



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

**An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation**

Statement by

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**Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Partners in Population and Development (PPD), an intergovernmental partnership of 26 countries representing more than half of the global population, mandated to promote South to South Cooperation in the area of Population and Development takes this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his three reports to this important 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

The Secretary General's report on "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014" consistent with General Assembly Resolution 65/234, called for an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development that responds to new challenges relevant to population and development.

We see the review as facilitating further and more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, not as a replacement of the Programme of Action, to which we reaffirm our support, wholeheartedly. We strongly believe that the outcome of the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development must reflect this. The outcome of the deliberations of this session will contribute to our on-going efforts to improve the lives of our people, with equity and dignity; and ensure sustainable development.

PPD is established as an instrument to accelerate the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA). As an intergovernmental organization PPD, working in partnership with its 26 member countries, has made significant contribution for achieving the goals of the ICPD Program of Action.

The annual inter-ministerial conference of Population and Development hosted by PPD provides a unique peer review mechanism among the member countries. These international conferences have resulted into Declarations which have served as useful guidelines for participating countries in addressing context specific Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, population and development issues.

In the intervening years since ICPD many PPD member countries have made considerable progress in relation to the ICPD goals. PPD memberships, from the initial 10 countries have increased to the current 26 countries.

The inclusive economic growth for the past decade resulted in impressive poverty reduction in many partner countries. Significant advances were also made in relation to women's opportunities and public participation. Many partner countries have achieved greater gender equity in primary and secondary school enrolment, women's participation in the formal and informal economy as well as in political processes

On the health front, the maternal mortality and total fertility rate has declined. Many of the member countries have reduced the unmet need for family planning and towards the road to population stabilization. We share the observation of the Secretary General that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity-across the multiple sectors of the ICPD and throughout the life-course-is the foundation of sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite impressive achievements in many fronts, the ICPD agenda presents uneven progress and remain unfinished. Many of the member countries still face significant challenges. Health inequity within and between countries has the potential for derailing the sustainability of development. Rapidly growing population and young age structure, gender disparity, lack of access to appropriate family planning commodities and services, men's indifference to family planning, limited investment for the health and education of adolescent and young people, rapid, unplanned urbanization, rising unplanned international migration and population mobility, changing household and family structures and its stress on the family as the basic social unit are some of them.

To address these issues the member states are taking additional specific steps to strengthen institutions to ensure necessary capacity for effective integration of population dynamics into development planning, with a rights-based approach, and ensuring effective coordination of all relevant social and planning bodies.

The post ICPD goals need to place highest priority to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity by strengthening health systems and thereby ensuring universal access to quality prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric care, and postnatal care for all women.

The post ICPD agenda further need to address the level of violence women face. Strengthening the family planning services and health sector to respond to gender based

violence and ensuring that all survivors of gender-based violence have immediate access to critical services.

Reducing child marriage and the adolescent fertility rate is still an important development agenda.

PPD will continue to pro-actively work with its alliance members and other developing countries in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2015, by promoting South-South cooperation through training and capacity building, exchange of information, experiences, best practices, advocacy, policy dialogue and opportunities of diplomacy.

PPD will continue its policy dialogues on topics of global, regional and national level priority and importance on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), population and development in the form of international Inter-ministerial conferences for member and non-member countries. The international Inter-ministerial conferences hosted by PPD will continue to be an excellent and niche opportunity to advocate for political, policy, financial, technical and program support for addressing SRHRs, population and development issues in PPD member and other countries guided by the ICPD POA beyond 2014.

PPD has unwavering commitment and stands ready to contribute its's experiences in South-South Cooperation in SRHRs, population and development in furthering the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action beyond 2014. PPD would like to stress the importance of promoting South-South Cooperation in achieving Post ICPD Goals. There is, among the Global South, tremendous potentials, expertise and know-how, lessons learned and best practices, which if adequately tapped, would make a very meaningful difference.

However, PPD notes with some concern that South-South Cooperation as a modality of change is not adequately funded and supported. Official Development Assistance from the North has drastically decreased and well below the mark agreed as part of MDG.

Promoting South-South Cooperation in the field of SRHRs, population and development including, Family planning as key aspects for achieving the ICPD PoA consensus. PPD appeals to the global community to provide greater acknowledgement to South-South Cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation.

Thank you