementing programs, engaging youth in advocacy and leveraging innovation to achieve ICPD25 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the context of COVID-19. This conference includes three sessions:

1. Implementation of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in post-COVID-19 era
2. Youth Engagement through South-South Cooperation in Advocacy and Innovative Programming
3. Promoting South-South Cooperation for Attaining Nairobi Commitments and the Agenda 2030

Aim of the first Session was to renew momentum towards the achievement of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in a post-COVID-19 era. This session discussed the following issues:

- What thus far is the progress towards the Commitments, and challenges ahead?
- How has the pandemic affected the drive to achieve the ICPD PoA?
- How can we strengthen the capacity of health systems in post-COVID-19 using the knowledge, lessons learned and technical partnerships through SSC?
- How to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms for stepping up South-South and triangular cooperation

Second session objective was to reinvigorate and expand meaningful youth engagement and leadership through South-South cooperation to push forward the ICPD agenda on all fronts. It has highlighted the following aspects:

- Provide a platform for young people to advocate for the ICPD and share the main achievements and the challenges remaining;
- Discuss the importance of investing in youth to achieve sustainable development;
- Mainstream young peoples' voices, and showcase their actions and initiatives for people-centered, equitable and innovative engagement and contributions, including during the COVID-19;
- Discuss the role of innovation, technology, creativity, data, youth voices and collective action in amplifying results and scaling up progress through South-South cooperation to deliver on the promises of Cairo and the SDGs.

Last, the Ministerial session's objective was to advocate and ensure political support and investment to address the effects of COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve Three Zeros by 2030 through promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Ministerial session focused mainly on the following issues:

- Integrating Nairobi Summit commitments into national development plan
- Impact of COVID-19 on health system, particularly on SRH services
- Analysis of needs around domestic investments in response to COVID-19 crisis
- Promote SSC for global advocacy, sharing knowledge, technical cooperation and capacity development

All the three sessions brought technical experts, political leaders, youth groups, policymakers national partner-agencies, collaborating UN agencies, INGOs/NGOs, civil society organizations, media and academia together to innovate and establish action-driven solutions to address the critical challenges that countries of the South are facing while working to attain the SDGs.

The Conference concluded with the adoption of a **Call for Action** by the governments and other participants. The Call for Action drafted through consultation among PPD member countries and UNFPA.

Summary of Proceedings

Session 1: Implementation of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in post-COVID-19 era

This session was held on 19 November 2020 and was inaugurated with remarks made by Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director of PPD who stated that the 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference will look forward to achieving three major objectives: momentum renewed towards the achievement of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in a post-COVID-19 context; reinvigorate and expand meaningful youth engagement and leadership through South-South cooperation to push forward the ICPD agenda on all fronts; advocate and ensure political support and investment to address the effects of COVID-19 pandemic in the achievement of the Three Zeros by 2030 through promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Mr. Adnene highlighted the remarkable progress made by all nations in achieving ICPD Program of Action but stated that efforts are still needed to fulfill the promise of ICPD. Mr. Adnene highlighted that enhanced cooperation and partnerships across countries offer an effective avenue for building more capacity to create and implement joint development solutions, being more important than ever in the new era of post COVID-19 and that South-South Cooperation (SSC) is gaining momentum in achieving sustainable development goals. He expressed that a better understanding for South-South cooperation is required to measure its contribution to the progress and development of southern countries. Mr. Adnene concluded by urging participants to take benefit from this unique platform offered by the Conference to share with and learn from each other's experiences. The introductory remarks of Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa are available through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i67EYEwNR74>



Speakers make their interventions during the panel discussions in session 1

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Partnerships, UNOSSC moderated the session. Mr. Tarik emphasized that South-South Cooperation which received an important impetus with BAPA+40, is needed more than ever today in the achievement of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the post COVID-19 period. Innovative approaches need to be developed, knowledge sharing and capacity building to be expanded to promote SSC and PPD has this platform through its member countries as said Mr. Tarik. The intervention is available through this link.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mauVnKzQDEQ>

In his keynote presentation, **Mr. Mabingue Ngom**, Regional Director, UNFPA, West and Central Africa Regional Office, Senegal highlighted many crucial issues on promoting SSTC. As he said that South-South Cooperation has had a major positive impact on maintaining systems up and running. We must leverage South-South and Triangular Cooperation that goes beyond traditional cooperation to achieve more, such as what is currently being done for the research for a vaccine on COVID-19. We must, therefore, act together through a global, all-encompassing partnership between countries of the South and countries of the North.



Achievements of South-South and Triangular Cooperation must also be promoted and shared. For

instance, the concepts of contact-tracing were developed and applied first in developing countries. Those strategies and approaches have inspired the response in developed countries. Global solidarity is vital, South-South and Triangular Cooperation is crucial in the success of future initiatives as Mr. Ngom emphasized during his presentation. The keynote address of Mr. Ngom is available through this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRAqvKX5tw8>

As high level panelist **Dr. Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez**, Board Member of PPD, and Secretary-General, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO, Mexico) stated that her Government made commitments and taken necessary action to reduce maternal deaths, particularly those caused by unsafe abortions and warranting access to comprehensive health attention, emergency contraception methods, legal interruption of pregnancy (ILE). Dr. Gabriela also mentioned about the national strategy of Mexico to



prevent teen pregnancy focusing on sexual violence against girls, and emphasized on strengthen health services towards universalization, based on a human rights approach. Ms. Gabriela's presentation is available through this link.

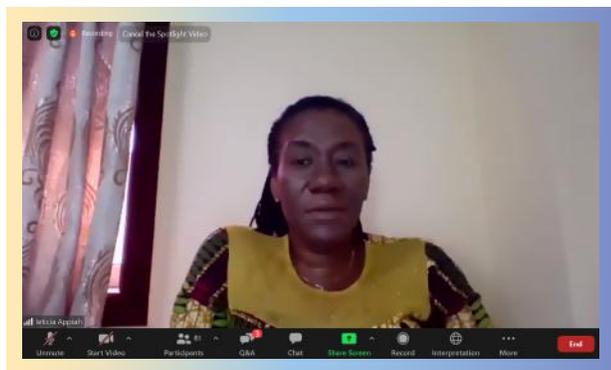
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buCQbdSXWkQ>

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rizal Martua Damanik, Deputy for Training, Research and development, National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPPB-BKKBN), Indonesia in his presentation brought the examples of Indonesia experiences on policy level intervention and commitments to achieve Three Zeros of Nairobi commitments. He mentioned that Indonesia has continued to update its recognized and applicable health protocols, study available literature, and adjust policies and strategies to make sure that the delivery of public services is maintained.



Indonesia's attainment of the ICPD program of actions and the 2030 SDGs is a national priority as these agendas have been articulated in national development planning document. The intervention of Prof. Damanik is available through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVw4ZRDpf3M>



Dr. Letitia Adelaide Appiah, the Board Member of PPD, and Executive Director, National Population Council of Ghana mentioned in her presentation that the Government of Ghana focused on evidence based actions driven solutions to address the critical challenges for attaining the Three Zeros of Nairobi commitments. Teenage pregnancy of Ghana is 14% and very high the unmet need of family planning those need to be address so strategically, efficiently and coordinated manner as Dr. Appiah said. The presentation is available through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmfN3FTbQkw>

Technical Session 2: Session 2: Youth Engagement through South-South Cooperation in Advocacy and Innovative Programming

The Technical Session two was held on 27 November 2020, carried an important perspective with youth engagement in responding to COVID-19 to advance progress to achieve Three Zeros and the sustainable development in order to ensure no one is left behind. The theme of the session was “Youth Engagement through South-South Cooperation in Advocacy and Innovative Programming”. The engagement of youth in formal political mechanisms contributes to more effective and sustainable policies, whilst at the same time helping to restore young people’s trust in governance mechanisms and processes during challenging times. The youth session was moderated by youth representative **Mr. Gaoshan Junjian** from UNFPA, China has moderated the session.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hs0QK9gFjA>



Speakers make their intervention during the panel discussion in session 2

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP, Honorable Minister for Social Development, Government of South Africa, and Secretary, PPD Board (newly elected as Chair of PPD Board (2021-23) has made keynote presentation. In her speech, she highlighted the necessity for young people of developing countries to play actual and participatory roles in determining the future and progress of their countries. H.E. Ms. Zulu also stated that the youth constitute the largest and ablest sector of our global population, yet many are still overlooked in the design, implementation, and monitoring of youth programmes. Any policy or action which seeks to marginalize youth can only retard the development of our nations. We must therefore make efforts in ensuring that the talents of our youth are positively engaged in the process of working towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

H.E. Ms. Zulu said that since we have committed ourselves in the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind, and other related frameworks, in particular, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Programme of Action for Youth, we also commit in both words and deeds to the optimal fulfilment of our youths' political, social, cultural, economic and educational aspirations and we dare to say that the future belongs to them. Further she said that the South Africa is committed to promote South-South Cooperation on adolescent and youth issues, in particular, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, which include abortion rights, including Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and gender non-conforming persons. We need to share experiences and ideas of innovative ways of engaging young people more effectively. Resolutely we must commit to young engagement H.E. Ms. Zulu said. The Keynote address of H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu is available at the following link.



 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSqRe60lfwc>



Mr. Gaoshan Junjian from UNFPA China as moderator emphasized that member countries and other relevant stakeholders to develop COVID-19 response and recovery plans that are youth-inclusive and youth-focused and continue to adopt a youth-centered approach and ensure meaningful participation beyond this crisis.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hs0QK9gFJA>

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, Secretary General's Youth Envoy in her video documents presentation expressed that young people play vital and important role to achieve SDGs by 2030. Youth are change maker in any society. COVID-19 pandemic increases challenges globally in all the sectors and also more young people are affected. However, young people build resilience to support to addressing COVID-19 challenges and to support economic, social and health sectors development. As Ms. Wickramanayake says that 90% of 1.8 billion of young people living in developing countries. Partnerships and South-South Cooperation is key for transform and positive change by 2030. Also she flagged on how young people is playing a very vital role for achieving sustainable development goals. SSC is powerful tools for achieving SDG. Investing in youth is important and need to invest in youth for achieving SDGs by 2030 said Ms. Wickramanayake. Her statement is available through this link.

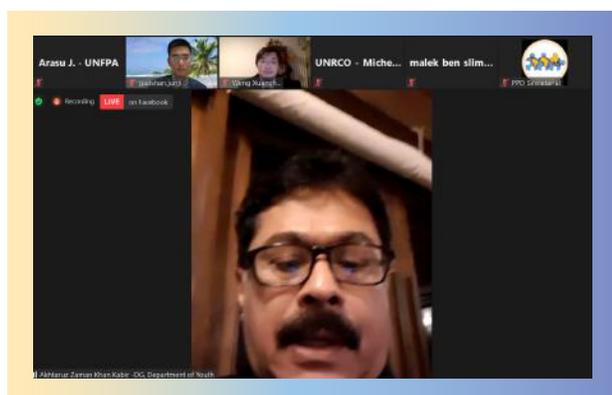


 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHoqmmWxUnA>

Ms. Michele Belfor, Youth Activist, Suriname as panelists made her statements focusing the contribution of the youth to the achievement of ICPD and the SDGs. Young people can play a vital role in addressing sexual and reproducing health issues, therefore, expanding meaningful youth engagement is so important to push forward the ICPD agendas, mentioned by Ms. Belfor. She urges youth group to engage and participate in decision making and implementation process. Intervention of Ms Belfor is available through this link.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PAS2-62-sc>



A high level Government official as policy maker of youth, **Mr. Aktaruzzaman Khan Kabir**, Director General, Directorate of Youth and Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh has presented the Bangladesh experiences on how the government engaged youth for their development and contribution to nation building. Mr. Kabir mentioned that the role of youth in achieving zero Gender Based Violence and early marriage through promoting South-South cooperation can be mobilized by using the different departments of the governments. Youth can voluntarily build awareness among the people

about the catastrophic effect of the GBV and early marriage in the society. The youth engagement is necessary to overcome such trauma. Mr. Kabir suggested that every governments of southern countries must come up with some realistic approach to involve the youth in the fight against early marriage and violence against women. His presentation is available through this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u45lek7LxH0>

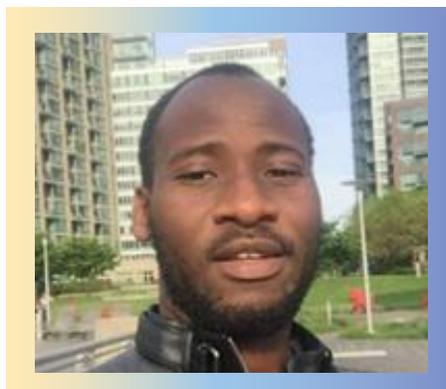
Mr. Weng Xuanchen, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China a youth leader from public university has suggested that the youth group must engage in society building and contribute to the society. Mr. Weng mentioned about how bravely the Chinese youth worked during the pandemic time. However, he also brought the examples from The China Youth Network (CYN) that how CYN has been playing a very influential role in promoting adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and it is well recognized and supported by the society. The full intervention of Mr Weng is available through this link.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L71F1WYQmIM>

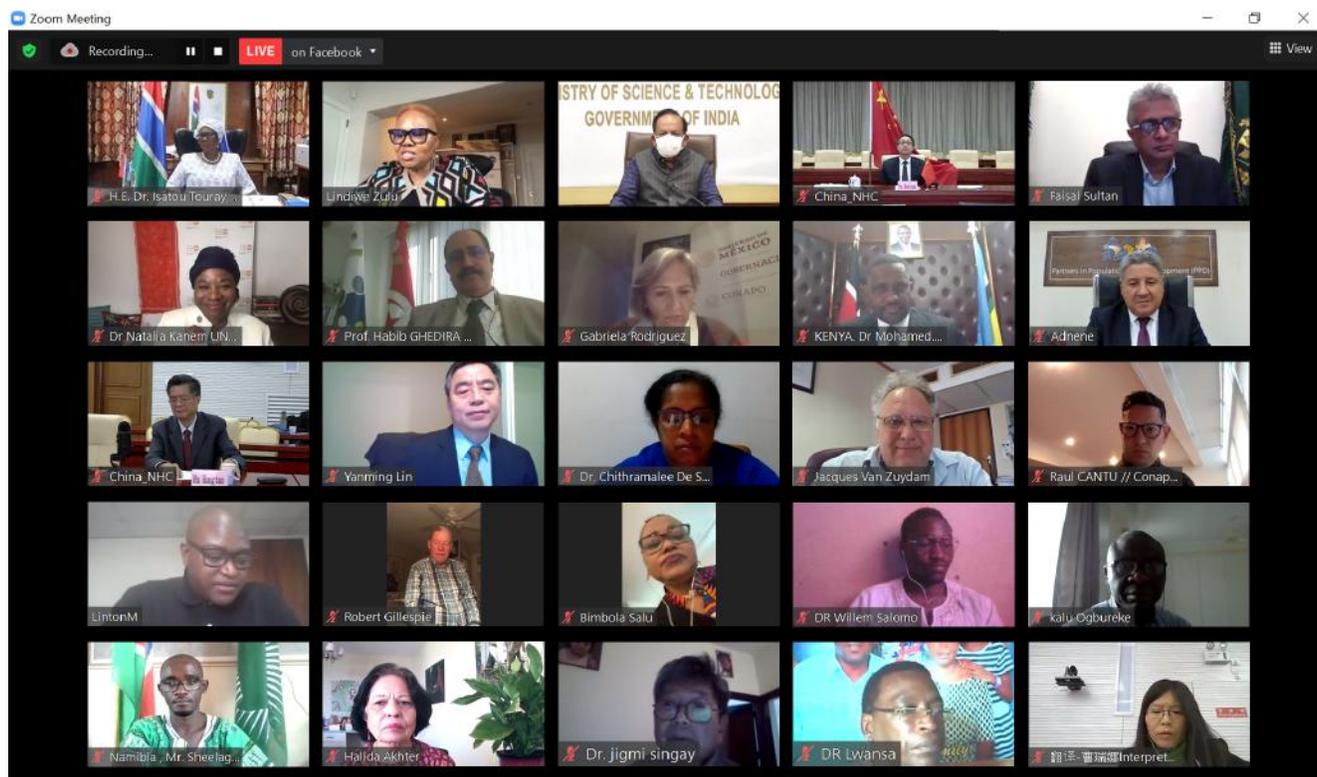
Mr. Ramanou Djawad a youth panelist from the UNFPA, Benin focused on youth' uses of technology as globally 47% of youth uses more than one social media account. He believes that using such modern technology youth can contribute to achieve SDGs by amplifying sexual reproductive health. Emerging technology will obviously impact on the youth healthcare. His video presentation is available through this link.

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo_Wdn228H4



Ministerial Session: Promoting South-South Cooperation for Attaining Nairobi Commitments and the Agenda 2030

The Ministerial session was held on 8 December 2020 which was the heart of the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSC. This session mainly represents PPD member countries ministerial reconfirmations and actions for the Nairobi Summit Commitments. It is a unique ministerial powerful global platform led by ministers of the countries. The ministers from three BRICS countries attended and reconfirmed their Nairobi Commitments and reaffirmed to further support to PPD in promoting SSC for attaining ICPD and SDGs by 2030.



High level political leaders and policy makers speak at Ministerial session

Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director of PPD stated in his introductory remarks that COVID-19 is placing unprecedented strain on Health and economic system, threatening decades of progress toward equity, health care and nutrition for women and children across the world. Mr. Adnene highlighted that the august presence and contributions of the PPD Members and the UNFPA Executive Director, which bears the gleaming testimony of the unwavering commitment of the member countries and longstanding solid partnership between PPD and UNFPA. The PPD and UNFPA partnership commenced right at the inception of PPD during ICPD in 1994. He emphasized that UNFPA is one of the founding architects of PPD that also fostered the organization at its formative stages, immensely contributed to transform PPD into a robust Inter-Governmental Organization to promote effective South-South and Triangular Cooperation for strengthening population and RH/FP policies and programs in the developing countries. Mr. Adnene urge to the members for continuing and further consolidate partnership in the Post COVID 19 era to achieve the Three Zeros and accelerate the ICPD Promise and 2030 Agenda within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The introductory remarks are available through this link.



 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tg-991G4Uro>

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP, Honorable Minister for Social Development, Government of South Africa, and Secretary, PPD Board moderated the session and made her statement during the session. As a newly elected Chair (2021-23) of PPD she had urged UNFPA to make partnerships with PPD for expedite the progress of achieving Three Zeros and SDGs 2030 agenda fighting with COVID-19. H.E. Ms. Zulu, MP on behalf of the Governments of the PPD member Countries expressed her sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Natalia Kanem for her leadership, great efforts and contributions to the global population related agenda. H.E. Ms. Zulu thanked Dr. Kanem and the United Nations Population Fund for their considerable contributions and support to PPD since the launching of our organization in 1994 during the ICPD and still continuing with the conviction that both organizations are bringing changes and improvements for developing country's programs in RH/FP and population through effective and transformational South-South and Triangular cooperation activities.



H.E. Ms. Zulu invited the panelists to discuss the issues include: integrating Nairobi Summit commitments into national development plan to achieve the Three Zeros and the 2030 Agenda; impact of COVID-19 on health system, particularly on SRH services; analysis of needs around domestic investments in response to COVID-19 crisis; promote SSC for global advocacy, sharing knowledge, technical cooperation and capacity development towards achieving Three Zeros. H.E. Ms. Zulu stated that this session is mainly advocate and ensure political support and investment to address the effects of COVID-19 pandemic in the achievement of the Three Zeros by 2030 through promoting South-South and Triangular cooperation.

H.E. Ms. Zulu urged UNFPA for continuing collaboration for the next years and work hand-in-hand to implement the Nairobi Commitments in the Post COVID19 era. As newly elected Chair of PPD, H.E. Ms. Zulu expressed her commitments to extend the support and assistance to all PPD member countries, to UNFPA and all their Partners for the promotion of South-South Cooperation. The statement is available through this link.

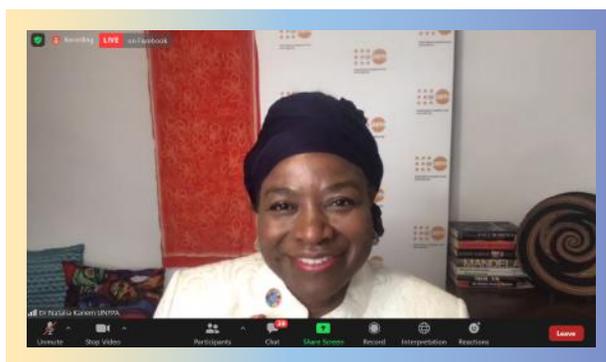
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tBjDFHH5Tg>

The opening remarks during ministerial session was made by **H.E. Dr. Yu Xuejun**, Vice Minister, National Health Commission, Government of China who reaffirmed his country's commitments for SSC and achieving Nairobi Commitments in order to expedite the progress of SDGs by 2030 during and post COVID-19. H.E. Dr. Xuejun emphasize that we need to promote SSC for achieving ICPD, but we are facing with a new pandemic COVID-19 that has big challenges in the current development era. China Government has implemented series of activities to promote SSC and achieve SDGs. China supported to strengthen PPD through constructing its building complex as well as it has contributed a project through SSCAF to implement in Bangladesh for reducing maternal deaths. He also stated that China is continued to support developing countries in controlling spread of COVID-19 including training to doctors and front line medical workers. He further said that his government will continue to integrate population and development to its plan and will increase government's invest in population development. It will have continued to support developing countries to address COVID-19 challenges. Finally, H.E. Dr. Xuejun urges that together and diversify support among developing countries for promoting SSC, exchanging knowledge, sharing technical expertise, the developing countries can address the COVID-19 challenges and can achieve Three Zeros. The Video intervention of H.E. Dr. Xuejun is available through this link.



 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJrZQ2fjlqM>

Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA has made keynote address during the Ministerial Session. Dr. Kanem stated that since 1994 UNFPA as Champion of ICPD leveraging progress to achieve ICPD. She thanks 27 member countries and others who joining together to support each other to achieve ICPD. Dr. Kanem said that we can see the leadership development from President to grassroots levels leaderships to address SRH issues and to reach the services to all. Everyone has resources and we need to utilized them to transform 3 zeros since Nairobi Summit. COVID 19 is greatest test since establishment of UN which is deepening inequality everywhere. Women and children are more affected due to COVID-19. This pandemic also is an

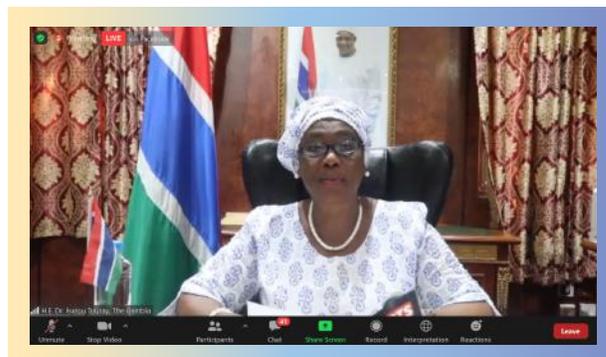


opportunity to learning together for addressing the problems. UNFPA continued to support to prevent COVID-19. We should know who is left behind and why as Dr. Kanem said? Policy makers and partners need to address COVID-19. Older persons, refugee and migrants, women, girls, young people remained more vulnerable, and we need to come together to support others.

Dr. Kanem emphasized that single stick breaks easily but bundle together unbreakable, in unity there is strength. SSC is not new to us, it is continued to promote SSC, in March 2019 during BAPA40, UNFPA reconfirmed on SSC actions and in July 2020, UN Secretary General Issued the United Nation's systematic strategies for SSC and we will implement together with you. January 2021, UNFPA will share the independent evaluation report with all members' states, the results formatted evaluation on SSC. Informed by the evidence results and recommendations of that evaluation, UNFPA certainly strengthen SSC in our upcoming next Strategic Plan 2022-25, so that all of us realize more potential as a tool to achieve ICPD and SDGs. Dr. Kanem called for continued partnerships and engagement as we journey together to reach our shared goals, achieve 3 transformative Zeros and to build back better green and bluer for all. The Keynote address is available through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIbTOWqCWEQ>

The Honorable Vice President of Government of the Gambia **H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray** and the Board Member of PPD made her statement and invited UNFPA to make aggressive efforts to achieve Three Zeros by partnering with PPD during and post COVID-19. Honorable Vice President in her statement said that the IIMC is a stepping stone for achieving Nairobi Commitments. Gambian Government is committed to reduce maternal mortality. It has also committed to achieve Three Zeros and therefore the Government has taken different initiatives.



H.E. Dr. Isatou also thanked PPD for documentation of “kaabilo baama and male action group as a best practice for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH)” which is an important intuitive for the Gambian Government to reduce maternal mortality. H.E. Dr. Isatou said that there are lots to be done by 2030 to achieve SDGs. South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. We welcome efforts by individual country from domestic source, multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and development institutions to increase financial resources to promote South-South cooperation, where appropriate, including for the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition. SSC can increase sharing of experiences and technology to support other countries. UNFPA should responds to support countries to promote SSC to address Three Zeros. We will learn each other to achieve three zeros and SDGs by supporting each other through SSC. The statement is available through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgFj1k8pGEA>

H.E. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Honorable Minister, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and Vice-Chair of PPD Board (he was also Chair of WHO), in his statement renewed his government's commitment for achieving Three Zeros through promoting SSC. India also urge that there is no shortcut method to achieve ICPD and SDGs by 2030, SSC can be effective method to achieve SDGs. India is committed to achieve 3 Zeros, and committed to reduce maternal mortality and meet unmet needs for family planning. It has committed to access all relevant couples with modern methods through strong advocacy and services. To achieve SDGs and MMR 70 by 2030 India took several initiatives. It has invested USD 200 million to improve SRH services.



COVID-19 is a critical challenge to all countries in the world, we know that, we need to response. India is one of the first country which took first measures to prevent COVID-19. It is an opportunity to strengthen health system to prevent any pandemic like COVID-19 as said HE Dr. Vardhan in his statement. Adequate health financing is important to achieve SDGs. India taken initiative for universal health coverage. It has ensured services for all women and children, adolescent and young people. Community based healthcare services developed. Adolescent and youth are prioritized to access services. Strengthening the FP services, advocacy and monitoring were the highest priority in the country. Adequate measures have been taken to prevent COVID-19 in India. Technological support of partner's agency and other are essential and to be ensured. This COVID-19 created opportunity how to make better health system to prevent any pandemic like COVID-19.

H.E. Dr. Vardhan stated that PPD can play a crucial role to ensure health for all. Active engagement for members will be a priority for all to strengthen SSC and PPD. UNFPA need to take more initiatives for partnerships and PPD can be potential partners to be used for global advocacy in strategic changes, particularly reducing maternal mortality, unmet need and violence against women including early marriage. The statement is shared through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGCGyqUC1RY>

Prof. Habib Ghedira, President, Director-General, National Board for Family and Population, Ministry of Health, Government of Tunisia and Treasurer of PPD Board, stated that the Nairobi Summit Commitments have contributed to strengthen the reproductive health and rights for women. Over the last decades, Tunisia has achieved many successes in promoting women's rights, including access to health, education, labor and other economic and development sectors. The adoption of the Law on prevention from Gender Based Violence constituted the unique achievement among the Arab Countries. Despite the COVID 19 Pandemic, Tunisia, through the National Board of Family and Population and other health structures, have ensured RH/FP services to all population including youth and adolescents, one of the commitments made in Nairobi to ensure Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health Coverage. Prof Ghedira concluded by reaffirming the renewed commitment of the Government



of Tunisia, founding member of PPD and First Chair of its Board, to the principles of South-South Cooperation and urged UNFPA to continue its technical and financial support to PPD for the achievement of the ICPD agenda. The statement is available through this link.

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxDU_-kelk8



Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez, Board Member of PPD, and Secretary-General, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO, Mexico), Secretaría de Gobernación Technical, Mexico urged in her statements to ensure financial and technical supports towards women empowerments, sexual reproductive health adolescents health and maternal health in order to attain Nairobi summit commitments. The presentation is shared through this link.

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKc_6jx87OM

The host country of Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25 represented by **Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh**, Honorable Member, PPD Board and Director General National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Government of Kenya appealed in his statement that without partnerships, collaboration and financial and technical support between countries and from donors Nairobi commitments may not be achieved as the COVID-19 affected whole health system globally. Leveraging SSC in the context of COVID-19 to address problems related to MMR and SRHS. SSC in Kenya integrated as key of achieving Nairobi Commitments. The Kenyan Government is committed to achieve Three Zeros. During the summit 8 billion USD were mobilized. SSC financial mechanism can provide new medicines, and commodities to all to safe people life. It can address common problems in developing countries said Dr. Sheikh. Kenya support SSC for international solidarity and to achieve SDGs. Sharing experiences with countries to win COVID-19 is important tools.



Dr. Sheikh further said that since 1994 Kenyan Government has taken initiatives and necessary policy measures to achieve ICPD Plan of Action. After Nairobi Summit his government further taken special actions and initiatives to achieve Three Zeros. Kenya is committed to promote SSC for building national capacity, sharing knowledge and technology to achieve ICPD and SDGs. The intervention is shared through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfO8bTCLj-E>

Open Discussion

During the open discussion participants raised some of the issues based on the presentation and the speakers made their responses. Following issues were mainly highlighted:

- Integration of the Nairobi commitments into national development plans? Take concrete actions at national levels. Advocacy of SSC in population and reproductive health as part of the joint efforts to promote unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation among countries, and to build the SSC into their international cooperation programmes.
- SSC become important today when countries are facing the COVID-19 pandemic and global dramatic changes in century, and no country can win the battle against pandemic and achieve sustainable development alone.
- Increasing advocacy on the SSC population and reproductive health in their government statements on the international occasions, whenever appropriate.
- UN agencies and international organizations can promote experience sharing, knowledge exchanges and strategic dialogues for SSC in the innovative manner under the context of COVID-19 pandemic, by taking advantages of the new digital technologies for instance, online webinars and workshops, virtual meetings and social media.
- UNFPA, UNOSSC, WHO, UNICEF and other relevant UN agencies to provide appropriate technical guidance in SSC for reproductive, maternal and child health in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- PPD needs to initiate SSC activity regularly at country levels
- Strengthening research capacity and advocacy on reproductive and maternal and child health in responding to the emerging issues and challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developing COVID-19 response and recovery plans that are youth-inclusive and youth-focused and continue to adopt a youth-centered approach and ensure meaningful participation beyond this crisis.
- Increasing efforts for national capacity building on SSC for achieving the objectives of ICPD and SDGs, as COVID-19 is spreading beyond our imagination in many ways, and developing countries need to systematically upgrade the national capacity for reproductive, maternal and child health.
- International community to support SSTC, build multilateral partnerships, international solidarity and support multilateralism so as to build back better from COVID-19 for our people.
- Ensuring sustainable financing in SSC for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programmes by 2030, for fulfilling the Nairobi Summit commitments and accelerating the implementation of MCH and RH-related SDGs, and make sure that no one is left behind in these challenging and critical times

In summarizing from panel discussion, H.E. Ms. Zulu emphasized that the contribution of SSC is important to achieve Nairobi commitments and continued to track of the progress of SDG during the COVID-19 crisis and the post COVID-19 era. SSC is very relevant development strategy towards the achievement of national goals and SDGs. UNFPA and PPD need to deepening their facilitating role in promoting SSC while implement Nairobi Commitments.

There is need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South cooperation and to achieve three zeros, in this context, invite all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation through PPD, as H.E. Ms. Zulu said. Strengthen national policies

to advance South-South Cooperation, including through; sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices; and technical cooperation in the field of population and development.

H.E. Ms. Zulu encouraged UNFPA to support PPD for promoting South-South Cooperation to undertake additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more financial and in-kind resources for achieving Nairobi commitments. She conveyed appreciation and gratitude to PPD, UNFPA and NHC for excellent organization and hosting of the virtual Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Adoption of the Call for Action

Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa provided a brief background information on the preparation of the Call for Action and then invited **Dr. Hu Hongtao**, Senior Advisor to PPD on South-South Cooperation to present the salient features of the conference outcome document. Following presentation, the Call for Action of the 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development was unanimously adopted.



Chairing the session on the Call for Action, **H.E. Dr. Faisal Sultan**, Honorable Minister Federal Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Government of Pakistan urged international community including UNFPA for promoting SSC to achieve Nairobi Summit Commitments. Dr. Faisal Sultan stated that the international community assembled in Nairobi in a Global Summit on ICPD at its 25th Anniversary in November 2019, discoursed on achievements and imperatives of ICPD, expressed wide range of commitments and concluded with a set of targets to achieve them including SDGs by 2030. Most important of them were Three Zeros. While the countries were contemplating on integration of them into their national development agenda, the deadliest Pandemic of the century struck the world and forced the nations to engage their human and material resources to combat the Pandemic. He said that Pakistan had no preparedness for this unknown disease at the initial stage, but our multipronged approach with optimum use of science and technology took us to the rank of one of the most successful countries in tackling the Pandemic.



The leaders and Ministers invariably emphasized the importance of strengthening South-South Cooperation while providing remarkably visionary guidance on the design, development and implementation of exceedingly increasing programs activities in the member countries within the framework of South-South Cooperation as H.E. Dr. Faisal Sultan emphasized. The statement of H.E. Dr Faisal Sultan is shared through this link.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNPcHtxZC2o>

Annex: Call for Action

We, the Board Members of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), representatives of the Governments of PPD member countries; representatives of non-member countries, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other UN agencies, international organizations; representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), youth groups, academia and media, attended the virtual sessions of the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development: the Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead in Post COVID-19 Crisis, held on 19th & 27th November and 8th December 2020, adopt this call for action. The conference is jointly organized by PPD, the UNFPA and National Health Commission of China (NHC).

This Inter-Ministerial Conference was held one year after the Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25 and in the midst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with the objective of advocating and ensuring political support and investment to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve the "three zeros" by 2030 through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC).

The International Inter-Ministerial Conference focused on the specific thematic subjects on implementation of the Nairobi Commitments in the post COVID-19 pandemic, and accelerating meaningful youth engagement through South-South cooperation (SSC) in advocacy and innovative programming.

The Conference concluded that South-South Cooperation, which received an important impetus with BAPA+40, is needed more than ever today in the achievement of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the post COVID-19 period. Emerging issues and challenges in SSC for population and reproductive health in the achievement of the ICPD and SDGs need to be specially addressed under the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Innovative approaches need to be developed and applied at scale in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and preparedness of public systems to future crises and adapt to the "new normal" with the COVID-19.

[We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference,](#)

Recognized the importance and value of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 held in November 2019, in Kenya, for the achievement of goals of the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Reaffirmed our collective commitment to multilateralism, with the aim to promote international unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation confronting COVID-19 through effective actions.

Reaffirmed the commitments made by PPD and its member countries for accelerating the implementation of the ICPD and the commitments for achieving the "three zeros": zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030.

Recognized that the COVID-19 is one of the greatest challenges in modern history. It has brought far-reaching negative impacts on all spheres of society including poverty, health and well-being, and disruption to economic and social development of all countries, especially developing countries.

Noted with deep concerns that family planning and reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health are among the most seriously affected essential health services in countries of the South by the COVID-19 pandemic; and with countries on lockdown and household tensions heightened due to the COVID-19, sexual and gender-based violence is on the rise.

Acknowledged the remarkable progress in South-South and triangular cooperation made by PPD and its member countries in responding to COVID-19 pandemic in the aspect of family planning, reproductive and maternal health by knowledge and experience sharing, policy dialogues, best practice development, innovative project implementation, expert assistance, medical equipment and supplies donation.

Acknowledged with appreciation the great contribution made by the UNFPA, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN agencies and international organizations in promoting SSC for population and reproductive and maternal health in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expressed appreciation for the capable leadership and remarkable contribution of the PPD Chair and the other Executive Committee members made in the past six years in advancing SSTC and sound development of PPD, particularly in the aspects of institutional capacity building, including PPD office infrastructure, resource mobilization and innovative project implementation.

Recognized that young people have been playing a vital role as frontline responders in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world including through risk communication and community engagement. Concerted global action, prioritization of young people's needs, including their sexual and reproductive health, well-being and livelihoods, and meaningful participation in policy and decision making will be crucial for effective response and recovery, and for building a more inclusive, just and sustainable world. Meaningful participation of young people in all decisions that affect their health and well-being should be supported, and good practices should be encouraged and exchanged in the spirit of SSC.

Reaffirmed the particular importance of SSC of population and reproductive health in achieving the three zeros and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, as SSC provides an effective horizontal development cooperation mechanism between State and non-States actors in the health sector of developing countries, and more than ever, country-to-country learning proved its value.

Reaffirmed the relevance and value of the strategic priority areas for SSC in population and reproductive health identified in the PPD Strategic Plan (2020-2024) in the process of achieving the "three zeros" and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The seven identified priority areas are: 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; ending gender-based violence; healthy ageing; migration; and poverty alleviation with particular emphasis on emerging population issues.

Acknowledged with deep appreciation to outgoing PPD Board Chair for her dedication to the promotion of SSC among member countries and her urge during the 25th Board Meeting held on 16 October 2020 to continue its work to pursue Sustainable Development Goals; to deepening South-South Cooperation (SSC); and to support PPD's Development to address the new challenges that PPD member countries are facing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Recognized the fundamental and important role of UNFPA, WHO, UNOSSC, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant UN agencies in catalyzing and coordinating the global efforts in improving reproductive and maternal and child health, especially under the context of COVID-19.

Determined to promote the SSTC in the context of COVID-19 pandemic based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation among States and other relevant stakeholders to fully implement the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to build a community with a shared future in health for all.

We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference,

1. Call upon the member countries to integrate the Nairobi Summit commitments into national development plans and take concrete actions, based on PPD Strategic Plan (2020-2024), to fulfill the commitments through SSTC for achieving the ICPD and the SDGs set to be accomplished by 2030, with specific emphasis on achieving the three zeros and responding to emerging issues and challenges on population and reproductive health generated and to be generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Call upon the member countries to further advocate SSC in population and reproductive health , as part of the joint efforts to promote unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation among countries, and to build the SSC into their international cooperation programmes, since SSC has never been so important as it is today when countries are facing the COVID-19 pandemic and global dramatic changes in century, and no country can win the battle against pandemic and achieve sustainable development alone. Encourage the member countries to increase their advocacy on the SSC for population and reproductive health in their government statements on the international occasions, whenever appropriate.

3. Call upon the member countries to ensure its more active participation in and contribution to PPD activities and initiate at least one SSTC activity each year.

4. Call upon the member countries and relevant UN agencies and international organizations to further promote experience sharing, knowledge exchanges and strategic dialogues for SSC in the innovative manner under the context of COVID-19 pandemic, by taking advantages of the new digital technologies for instance, online webinars and workshops, virtual meetings and social media. Encourage the member countries to pay more attention to innovative approaches and give more special emphasis on new technology transfer for SSC.

5. Call upon UNFPA, UNOSSC, WHO, UNICEF and other relevant UN agencies to provide appropriate technical guidance in SSC for reproductive, maternal and child health in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, as UN agencies are recognized as trusted partners by governments and their people in technical guidance and reliable information provision.

6. Also call upon the member countries, relevant UN agencies, international organizations and academic institutions to strengthen research capacity and advocacy on reproductive and maternal and child health in responding to the emerging issues and challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Call upon the member countries and other relevant stakeholders to develop COVID-19 response and recovery plans that are youth-inclusive and youth-focused and continue to adopt a youth-centered approach and ensure meaningful participation beyond this crisis.

8. Further call upon the member countries, relevant UN agencies and international organizations to increase their efforts for national capacity building on SSC for achieving the objectives of ICPD and SDGs, as COVID-19 is spreading beyond our imagination in many ways, and developing countries need to systematically upgrade the national capacity for reproductive, maternal and child health.

9. Call upon the member countries, relevant UN agencies, international organizations, donors and other relevant stakeholders to support SSTC, build multilateral partnerships, international solidarity and support multilateralism so as to build back better from COVID-19 for our people.

10. Call upon the member countries and relevant stakeholders to ensure sustainable financing in SSC for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programmes by 2030, for fulfilling the Nairobi Summit commitments and accelerating the implementation of MCH and RH-related SDGs, and make sure that no one is left behind in these challenging and critical times.