

Introductory remarks by Minister Lindiwe Zulu:

Session Two: High level session on the status of implementation and the future of the ICPD PoA through the lens of South – South and Triangular Cooperation

1. Thank President Mnangagwa for his very bold opening remarks, and particularly the inspiration that we can draw from Zimbabwe's initiatives to find African solutions for African problems.
2. The President spoke of progress with the empowerment of women, and innovation hubs for youth development. These are excellent examples of the things we have to do to reap the demographic dividend in the global south.
3. Also thank Ms Lydia Zigomo, Regional Director of the UNFPA, for the important work that UNFPA does in our region and the other regions of the world to galvanise our shared commitment to the empowerment of women, gender equality and equity, and to reap the demographic dividend through youth development in national and regional programmes, as well as through South South and Triangular cooperation.
4. Express appreciation for the foresight of the organisers, i.e. PPD, the UNFPA and the Government of Zimbabwe, to have recognized the importance of South – South and Triangular Cooperation as the "lens" through which we should take stock of our progress with, and indeed the future of the ICPD Programme of Action.
5. The global order as established during the centuries of colonization can never create a more equal and equitable world for all its people. That we have learned through our struggles for national liberation in the last century, and we are reminded of it every day when we look

at the performance of population and development indicators across different countries and regions.

6. South – South Cooperation is important because it's a tangible way for us as developing countries to demonstrate our solidarity with each other. It's also a vehicle through which to learnt from each other because our governments and our people are facing similar challenges.
7. South – South Cooperation was recognized as an important pathway to development in the ICPD Programme of Action when it was negotiated in 1994. The founding Members of the PPD decided in Cairo to give immediate expression to this recognition by forming our organization. The fact that we are holding our 20th International Inter-Ministerial Conference in preparation for our 30th anniversary, as part of the 30th year of the ICPD Programme of Action underscores the relevance of South – South and Triangular Cooperation.
8. The purpose of this session is to share our experiences that are relevant to the session's theme, as related by Ministers / Deputy Ministers and senior government officials. Often we pay lip service to the call for "political commitment". This panel is a demonstration of political commitment.
9. The ball will be set in motion with an update on the global ICPD30 review process by Mr Arthur Erken, the UNFPA's director for policy and strategy. Thereafter I will invite the panelists each to share their views and their countries' activities and plans.