



Republic of Kenya

PARTNERS IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PPD)

Capacity Building Workshop for the National South-South Cooperation Focal Persons (PCCs)

26 - 27 October 2021 (Virtual)

**OPENING REMARKS FOR DR. MOHAMED A. SHEIKH
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NCPD, GOVERNMENT OF
KENYA, HONOURABLE PPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BOARD MEMBER**

The Executive Director of PPD, Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa

The Director Policy and Strategy Division, UNFPA Mr Arthur Erken,

Representatives from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Representatives from Partners' Academic and Research Institutions

Partners Country Coordinators (PCCs)

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening

- ❖ I am delighted and greatly honored to join you for the Capacity Building workshop for the National South-South Cooperation Focal Persons.
- ❖ I take this opportunity to appreciate the PPD secretariat for successfully organizing this virtual workshop for the 27 Partner Country Coordinators and the support and collaboration from UNFPA.
- ❖ The aim of this workshop is two-fold; (i) to improve the capacity and skills of national SSC focal persons and other relevant officials in order to make effective responses to promote SSC in population and development and reproductive health during and post COVID-19, and (ii) to strengthen the capacity of SSC focal persons to make more significant contribution towards achieving Nairobi Summit ICPD Commitments and the SDGs 2030 agenda.
- ❖ The Global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted profoundly on the world's economy and human development posing a serious threat to attaining the progress of ICPD25 commitments and agenda 2030 highlighting the need for further investments to be made in RH, population and development. South-South Cooperation and solidarity can offer a positive route forward for the developing countries to respond to COVID-19

crisis and mitigate some of the effects of the crisis special attention to RH, population and development.

- ❖ The capacity-building program for national SSC focal persons is therefore getting more relevant than ever to reach the goal of ICPD and SDGs by addressing these gaps.
- ❖ PPD over the years, has conducted capacity building program for National SSC Focal Persons with the aim of improving their skills and abilities in conducting SSC activities in their countries for the implementation of the PPD Strategic framework. Increased capacities of Partner Country Coordinators represents a unique pool of National SSC Focal Persons which will greatly assist developing countries to address a wide spectrum of challenges across the globe and solidarity building among many issues affecting the global south.
- ❖ The national SSC focal persons need better capacity building for greater contribution towards achieving national Nairobi Summit Commitments and the SDGs 2030 agenda. The Government of Kenya is committed to promoting South-South Cooperation and through the leadership of the National Council for Population and Development, a National Taskforce was constituted to track the implementation of the ICPD Nairobi Commitments. We have published so far, two Annual National reports (2020 and 2021) on the implementation of Nairobi commitments. The reports re-affirm the Country's commitment to promoting South-South cooperation as accelerator in RH, population and development for achieving ICPD and Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) can be maximized and leveraged for the health and demographic outcomes during and post the COVID-19 crisis. South-South Cooperation (SSC) promotes networking, the exchange of expertise, good practices and experiences, knowledge sharing, technical assistance, capacity building, innovation and investment to facilitate development. Sharing of this expertise and experience among developing countries help to enrich and strengthen the entire range of their RH and population-related policies and programs. In the last several decades member countries have acquired considerable expertise in design and

implementation of highly successful and effective national FP and RH policies and programmes as a way of stimulating and strengthening SSC.

- ❖ PPD is also in the process of establishing impactful “Centres of Excellence” in Population and Development in PPD member countries for effective knowledge management and sharing, capacity building and training programmes, research, innovation, scale-up of best practices on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development and translation of ICPD and SDGs agendas into policies and programs.
- ❖ The national SSC focal persons are the engine of promoting SSTC at national, regional and international levels. Sustainable SSC at national level is only possible if the capacity of the focal persons is strengthened in promoting SSTC.
- ❖ I therefore, declare the capacity building workshop for the National SSC Focal Persons officially opened.

Thank You.