



## **PARTNERS IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**International Conference on Population Dynamics,  
Climate Change and Sustainable Development  
Pretoria, South Africa, 1-2 November 2011**

# Pretoria Declaration

## 1. Introduction

We<sup>1</sup>, the members of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), an alliance of developing countries, accounting for more than half of the world population, and representatives of many other developing countries attended the International Conference on **Population Dynamics, Climate Change and Sustainable Development**, held in Pretoria, the capital of South Africa during 1-2 November, 2011. The Conference was convened to discuss the linkages between population dynamics, climate change and sustainable development, share existing knowledge and views, and exchange national experiences in dealing with the complex and interrelated issues from a human rights perspective. At the end of two days of deliberation, we adopted Pretoria Declaration, and committed ourselves to promote and implement it to strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures to deal with the adverse consequences of climate change, and to advance sustainable development.

## 2. Preamble

- (i) **Recognize** that demography is not destiny and that birth rates can be lowered through family planning programmes which respect and protect human rights even in poor communities with limited access to education, when family planning is made easily available by removing barriers to the distribution and use of contraception and countering misinformation;
- (ii) **reaffirm** our strong commitment to the principles, objectives and actions contained in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action adopted in 1994, which, in particular calls for the adoption of a rights based approach to reproductive health including family planning; and to strengthen the integration of population and reproductive health policies and programmes into national development efforts, including poverty reduction strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which now incorporate the target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015;
- (iii) **commit** to redouble our efforts individually and collectively to advance the implementation of the Declarations previously adopted by PPD, in particular the one adopted at Yogyakarta in 2010 to promote a rights based approach to improve access to reproductive health including family planning services to meet the unmet needs, including for adolescents and young people;
- (iv) **reaffirm** the relevance of population factors in sustainable development as emphasized in the ICPD Programme of Action, as well as in Agenda 21;

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<sup>1</sup> Members countries of the PPD alliance as of 2 November 2011 are; Bangladesh, Benin, China, Columbia, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe

- (v) *recognize* that the links between population dynamics, climate change and sustainable development are complex. However, the scientific evidence available is sufficient to initiate urgent action and that failure to do so will make it difficult to achieve sustainable development;
- (vi) *realize* that population dynamics, including size, growth, migration, urbanization, changing age structure, changing household composition, coupled with increased levels of consumption have significant impacts on resource use, environment, climate change and sustainable development;
- (vii) *realize* that climate change and resource overuse pose a significant threat to sustainable development and the welfare and quality of life of our peoples and future generations;
- (viii) *recognize* the importance of empowering people and communities, as well as addressing effectively the issues and needs of people;
- (ix) *Commit to engagement of* Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the private sector;
- (x) *Note with concern* that many barriers such as cost, unjustified medical guidelines and practices, misinformation, provider bias, shortages of human resources for health and other social and religious barriers prevent women and men from exercising their basic human right to decide whether, when and how many children to have;
- (xi) *recommit* to take steps to further advance the integration of the goal of universal access to reproductive health, including family planning, into national development and poverty reduction strategies;
- (xii) *express* our strong commitment to South-South Cooperation in population, family planning and sustainable development and *agree* to take additional steps to further promote and strengthen including the provision of reproductive health commodities and share experiences among ourselves and with other developing countries.

### **3. Priority Issues and Recommended Actions**

#### **3 (a) Population Dynamics and Human Rights: The Implications of Climate Change**

The Conference noted with concern that, although the ICPD Programme of Action, MDGs and Agenda 21 recognized the importance of population dynamics in sustainable development, there have been limited consideration of population dynamics in recent frameworks on climate change.

Population dynamics has not been integrated systemically into climate change science. Links between population dynamics and climate change are complex and often controversial. The complexity and sensitivity of the issues make it imperative that debate needs to be rights-focused and constructive. Thinking about climate change from a human rights perspective is not only a fundamental necessity in terms of guiding our

international development policy framework, but also offers us an invaluable opportunity to reappraise the most pressing needs of a highly inequitable global society, with greatly differing social, environmental and economic levels of development.

World population reached its most recent milestone, a total of 7 billion in 2011, which represents a near threefold increase from 2.5 billion in 1950. This reflects significant progress in reducing mortality at an unprecedented pace in most of our countries. We have seen a reduction in the average number of children per woman from 6 to 3 as access to family planning has improved during the same period, although in 18 per cent of the world population, women continue to have 3 to 6 children on average;

Population continues to grow and the world has added 1.4 billion more people since we adopted the ICPD Programme of Action in 1994. Continued increase in population, estimated to reach 9.3 billion by 2050 according to most recent UN estimates, and changing household composition, coupled with increasing levels of consumption is expected to have significant adverse impacts on the environment and climate change, which in turn will put at risk prospects for sustainable development. Those most affected will be the vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of our peoples who do not have the resources, including access to information and the means, to face the challenges thrust upon them. The impact will be felt most severely in local communities and their populations, as most of the recent events in many countries have demonstrated.

We need to learn more about such linkages at the local and national levels to develop evidence-based solutions. We need to move away from ideological overtones and substantive oversimplifications. It is important that we take a more discriminating look at the strengths and limits of population programmes, including how we have progressed in meeting the unmet needs for reproductive health including family planning from a rights perspective, as called for in the ICPD Programme of Action.

Sustainable development is a harmonious balance between social, economic, political, cultural and environmental progress, which ensures that the needs of the current population are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In that context, we need to seek a better understanding of how population dynamics including spatial distribution, migration and urbanization, as well as gender equality and empowerment of women interact with changing levels and patterns of consumption. Furthermore, we need to seek how they impact upon and are impacted by environment and climate change in order to develop population and development policies and strategies rooted in a rights based approach and those that are germane to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Population growth is a multiplier for the challenges posed by sustainable development.

### **3 (b) Recommended Actions:**

- (i) Recommend that Rio+20 recognize the centrality of population factors in both adapting and mitigating to climate change and the need to include evidence-based discussions of the population factor in the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- (ii) Commit to raise the importance of population dynamics at the upcoming deliberations of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in November 2011 and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012;
- (iii) Address both population growth and wasteful consumption to help ease pressures on sustainable development;
- (iv) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and empower individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly the number, timing and spacing of their children;
- (v) Support scaling up of successful family planning programmes;
- (vi) Encourage systematic use of national and international data and projections in urban and rural development planning, policies and programmes;
- (vii) Support the data collection, analysis and research on the linkages between population dynamics, consumption patterns, environment and climate change at the community and national levels, in particular among the most vulnerable segments of societies;
- (viii) Recognize that the vulnerability of some countries with high fertility, for example in the Sahel to global warming will be intensified unless immediate steps are taken into account to meet the unmet need for family planning and systematic investments are made to raise the age at first birth;
- (ix) Incorporate research findings into policymaking and advocacy around environment and climate change and for developing and implementing adaptation and mitigation plans;
- (x) Take measures to ensure that family planning programmes are used to enhance human rights and become an important and integral part of climate-change adaptation and, in the long run, mitigation.

### **4. (a) Population, Environment and Development as Framework for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

There are two distinct ways in which population issues can be linked to climate change: adaptation (reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change) and mitigation (reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change). Given the implications for

development, environment, and poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation and mitigation have now become primary challenges.

Strong evidence exists showing that demographic change has a clear impact on greenhouse gas emissions, and that population dynamics play a key role in attempts to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Size and compositional changes of population, specially the age structure, distribution of people in urban and rural areas and household size and composition affects mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change. Further, over exploitation of resources is a major issue in this context.

Achievement of the ICPD's goal of universal access to reproductive health will contribute to declining fertility. These fertility declines would lead to population levels below the projected levels which were developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This, in turn, would help to reduce green-house gas emission scenarios in the long run. The route to climacterically sustainable human population thus lies in meeting the unmet need for family planning and the rights-based population policies envisioned by the ICPD PoA in Cairo in 1994.

Based on the experiences on managing the repeated climate events, countries have developed mitigation, preparedness and successful adaptation strategies, which can be shared with other countries within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

#### **4. (b) Recommended Actions**

- i. Integrate climate change issues in development frameworks;
- ii. Persuade policymakers to incorporate population dynamics and climate change issues in poverty reduction and development strategies;
- iii. Encourage better integration of population dynamics into climate change adaptation programmes and funding mechanisms;
- iv. Support efforts to reduce global carbon emissions including the adoption of green technology, *where appropriate and achievable*;
- v. Invest in family planning and reproductive health programmes to initiate population changes that would lead to decline in emissions;
- vi. Mobilize donor and international agencies to develop sustainable development framework incorporating climate change, population dynamics and human rights;
- vii. Persuade governments to assess vulnerability to climate change and develop adaptation plans and mechanisms accordingly;
- viii. Persuade governments to document and share climate change, adaptation and mitigation experiences among countries;
- ix. Support the development and adoption of periodic sustainability assessments to review national bio-physical resource demands by fully taking into account accurate demographic data for the country;

- x. Integrate natural resource use, supply, development foci, and other environmental considerations into population plans, policies and development programs;
- xi. Invest in capacity building for the utilization of research in policy and programming, as well as for translating policy into action.

### **5 (a) Adolescents, Youths, Women, Ageing and displaced Populations: Prospects for Sustainable Development**

Effects of Climate Change do not affect people equally. Those seriously affected by the change are women, youth, children and senior citizens who constitute the most vulnerable group in society. Limited or no access to resources and decision-making processes increases their vulnerability to climate change. Population growth in many developing countries is higher than desired, in part because of high fertility due to unintended and unplanned pregnancies. Poor, young women, and other vulnerable groups, especially the displaced, disproportionately suffer from unintended pregnancies and their adverse outcomes, denying them their rights to choose the number and timing of their children, restricting their participation in the workforce, and reinforcing their marginalized and vulnerable status. In such situations, a woman or girl's capacity to prevent pregnancy (and infection) is severely compromised by their vulnerability caused through gender and social norms, age, poverty and social status.

Often, young women who seek contraception are turned away by service providers, for cultural and other reasons. Empowered women and educated communities are the first step in driving population focused development that has sustainable impact in light of the current global negotiations on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

### **5. (b). Recommendations;**

- i. Persuade governments to assess the impact of climate change on adolescents, youth, women and other vulnerable groups of the society;
- ii. Ensure special attention to these vulnerable groups in the climate change, adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development strategies;
- iii. Provide rights based family planning and reproductive health information and services for the vulnerable sections of the population including adolescents, poor women, youth and displaced population, and increase investments for such efforts;
- iv. Ensure that adolescents are provided with information, skills and services for preventing pregnancy at an early age;
- v. Recommend that family planning and related services be made available to refugees whose numbers are substantial and rising;
- vi. Ensure adequate investment in younger generations and take steps to eliminate child marriage and increase the opportunity of secondary education for girls.

## **6. (a). Knowledge sharing: Integrating Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Change: South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development**

The possibility of enhancing and strengthening South-South cooperation is far greater today than before, as evidenced by the fact that a number of countries of the alliance are increasing their support to South-South cooperation and have begun to allocate increasing resources for the provision of fellowships, reproductive health commodities and equipment. Over the years, these countries have also accumulated high levels of knowledge, experience and expertise in planning and implementing interventions to improve maternal health and family planning and have built world-class institutions for training, making it possible to advance South-South cooperation further and make it more effective. The institutional capacity for training that exists in a number of countries should be fully utilized through South-South cooperation. This Conference gave the opportunity to the member countries to share their experiences on adaptation and mitigation for the challenges of climate.

During the past 15 years, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) has promoted the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development through policy dialogue, sharing of experiences, promoting reproductive health commodity security, building national capacity and strengthening national institutions for training through South-South cooperation. To improve monitoring, Partners in Population and Development has established a mechanism to periodically collect information on the products and services exchanged among member and non-member countries.

Knowledge sharing is becoming the key area of the modern age and a decisive resource for sustainable development. A discussion of the current state of knowledge in different member countries' experiences in integrating climate change into family planning/reproductive health/ population dynamics policies, strategies and sustainable development and sharing of such experiences would help promote better understanding and addressing of Population Dynamics, Climate Change, Sustainable Development issues and ultimately South- South Cooperation.

### **6 (b) Recommended Actions**

- i. Promote exchange of experiences gained in efforts to combat climate change at the local, national and international levels focusing on adaptation and mitigation;
- ii. Enhance the role of South-South collaboration in addressing population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and climate change;
- iii. Ensure access to current information, growing interest of and attention by policymakers on the linkages between population, RH/FP and climate change;



- iv. Undertake South-South cooperation efforts for research and advocacy on linkages between population dynamics and climate change;
- v. Strengthen regional networks of Partner Institutions and others, which could serve as centers of excellence for South-South cooperation in research documentation and sharing of good practices/ success stories at policy and programme levels;
- vi. Advocate for education and mobilization of communities for adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- vii. Utilize a South-South modality in supply of contraceptives and transfer technology among the countries of the alliance and with non-member countries;
- viii. Advocate for climate policy planning and implementation processes e.g. NAPAs implementation, development of low carbon development plans and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and financing mechanisms;
- ix. Encourage the PPD alliance to address some of these issues in a joint and collaborative manner.

#### **7 (a) Commitment and the way forward**

We, the participants in this International Conference on Population Dynamics, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, commit ourselves to actively following up and implementing the recommendations contained in this Declaration and strengthen cooperation among ourselves through South-South cooperation and with all the development partners, including Parliamentarians, research institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and the donor community.

#### **We call on Governments:**

- i. To raise the importance of population dynamics in the upcoming deliberations of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Durban in November 2011, and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012;
- ii. To integrate climate risk management into population and health policies and to incorporate population dynamics issues into sustainable development policies;
- iii. Establish early warning system to forecast and manage climate change, environmental emergencies and disasters;

#### **We call on Partners in Population and Development**

- i. To build coalitions with other organizations working on climate change and sustainable development;
- ii. To facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange of information and experiences among member countries and with other countries on the efforts and progress in addressing population dynamics, climate change and sustainable development;
- iii. To regularly monitor and to report on the progress in the follow up and implementation of the recommend actions contained in this Declaration.

**We call on development partners:**

- i. To provide technical and financial support for promoting South-South cooperation.

The participants wish to express their appreciation to the Government of Republic of South Africa for hosting the Conference, for making excellent arrangements and for its wonderful hospitality.

**2 November 2011**