

Report on A High-Level Thematic Consultation Leading to ICPD30



**20th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and
Triangular Cooperation in Population and Development**

Date: 09-10 October 2023

Foreword

The 20th International Inter-ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Population and Development was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 09-10 October 2023. It was a very high-level political gathering under the leadership of PPD jointly with UNFPA that forwarded the inputs to the ICPD30 celebration in NY2024.

The IIMC on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Population and Development 2023 was officially opened by **His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe**. The keynote remarks were delivered by the **Honorable Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development, Government of South Africa, and the Chair of the PPD Board**.

The IIMC is a global South-south peer review forum led by Partners in Population and Development to rejuvenate the political commitment of the ICPD Programme of Action, within the context of the country's needs to accelerate the achievement of ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This forum provides political and financial momentum for southern countries to fulfill the unfinished business of the ICPD PoA focusing on the emerging reproductive health and population and development issues including climate change and migration.

The 20th IIMC culminated with a “**Declaration**” for the road to ICPD@30 and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The experts noticed that the world is facing multiple critical catastrophes, such as the lingering effects of the pandemic which affected the world socially, and economically and resulted in a weak health system, high levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. The world scenario of progress in achieving SDGs is only about 15%, the majority of the targets are either stagnated or regressed as reported by the UN Secretary General’s report.

PPD and UNFPA acknowledged the contribution of the Government of Zimbabwe for hosting and opening the 20th IIMC in the presence of His Excellency President of Zimbabwe. Both organizations are thankful to the participants, speakers, and experts who provided valuable inputs for developing and adopting the “Victoria Falls Declaration” leading to ICPD30.

Oliver Zambuko

Officer in Charge

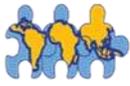
Partners in Population and Development

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Background

At the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, representatives of 179 governments gathered in Cairo and adopted the ICPD Programme of Action, which recognized reproductive health and the empowerment of women and gender equality as pillars of sustainable development. Twenty-five years later, in November 2019, the Nairobi Summit, also known as ICPD+25, was held in Nairobi, Kenya, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Cairo Conference at the same time the international community was working towards meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It was a platform for the governments and other organizations to voluntarily announce unequivocal strategic and programmatic commitments – including the financial ones – to accelerate the progress towards achieving the unfinished ICPD Agenda. The Summit was also a success in unanimously adopting Three Transformative Goals demonstrating unshakable resolve for addressing maternal deaths, unmet family planning services, and gender-based violence. The 173 governments represented in the Nairobi Summit, including 27 PPD member states, made national commitments in the following five areas: universal access to sexual and reproductive health; financial resources to finish the ICPD Program of Action; demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development; gender-based violence and the harmful practices of child, early and forced marriages including female genital mutilation; and right to sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian and fragile settings.

The Nairobi Summit Outcomes provided a global framework for the formulation of policies by the governments and development partners. It urged all stakeholders who have made concrete commitments to ensure the full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strongly encouraged to report periodically on the progress towards fulfilling these commitments through transparent means and/or inappropriate public fora. However, following the Nairobi Summit, the world faced severe challenges from the global COVID-19 pandemic and countries are still struggling to recover from its unanticipated negative social and economic impacts. The challenges have caused uncertainty towards achieving health-related SDGs and Nairobi commitments by 2030. ICPD30 As the world approaches the observance of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), also known as ICPD30, the United Nations is expected to lead the global observance of this anniversary at the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) meeting at the UN Headquarters in April 2024. Leading up to ICPD30, there will be a series of national and regional consultations that are expected to galvanize a strengthened support to further the achievement of the ICPD PoA, despite emerging challenges that threaten to derail progress and sideline the centrality of sexual and reproductive health in development. High-



Level International Consultative Conference Leading up to ICPD30 This proposed consultative meeting on ICPD30 will enable high-level officials, subject experts, representatives from development partners and youth leaders to discuss and agree on the priority actions to be taken to finish the unfinished agenda of the ICPD PoA, and to assess the status of the 2019 Nairobi Commitments. Conducted as the 20th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation on Population and Development, this meeting will take on an SSC lens by looking at how SSC can accelerate the achievement of ICPD PoA. The duration of the conference will be two days (2 days). An outcome document will feed into the global consultations aiming to reaffirm the ICPD PoA objectives. On the margin of the conference will be the PPD's board meeting.



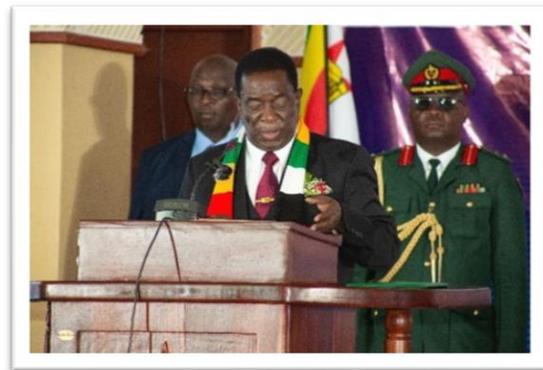
Session One: Inauguration

A Global Commitment for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

“ We call for seamless coordination to scale up South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Zimbabwe has managed to fill gaps in health service provision through such South-South Cooperation. Medical and other health specialists coming to our country to assist us in the health service delivery sector, from as far afield as the People's Republic of China and Cuba. Fellowships and capacity-building programs offered by PPD funded by Egypt, India, and South Africa have benefited member countries in promoting young national professionals.”

- *His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe*

His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe spoke on how the robust policies and investment have resulted in the sustained, inclusive, and equitable GDP growth; promotion of new enterprise development, employment and job creation as well as robust climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. His Excellency President stated that investment in health, water, sanitation education, energy, roads, housing and other social amenities are impacting on the quality of life of our people, the National Constitution of Zimbabwe specifically prohibits discrimination based on gender and outlaws all forms of Gender-Based Violence. The Constitutionally established Gender Commission is entrusted with monitoring the effective implementation of gender-responsive laws and policies. The National Youth Policy provides a framework for creating an enabling environment for stakeholders to implement youth development and empowerment programs in a coordinated manner. Age-responsive information on reproductive health continues to be availed to the youth and adolescents. The criminalization of early and forced child marriages and other harmful practices is facilitating the safe transition of children into adulthood.



His Excellency emphasized the need to scale up the provision of maternal health and reduction of child mortality as a vital aspect of the attainment of sustainable development. The mantra "No woman should die while giving birth" remains our guiding motto. President Mnangagwa urged for consolidating collective engagement and partnerships within the South-South and Triangular Cooperation framework to unlock more resources for our respective national development plans towards a prosperous and healthy life for all.

“We must intensify our efforts for promoting South-South cooperation in galvanizing support for each other, together with our development partners, in sharing best practices, knowledge and experiences and ensuring that no-one is left behind.”

- *Honorable Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of South Africa and PPD Chair.*

Honorable Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of South Africa and PPD Chair emphasized in her remarks that the members of the countries should acknowledge the achievements made by PPD



in promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation to response for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic through knowledge and experience sharing, policy dialogue, personnel training, technology transfers, expert assistance, medical equipment/supply, and vaccine donation. UNFPA, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), World Health Organization (WHO), and other UN and African agencies and international organizations are

engaged in promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation which should be continued in order to expedite the progress of agenda 2030.

Young people are among the most seriously affected population groups by the pandemic in many aspects of their lives, and the need for adolescent reproductive health care services has not been sufficiently met, and it was even worsened by the pandemic. Demographic diversity is the key to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development. We should therefore take concrete actions to build family-friendly and people-centered societies, particularly in countries where fertility is falling and the population is aging, by providing needed health care services, nursery facilities, community support, tax reform, and social security schemes to increase people’s well-being and promote family development of the country – and as Governments we cannot do it alone – we require a social compact with all sectors of society as well as South-South cooperation, as said by the PPD Board Chair.



“The notion of South-South Cooperation as a distinct modality within the broader international development landscape is not new; indeed, it has been a fixture of much of the modern era. The government of Zimbabwe remains committed to the work of PPD and to promoting South-South Cooperation as an accelerator to achieving ICPD Programme for Action and the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.”

- *Dr D Mombeshora, PPD Board Member and The Minister of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe.*

The Minister of Health and Child Care and the PPD Board Member of Zimbabwe Dr D Mombeshora set the stage in emphasizing that South-South Cooperation promotes sharing of good practices and experiences and supports member states to realize their national aspirations and development goals in reproductive health, population and development. Member states and Zimbabwe is not exceptional, have benefited from PPD scholarship program offered with support from Egypt, India and South Africa contributing towards the development of a human resource base through capacity development, leadership and service delivery in Reproductive Health, Population and Development. Honorable Minister further added that the Civil Society Organisations appreciate the significant contribution of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) as the institute of South-South Cooperation (SSC) towards accelerating the achievement of ICPD and SDGs in PPD member countries.

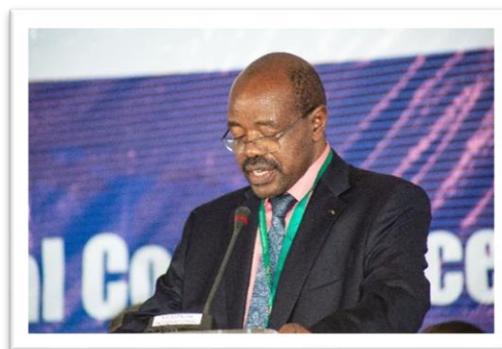


Dr D Mombeshora urged during his remarks to reaffirm commitments to achieving the ICPD and SDGs Agendas moving the world forward and leaving no one behind. There must be a strong international Inter-Governmental Framework of promoting SSC in advocacy, networking and policy formulation. It is therefore he urged to focus on how PPD can help accelerate the ICPD and SDGs by 2030, learning from the COVID-19 experience and achieving the Nairobi Commitments to promote South-South Cooperation (SSC) in Reproductive Health, Population and Development within ICPD Programme of Action.

“The Government of Uganda appreciates support from Partners in Population and Development and UNFPA to replicate the Ghana Adolescent Health Services Project in Uganda. The Government is also supporting the establishment of Parish Pregnancy Prevention Committees at the lowest administrative structures. All aimed at keeping the teenagers in school to delay child birth.”

- *Honorable Amos Lugolobi, Minister of State for Planning, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda*

Honorable Amos Lugolobi, Minister of State for Planning, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda underscores the importance of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 and that without fulfilling the ICPD25 commitments, neither Uganda’s Vision 2040 nor the SDGs would be achieved. The Nairobi Summit commitments were integrated in the national planning and budgeting frameworks. The national budget now includes maternal health, adolescent, and youth health, nutrition, and education, as well as sexual and reproductive health, anchored in the Human Capital Development Programme of the third National Development Plan as said Hon. Amos Lugolobi Minister of State for Planning, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda in his remarks. The Honorable Ugandan minister further stated that to curb the escalating teenage pregnancies, his government has established a policy environment with the National Sexuality Education Framework and Adolescent Health Policy to scale up age-appropriate sexual reproductive health information and services and support through the District Committees on adolescent health.



The critical role of South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as a vital development instrument that can significantly contribute to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, the African Union 2063 Agenda, and other global development frameworks.

Ms. Lydia Zigomo, Regional Director, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Region emphasized that SSTC has demonstrated its capacity to offer unparalleled opportunities for developing countries. It allows these nations to harness their own experiences, share knowledge, and mobilize resources to support context-specific, technical, social, and economic transformations. In doing so, SSTC not only benefits the countries themselves but also extends its positive impact to other regions and populations. SSTC is particularly valuable for policymakers, program managers, and various duty bearers, including parliamentarians and religious leaders. It equips them with essential best practices, knowledge, and the means to access relevant innovations. This, in turn, enables them to better adapt to the challenges posed by population and development. The ultimate goal is to enhance the health, living standards, and overall well-being of their people while ensuring the quality of life for all.



Ms. Lydia Zigomo has highlighted three key recommendations:

- a) To foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, UNFPA, in collaboration with partners, is actively working to support regional networks. These networks are crucial in addressing the challenge of governments seeking effective solutions and best practices. They aim to collect and disseminate knowledge on successful strategies in various areas, making it easily accessible for those in need. One such area of focus, as a prime example, is addressing teen pregnancy, a significant concern in the Eastern South Africa region;
- b) Political commitment from health and education ministries is evident, and the establishment of a practitioners' network on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) with a focus on self-care is another innovative approach to address this issue; and
- c) Data for development and the importance of regional networks dedicated to sharing successful practices. These three areas, teen pregnancies, SRH self-care, and data for development, are of utmost importance.

Ms. Zigomo focused on sharing the proven practices that are making a difference, even if they are currently at a small scale. By sharing, possible explore ways to scale up these successful initiatives. Additionally, creating more awareness about South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is crucial, as it is a valuable tool and mechanism that can bring about positive change when wielded effectively.

Session Two: Ministerial Session

ICPD Progress through the lens of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

“PPD member countries from the global south have now committed in promoting priority areas of sexual and reproductive health, gender equality etc to improve the health condition of the masses. ppd along with the un population fund had major guiding roles in achieving 2030 goals and agenda for sustainable development which is much appreciated by china.”

- H. E. Dr. Yu Xuejun, Vice Minister, National Health Commission, People's Republic of China and PPD Board Member of PPD

H. E. Dr. Yu Xuejun, Vice Minister, National Health Commission, People's Republic of China and PPD Board Member of PPD put the assent that



going back to the history when 179 countries gathered in Cairo for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, since then ICPD PoA carried a great value for national development. The ICPD program of action has been created based on the Population goal, which includes- people's needs, aspirations, and reproductive rights. ICPD PoA, implemented by countries all over the world.

China has made active effort to achieve the goals of the ICPD in the last 29 years as Hon'ble Vice-Minister said in his speech. He said, in 2022, the average life expectancy in China was 78.2 years, the maternal mortality rate was reduced to 15.7 per 100,000, the infant mortality rate to 4.9 per 1,000, and the mortality rate of children under the age of five to 6.8 per 1,000. Women's and children's rights regarding health in China have been effectively secured.

China's experience in implementing the ICPD PoA and addressing SSC, to support sustainable population development, economy, society and environment. According to him steps that helped China achieve rapid growth include:

- a) Integrated policy of population and development, use of the demographic bonus period, conducted reform and opening up policy, promoted economic development. Furthermore, improved comprehensive national strength provided scopes for comprehending PoA goals;
- b) Seeking constant improvement of the population policy and will to make the policy in line with the PoA, adjusting fertility policy, establishing improved fertility support all contributed to reducing the burden of child-rearing and education, promoted appropriate fertility level, improved high-quality family and population development strengthened the resilience, and supported the Chinese modernization; and



c) A people-centered development concept and turning the concept into reality, formulating population policy, promoting all-round population development, childcare, education, fair payment for work, medical care, security for senior citizens, and housing support for those cannot afford have all contributed to the improvement of people's lives.

The Hon'ble Vice-Minister said population development has remained fundamental for the development of society but the problems faced by developing countries in achieving sustainability remain severe, especially African countries. According to him the North and the South has a widening development gap and more than 600 million people are still living under the extreme poverty line. The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed the progress of global human development for the first time in 30 years. He also expressed concern with the challenges regarding achieving the goals of the PoA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



“South-South Triangular Cooperation is playing a key catalyst role in accelerating global advocacy, knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and capacity development towards achieving ICPD and SDGs.”

- *Dr. Mohamed Sheikh, Director General NCPD, Government of the Republic of Kenya, Board Member of PPD*

Dr. Mohamed Sheikh, Director General NCPD, Government of the Republic of Kenya, Board Member of PPD uttered that the world is facing multiple challenges, including different conflicts and climate change issues. These challenges focus and highlight the need for international cooperation in order to come up with innovative solutions. Dr. Sheikh expressed the need for reviewing the progress made, identify the challenges remaining, and figure out strategies to complete the remaining ICPD Agenda. At the same time, he emphasizes on South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).

Dr. Sheikh highlighted that Kenya has become one of the first countries to have developed the Demographic Dividend Index a tool for assessing the local interventions in high-impact programs. Moreover, the Kenyan government has been promoting South-South Cooperation by ensuring the implementation of policies for achievement of ICPD and SDGs. Dr. Sheikh presented some of the remarkable achievements of the Kenyan Government in implementing the Nairobi ICPD25 Commitments:



Integration of Monitoring and Evaluation online System (e-NIMIS) for ICPD25 achievement; Elimination of preventable maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, Investment in training 175 EmONC mentors, an additional 130 midwives, the operationalization of national and county referral protocols for maternal and child health, and the training of an additional 3250 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs); tackling the triple threat of teenage pregnancies, new adolescent and HIV infections, and harmful practices, multi-pronged approach including strengthening coordination and multi-stakeholder collaborations, intensifying education and awareness campaigns, adopted; stepping to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by strengthening coordination in areas of legislation and policy frameworks, communication, advocacy and evidence generation; commitment in addressing gender-based violence to ensure universal access to quality reproductive health services, including prevention and management of GBV, extending towards humanitarian and fragile contexts; enhancing the integration of population, health, and development programs into Medium Term Plans (MTPs) and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Dr. Sheikh spoke about some challenges that are facing by his government related to trajectory of socioeconomic and health impact of pandemics; emerging population issues; youth

unemployment, migration, rapid urbanization, humanitarian crisis, climate change, war and conflicts; insufficient national budget allocation and donors' priority funding for South-South Cooperation in reproductive health, population and development; institutionalization of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a model for development in achieving ICPD and SDGs global agendas; and Scarcity of Centers of Excellence on South-South Cooperation on population and development in developing countries.

He acknowledged the contribution of South-South Cooperation in his country and other African countries regarding population policy formulation, population census and preparation of population monographs. He added that Kenya has benefited through technical assistance; Bilateral exchange visits and cooperation, Study tours, capacity building, beneficiaries of scholarships; Documentation of best practices; Sharing knowledge and experience in improving reproductive and family planning services in humanitarian and conflict situation; Harnessing the demographic dividend.

Mr Baboucarr Bouy, Honourable Minister of Public Service represented the H.E. Mr. Muhammed B. S. Jallow, The Vice President of The Republic of The Gambia and Board Member of PPD emphasized the importance of empowering individuals and communities, especially women and girls, to make informed choices about reproductive health and rights. He believes, it is crucial to reflect the achievements, assess the remaining challenges, and commit to the principles of the PoA. He recalled Gambia's unwavering commitment of the principles and goals outlined in the ICPD PoA through undertaking review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD).



An inclusive approach has allowed Gambia to gather diverse experiences engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including government functionaries, civil society, and population and development experts, said the speaker. Gambia made significant progress in achieving ICPD agenda during the last decades especially improving access to education, healthcare, and economy for marginalized population. However, he added that there are persistent disparities gaps, and emerging issues that demand our collective attention.

These include the unmet needs for family planning, rising youth unemployment, climate change-induced migration, and the disproportionate impact of crises on vulnerable communities and it is our responsibility as members of the Partners in Population and Development, to address these challenges comprehensively and collaboratively.

He commended the roles of PPD for promoting South South Cooperation in the global South, and identified PPD as crucial inter-governmental organization hence he emphasized on continuation to foster cooperation, South-South and Triangular partnerships. He called for renewing the

commitment of advancing the cause of population and development and building a more inclusive future for everyone.

Sukaryo Teguh Santoso, Deputy Chair of (NPFPPB - BKKBN) represented Dr. (H.C.) Hasto Wardoyo, MD, PhD, Chairman, National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) Government of the Republic of Indonesia. Board Member of PPD reaffirmed the continuous commitment of Indonesia in scaling up south-south cooperation regarding reproductive health, family planning, population, and development at national, regional, and global levels.



Taking into consideration the Legal lens, Indonesia's launching of legal frameworks regarding population, reproductive health, family planning, sustainable development, and inclusive economic growth. Indonesian National Action Plan for Human Rights 2021-2025 is effective for national population development agenda, while focusing on women, children, persons with disabilities and customary law community. To empower the women of Indonesia,

Government promotes financial technology to MSMEs which is dominated by female entrepreneurs, to lead them to a better financial inclusion. Also, the end of 2022, Indonesia reached 100% of its second COVID-19 vaccination national target, which covering all citizens, including women, children, and elderly. However, Indonesia further taking more attention on reduction of stunting rate by 14 percent by 2024 which is one of the challenges noted by the Government has said by the Indonesian speaker.



“Zimbabwe Government believes that only a successful implementation of South-South Cooperation and South-South Triangular Cooperation can set up a strong base and coordination within countries. Zimbabwe Govt. tremendously benefitted from South-South Cooperation. In 2022-23, Zimbabwe Replicated lesson learn from the Ghana’s best practice on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Project. The Program trained school’s health clubs and service providers on the provision of Comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health Services.”

-Honourable Dr. Douglas Mombeshora Minister of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe

Honourable Dr. Douglas Mombeshora Minister of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe expressed the acknowledgement of Government to implement ICPD PoA specially in Health Care, quality integrated family planning and sexual- reproductive health services through Ministry of Health. They enhanced their quality of services by enactment of Zimbabwe National Family Planning Act 1985 and establishment of Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC). Which aims to Coordinate, Monitor and take leadership to ensure quality family planning services in country.



As per the implementation of ICPD commitments, Zimbabwe Government established a multi-sectoral national taskforce which periodically meets to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the PoA. The taskforce ensures “Whole of Govt. and Whole of Society” approach so that all stakeholders can contribute towards ICPD PoA. National Family Planning Forum, Sexual Reproductive Health Forum through these platform, public-private partnership has been established which leads to ensure quality family planning and reproductive health services along with implementation of ICPD PoA. Zimbabwe Govt. seen a considerable decline in fertility rates from 5.4 children per woman in 1988 to 3.9 children born to a woman in her lifetime in 2022 and maternal mortality rates declining from 462 per 100,000 births in 2019 to 363 per 100,000 birth in 2022 (National Housing and Population Census, 2022). Moreover, Significant increases in modern contraceptive prevalence rate from 36% in 1988 to 69% in 2022. These have significant impact on our younger generation for their healthy growth, reducing maternal and child mortality as said by Honourable Dr. Douglas Mombeshora, Minister of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe

Unlike other developing countries Zimbabwe faces various challenges in the area of family planning and sexual reproductive health and those challenges can only be mitigated through South- South triangular cooperation by the help of developed countries. The maternal mortality rate is yet challenging level of 362 in Zimbabwe though it is decreasing trend, from 651 per 100 000 live births in 2015, to 362 per 100,000 live births, in 2022. Zimbabwe unmet need for family planning is still high at 10%, teenage pregnancy rate is as high as 22%. This can only be addressed with multi-country collaborative programs through SSTC.

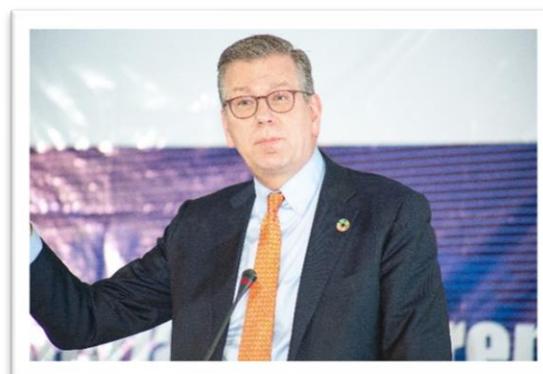
Dr. Leticia Adelaide Appiah, Executive Director of the National Population Commission of Zimbabwe highlighted the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services by 2030, which requires sustainable and predictable funding sources, including domestic support. She further emphasized that the global communication and triangular cooperation are essential to ensure the family planning and reproductive health services at universal value investments, transcending cultural differences. Funding for family planning services, public education, and staff training is crucial for ensuring access to services, particularly for those with low or no income, and bridging inequality gaps as Dr. Lydia stressed in her speech. She has advocated those benefits of domestic family planning funding include preventing unintended pregnancies, reducing STI and HIV spread, empowering couples to plan, reducing teenage pregnancy, lowering abortions, promoting healthier mothers and babies, population management, empowering women and girls, bridging inequalities, protecting the environment, and promoting socioeconomic development and peace.



Session Three

Leveraging South-South Triangular Cooperation as an Accelerator for the Achievement of ICPD Program of Action

Arthur Erken, Director, Policy and Strategy Division, UNFPA expressed during moderating the session that leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an Accelerator for the Achievement of the ICPD Program of Action, which is at the core of PPD's vision to position itself as an organization that utilizes South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) to attain the goals of the ICPD. There are many outstanding objectives of the ICPD that we need to fulfill and find the way to expedite the realization of the ICPD agenda through SSTC. Strategically it is a significant topic for the United Nations as a whole and the global community, as it has shown increasing concern about the pace, or lack thereof, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The panel discussion has enlightened in demonstrating the potency of SSTC in fostering partnerships among nations to assist in achieving shared or individual goals.



Dr. Eliya M. Zulu, Executive Director; African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) in his keynote presentation emphasized that PPD's framework of South-South cooperation is notable framework for sharing the best practice and learning among each other countries. He also stated that, the unfinished agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), can never be truly finished regardless of where a country stands in its development cycle, there will always be operational development issues to confront. These issues may vary depending on the specific circumstances of each country. Dr. Zulu has referred a case study of a 14-year-old girl Malaika could be from Kenya, is one of six children in her family, living in a vulnerable, economically challenged environment. She faces a one in four chance of becoming pregnant during adolescence, potentially leading to early marriage and the likelihood of dropping out of school. Her situation results from a complex interplay of individual, household, community, and systemic factors that must be addressed holistically.



Dr Zulu further emphasized that the issues addressed by the ICPD cannot be tackled in isolation. For those of us working in the population and sexual and reproductive health field, need to find ways to reinforce these integrations, also need to reach out to other sectors whose work can contribute to achieving the ICPD agenda. This means that when we look at a girl like Malaika, we need to consider education, the enabling policy environment, strengthening health systems, creating legal, political, and policy frameworks, addressing factors that drive early marriage and unintended pregnancies, and more.

Dr. Zulu also emphasis global trends, like Climate Change requires a more active involvement from the population and development field and recommended active participation different discussion COP28 since Reproductive health plays a significant role in this conversation.

He also emphasis on the rapid growth of world population that by 2035 or 2037, it will reach 9 billion, with Africa being the primary contributor to this growth. To harness the potential of this population for socio-economic advancement, it must be educated, empowered, and economically engaged. Moreover, the age structure is changing globally, with a decline in the number of children and an increase in both the working-age and elderly populations. Africa's experience of this change will be pronounced, and the continent must be prepared to leverage this demographic shift for its benefit.

Dr. Eliya advocated that, PPD offers a valuable platform for the promotion of South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), given the diverse socioeconomic levels of participating countries.

However, it is imperative to establish a well-structured mechanism for facilitating cross-country knowledge exchange while emphasizing the development of robust local capacities to lead and support technical initiatives effectively. Recognizing the significant interconnections between reproductive health, population dynamics, climate change, and the environment, PPD should adopt a holistic approach by embracing systems thinking and integrated planning. This approach should extend beyond traditional boundaries and engage stakeholders from other sectors to actively contribute to the realization of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda.

“South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) presents an opportunity for young people and SSTC offers a chance to participate, share our knowledge and experiences, practices, and knowledge, and to better understand the specific and contextual needs of young people. SSTC also provides opportunities for capacity building through training, technical assistance, and mentorship for youth-led organizations, policymakers, and those advocating for the interests of young people.”

- Mr. Onward Chironda, FP2030 Youth Focal Representative, Executive Director My Age Zimbabwe

Mr. Onward Chironda, FP2030 Youth Focal Representative, Executive Director My Age Zimbabwe, emphasized that SSC has facilitated policy alignment, addressing issues related to access to sexual and reproductive health rights, and the challenges posed by non-aligned laws and policies, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa. Mr. Onward highlighted on triangular Cooperation, in addition to South Cooperation, brings together developed countries, developing countries, and international organizations to provide expertise, resources, and innovative approaches to address youth-related challenges, complementing South Cooperation. However, required more strategic intervention to ensure that young people have not just a seat at the table but also a meaningful active involvement of young people in designing, implementing, and monitoring youth-focused programs ensures that their voices and perspectives are integrated into decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership and sustainable commitment.

Executive Director My Age Zimbabwe emphasized that SSC has facilitated policy alignment, addressing issues related to access to sexual and reproductive health rights, and the challenges posed by non-aligned laws and policies, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa. Mr. Onward highlighted on triangular Cooperation, in addition to South Cooperation, brings together developed countries, developing countries, and international organizations to provide expertise, resources, and innovative approaches to address youth-related challenges, complementing South Cooperation. However, required more strategic intervention to ensure that young people have not just a seat at the table but also a meaningful active involvement of young



people in designing, implementing, and monitoring youth-focused programs ensures that their voices and perspectives are integrated into decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership and sustainable commitment.

Dr. Bunyarit Sukrat, Director of Bureau of Reproductive Health, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand illustrated the example of Government of Thailand's Adolescent Pregnancy Program, which has received support from the National Health Security Office (NHSO) and has been implemented in various hospitals throughout Thailand. In 2021, more than 150,000 teenagers accessed services in Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) hospitals. The program boasts six key features, including a health assessment check for service rights, a menstrual cycle record assistance center, a hotline chat through KhongKwan, a digital platform for teenagers known as Teen Club, and a "One Stop Service for All Teenage Problems." For achieving the ICPD agenda this program has very strong contribution that stated by Dr. Sukrat. However, the program offers free long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs) to all adolescents under 20 years old, with a particular focus on preventing repeated teen births and pregnancies. The NHSO supports the program, and each healthcare facility providing these services receives a budget to cover the cost of services and an allocation of 800 Baht per case for IUD and 3,000 Baht per case for implants.



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Prof. Marvellous Mhloyi, Associate Professor, Department of Demography, Settlement and

Development, University of Zimbabwe has commenced the discussion by approaching the topic of population dynamics from the perspective of Southern countries. Population growth rates in southern countries vary, with some experiencing alarming declines, while others maintain high growth rates. In contrast, most northern countries have gone through demographic transitions, leading to aging populations and labor shortages. Once a demographic transition with significant fertility decline starts, it tends to be irreversible. Northern countries have made limited progress in reversing declining fertility rates and have turned to immigration to attract productive populations from the south. This is successful due to the lack of employment opportunities and inadequate salaries in southern countries, coupled with the allure of better living standards abroad. In this consequence, the northern countries are successfully not only importing South's most productive populations, but they are importing South's future fertility. However, Prof. Marvellous's believe that Southern countries need to find out own population solution.



Prof. Mhloyi also mentioned earlier there was funding for population programs focusing on contraception, but current southern countries' experience showed that contraception alone can't solve the complex issues related to family planning. To address these challenges, Professor Marvellous Mhloyi recommend revitalizing funding for research centers in southern Africa, which can assess population dynamics, fertility levels, and underlying factors specific to each country and region. Subsequently, should revise population policies.

The ICPD agenda, which focuses on people, aligns with Professor's observation that involving people in planning, debating, and targeting is crucial. Without their active participation, success will be severely constrained. It can be argued that their lack of understanding and straightforward articulation of issues results from a lack of empowerment.

Professor also recommend adopting a holistic approach to population and development, which necessitates a shift away from primarily vertical funding. Researchers should engage with communities to co-identify and address problems, co-prioritize issues, co-design interventions, and jointly implement and evaluate programs. This shift requires researchers to view communities as equal partners rather than mere suppliers of information for analysis, script writing, and publication. It's essential for experts to step outside their disciplinary boundaries and collaborate with communities where the SDGs are experienced. This approach ensures that no one is left behind and can lead to the sustainability of intervention outcomes.

Prof. Stanzia Moyo, Chairperson of the Zimbabwe National Board of Family Planning, and Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Zimbabwe stated that the ICPD program of action is transformed the way in which the linkages between population, and sustainable development are addressed in Zimbabwe by putting the rights, needs and aspirations of individual human beings at the center of sustainable development, stated by Prof. Moyo. Professor Moyo has highlighted the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC)'s experiences in coordinating and giving technical leadership in the provision of quality integrated family planning and sexual reproductive health services. It also plays the secretarial role in the Zimbabwe National ICPD Task Force, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of ICPD-25 commitments. The organization has made strides to achieve the ICPD-25 commitments, which focus on zero and made need for family planning, zero-presentable maternal beds and zero gender-based violence.



Professor Moyo mentioned that, Zimbabwe has made achievements in the provision of quality integrated family planning services to the extent that one, the contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 59% in 2010-2011 to 68% in 2022, one of the highest CPR in the region.

On the other hand, while the contraceptive prevalence rate increased, it should be noted that the unmet need for family planning declined from 18% to 10% in the past decade, against a target of 6.5% by 2026. The National Family Planning Strategy 2022-2026 and its cost implementation plan were launched and disseminated to guide the nation in family planning programming. While keeping focus on family planning issues among women and girls, the 2022-2026 family planning strategy of Zimbabwe has also taken on board the importance of male involvement in family planning, family community and programming levels as said by Professor Moyo. Professor highlighted that, in this strategy, men are not regarded as perpetrators of the myriad of reproductive health problems affecting women and girls, but as individuals with their own specific reproductive health issues, which include prostate cancer, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, and male infertility, and these reproductive health issues among men need to attention.

Session Four

Mobilization of South-South Triangular Cooperation Resources

Denis Nkala, Chief, Intergovernmental and United Nations Systems Affairs, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) underscored that current SSC resources encompass a



comprehensive spectrum, categorized into four clusters: 1) Funding, Grants, Concessional Loans, and Trade & Investment; 2) Capacity Building, including tools, manuals, training, and peer reviews; 3) In-kind Exchanges, encompassing human resources, people-to-people exchanges, and knowledge sharing; and 4) Appropriate Technology and Innovation. It is crucial to recognize that there are no predefined "South-South Resources," and

existing resources can be repurposed for SSC initiatives.

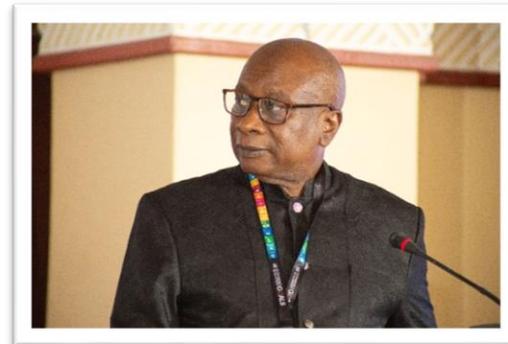
To augment available resources, certain prerequisites must be met, including the establishment of national funds, measures to prevent tax evasion, leveraging diaspora funds, curbing illicit fund flows, and fostering partnerships with the private sector and triangular cooperation arrangements as said Denis Nkala.

From the perspective of in-kind exchanges and human resources, the secondment of individuals between governments and institutes for advisory services or training plays a vital role in SSC. Knowledge exchange also emerges as a significant component of SSC resources. However, Dr. Nkala emphasized that SSC is incomplete without capacity building, requiring the development of tools and manuals, and allocating optimum time for their creation.

In the current landscape of mobilizing resources for SSC, Dr. Nkala highlighted the indispensable role of appropriate technology, especially in the context of ongoing digitalization. Failure to adapt to these changes could result in South-South countries being left behind.

Addressing the perennial question of where the resources for South-South cooperation are, Dr. Nkala dispelled the notion that they are elusive, asserting that resources are omnipresent. He emphasized the importance of the principle underlying SSC funds, highlighting that adherence to this principle distinguishes SSC from a commercial venture. The United Nations (UN) assumes a pivotal role in resource mobilization for SSTC. The UN facilitates the mobilization of resources, supports member states, promotes bankable projects and innovative ideas, provides guidance to governments, and strengthens partnerships.

Mr. Edward Kallon, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe stated that the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has been instrumental in shaping global perspectives on population and development by prioritizing human rights, reproductive rights, and sustainable development. Since its inception, the ICPD has achieved significant progress, including enhanced access to modern contraception, improved family planning services, reduced maternal mortality rates, and global initiatives to eradicate harmful practices like female genital mutilation and child marriages. To effectively tackle these challenges and expedite the attainment of ICPD goals, leveraging mechanisms such as South-South and triangular cooperation is imperative. To unlock the full potential of SSTC, it is crucial to concentrate on key perspectives, including integrated systemic thinking and core creation.



Ms. Florbela Fernandes, UNFPA Representative for Brazil and Country Director for Uruguay and Paraguay, delivered a presentation on South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) from the



perspective of Brazil. Emphasizing the pivotal role of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), she underscored that SSTC constitutes a robust component of foreign policy. The presentation delved into the foundational aspects of SSTC, highlighting its basis and reflecting on two decades of partnership. Ms. Florbela shared key outcomes of UNFPA and Brazil's SSTC, focusing on the Production and Analysis of Population Data from 2002 to 2012. The achievements encompassed georeferenced analyses, data management, topographic maps, geographic operational bases, and the integration of new

data collection technologies. Additionally, capacity development initiatives were outlined, addressing population dynamics, demographic research, and public policies on social inequality, poverty, migration, reproductive health, and aging, including the utilization of new technologies.

While Brazil maintains a robust foreign policy for SSTC, Ms. Florbela highlighted a significant development—namely, the involvement of the country's 27 states and over 5,000 municipalities in South-South cooperation for the first time. This marks a transformative shift in the landscape of cooperation, wherein Brazil is not only a provider but also a recipient.

Ms. Florbela informed that Brazil and UNFPA aiming jointly to bolster international cooperation, mitigate inequalities, integrate population dynamics evidence for sustainable development, enhance institutional capacity for horizontal policy sharing, and manage knowledge of good practices within the Brazil-UNFPA partnership program during 2024-2028. Ms. Florbela outlined key areas of cooperation between Brazil and UNFPA for the specified timeframe, including the strengthening of primary and prenatal care health structures and emergency services in obstetric and neonatal care, the reinforcement of networks for the protection, prevention, and management of gender-based violence (GBV), and the enhancement of data systems and evidence to address population changes and megatrends, including aging and climate change.

Dr. Leticia Adelaide Appiah, Executive Director, National Population Council (NPC), Ghana

discussed the vital role of domestic mobilization in tackling high-risk pregnancies in Ghana. She emphasized that the significance of considering cost savings as a means of funding sustainable development. Maintaining pregnancies in high-risk conditions proves to be an expensive endeavor, demanding urgent attention. Dr. Leticia has brought an example from the perspective of a health economist at the School of Public Health estimated that, in 2020, the direct cost of complications related to high-risk pregnancies in Ghana ranged from \$17.6 million to \$45.7 million. This substantial cost not only results in productivity losses but is also estimated to have amounted to \$86 million to \$200 million in 2020 alone.



Dr. Appiah believes that in the pursuit of domestic funding, it is crucial to align our efforts with behavioral changes that reduce teenage pregnancies. Organizations like Southside Corporation and USUNFBA are encouraged to support these endeavors, considering the possibility of matching funds with reductions in teenage pregnancies. Dr. Appiah stresses the pivotal role of domestic mobilization in addressing high-risk pregnancies and fostering sustainable

development. By concentrating on cost savings and concurrently working towards reducing teenage pregnancies, a pathway to a more sustainable future can be forged.

Mrs. Pester Siraha, Country Director, Population Services Zimbabwe emphasized on addressing the socioeconomic conditions and challenges faced by developing countries,



particularly in the realm of sustainable socio-economic development, underscored Zimbabwe's commitment to national initiatives such as family planning and sexual reproductive health outlined in the PPD strategic plan for 2020 to 2024. Mrs. Pester drew attention to the national health budget, citing Zimbabwe's example of increasing its health budget from 13% in 2021 to 14% in 2022, with a corresponding rise in the family planning-specific budget from 1.7% to 2.4%. Zimbabwe stands out as

the first country to sign the FB2030 commitments and the Compact of Commitment led by UN agencies. The country has also heightened its government commitment, procuring USD 1.5 million worth of contraceptives and benefiting from the UNFPA mid-funding.

The speaker highlighted Zimbabwe's challenges such as skills flight due to high staff attrition to other nations. Through south-to-south cooperation, Zimbabwe has seen advantages in staff skill upgrades by supporting FP SLI-related trainings and facilitating lending and exchange visits among service providers. Mrs. Pester stressed the greater need for evidence-based strategies and interventions that successfully mobilize resources, establish new partnerships, foster stakeholder collaborations, encourage knowledge sharing, and scale up scientifically proven approaches.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rizal Martua Damanik, Deputy for Training, Research and Development, National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPPB-BKKBN), Government of Indonesia discussed on Indonesia's establishment of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) framework and highlighted the role of BKKBN within this framework. Prof. Damanik provided some experiences of SSTC framework how the best practice sharing is working in Indonesia. BKKBN conducted several training sessions, covering topics such as supply chain management for the Philippines, family planning for Muslim Religious Leaders in Asia and African countries, and bridging leadership in family planning.



Dr. Allan T Nhapi, Founder and CEO Harvest Today Fzco highlighted the critical issue of shortages in the Global South, encompassing a lack of doctors, nurses, healthcare personnel,



services, and functional facilities. He pointed out that the current health delivery system in the region falls short in addressing these challenges, underscoring the need for a transformative shift in attitude, culture, and belief. This shift aims to establish sustainable healthcare institutions, platforms, and pathways that generate value, growth, and impact, particularly in the most remote communities.

Dr. Allan has brought some argument of Southern Africa grapples with various developmental challenges, including housing and sanitation issues, unemployment, and a shortage of medical specialists.

The consolidated health system performance score for the African Region, standing at 0.49, indicates that health systems are operating at only 49% of their potential. Even the best-performing system in the African Region operates at just 70% of its achievable level. The speaker also stated that, the Africa region has face escalating health challenges, such as the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults.

Session Five

Adoption of the Call of Action

The 2 days' collective thoughts, knowledge and experiences were put into a framework of Victoria Falls “Declaration” for strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This declaration includes 4 sections:

Commitments that already made during Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, **Commitment to achieve three zeros, commitments for ICPD and SDGs**

Acknowledge, progress and achievements that we have been made through South South and Triangular Cooperation;

Challenges that the world have been facing including our member countries such as on-going conflicts, climate change, ageing, migration, and sever socio-economic disruption caused by global pandemic COVID-19. Challenges in achieving ICPD and SDGs due to financial, technological, unmet needs for FP and supply chain of adequate medical drugs, vaccine etc;

Global perspective specially leveraging resource mobilization for SSTC, Perspective of PPD Secretariat as a focal point for promoting and facilitating South-south and triangular cooperation of PPD alliance, opportunities for UN fund for South-South Cooperation and similar establishments for funding including UNFPA and UN other agencies.

On behalf of the 20th Conference participants, Honorable Minister of South Africa and PPD Board Chair Ms. Lindiwe Zulu adopted to Declaration during the closing session. From the conference it was urged that PPD, UNFPA, and UNOSSC and similar agencies/establishments, will join together, advocate them in forthcoming global events including celebration of ICPD30, future summit for their implementation through strengthening South-South and Triangular cooperation. **The following 9 actions to be implemented:**

1 Make full efforts to shape the future agenda for the ICPD through active participation in the review of implementation of the ICPD at the juncture of the 30th anniversary of ICPD Programme of Action and also 30th anniversary of the founding of PPD, for the purpose of assessing the gains and gaps, determining which approach works well and which does not, and formulating future strategies for the remaining years to achieve the ICPD by 2030, bearing in mind the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit held at UN Headquarters in September 2023, also bearing in mind the potential opportunities and global crises and challenges we are facing. Encourage PPD and its member states to integrate these review process with the mapping of the PPD Strategic Plan for SSC (2025-2029).

2 Escalate the concerted efforts of the Nairobi Summit commitments on ICPD25 to translate them into national actions for finishing the unfinished agenda, and take further concrete actions to fulfill these commitments by 2030 - with specific emphasis on achieving the “three zeros” for ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning to reduce unintended pregnancy, especially among adolescents; reducing maternal mortality, particularly in fragile and humanitarian emergency settings; preventing gender-based violence and the harmful practices, in the dimensions of law and policy enforcement, programme implementation, advocacy, community participation and social supervision, bearing in mind that the pandemic and multiple crises in the world have resulted in the roll-back of progress on reproductive health and women's rights in many countries. Accelerate meaningful youth engagement in all decisions that affect their health and well-being, so that they may achieve their full human potential, as critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for

3 Emphasize addressing demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development. Inspire PPD member countries to take concrete actions to build family-friendly and people-centered societies, particularly in countries where fertility is falling and the population is aging, by providing needed health care services, nursery facilities, community support, tax reform, and social security schemes to increase people's well-being and promote family development of the country.

- # 4

Increase domestic financing by exploring new, participatory, and innovative financing instruments and structures to meet the challenges that threaten to derail progress and sideline the centrality of reproductive health and population in national development to ensure affordable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs.
- # 5

Encourage PPD Member States to make long-term and predictable funding to PPD for more effective and sustainable development of SSTC. Multiple resource mobilization for SSTC including third-party cost-sharing, parallel financing, and in-kind contribution which have been proven to be feasible and effective in the past decades among the PPD member countries. Encourage PPD and its member countries to innovate approaches and adopt strategies of resource mobilization for SSTC in this changed and new world situation, and increase advocacy effectiveness by advocating right persons with right approaches.
- # 6

Promote innovations for enhancing and expanding SSTC. Give more special emphasis on new technology transfer including digital technology transfer through SSTC. Encourage particularly the innovative MCH cooperation initiatives between and among the PPD member countries, such as the establishment of matching hospitals (sister hospitals) by taking advantage of digital technologies, implementation of integrated MCH cooperation initiatives by building multiple partnerships with different stakeholders, etc. Call upon the international community to give particular attention and more support to the MCH/RH improvement in the west and central Africa regions through SSTC.
- # 7

Strengthen PPD both institution as well as its operations, bearing in mind the respective mandates and comparative advantages of different stakeholders, and also bearing in mind the potential opportunities and global multiple crises and challenges we are facing, so as to increase the resilience and ensure sustainable development of SSC. Immediate priorities should be given to integrating SSC of population and reproductive health into the overall national SSC program; establishing and developing a national task force as an entry point toward the institutionalization; allocating a regular annual budget; building and strengthening the Centers of Excellence on SSC.

8 Establish a mechanism for institutionalizing SSTC in order to facilitate and exchange expertise and experiences. Reinforce multiple partnership building for SSTC, including engaging with partners in the UN system, the international community, government, civil society, academia, and the private sector by seeking a good opportunity of rising SSTC movement in the international community in the new era, and particularly strengthen the triangular cooperation for more impactful and sustainable actions at global, regional and country levels so as to achieve the ICPD and SDGs and to build a global community of health for all, in which no one should be left behind.

9 Facilitate member states to advocate ICPD agenda in the Summit of the Future preparation and its outcomes. Strengthen research and monitoring of SSC. Encourage and support establishment and development of SSC Centers of Excellence. Encourage PPD and relevant UN agencies and international organizations to provide more support to SSC Centers of Excellence including professional guidance development, capacity building, resource mobilization, and good practice sharing. Conduct, on a regular and voluntary basis, and in combination with the review process of ICPD30, monitoring and assessment of the progress of SSC and its contributions made by PPD and its member states toward the achievement and determination of ICPD and SDGs.



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation



Some Snapshots from the Cultural picture and Grand Dinner

