

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Oral Statement

57th Commission on Population and Development

Thirty years ago, the world looked more inspiring and progressive in many ways. Nelson Mandela was about to be elected President of South Africa. The internet had only just been created. Israel signed an accord with Palestinians. Other events seem more familiar to us today: there was war going on in Europe, climate change was wreaking havoc, women and girls, in all their diversity, were experiencing enormous discrimination and violence, dying from preventable maternal mortality, and being denied full autonomy and human rights.

Despite progress and additional international commitments, the latest data from SDG indicators state that globally only 56% of women are able to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; one in five are married before the age of 18,² and 1 in 3 experience sexual or gender-based violence in their lifetime, the majority of which is from an intimate partner.

More than one billion women of reproductive age have an unmet need for family planning and nearly half of all pregnancies, 121 million per year, are unintended, and reductions in maternal mortality have stalled or worsened since 2016. Multiple, ongoing crises and conflict, including climate change, have exacerbated the impact of deprioritized, insufficient SRH services. Women and girls in conflict and crisis situations continue to be underserved, with women largely excluded from conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. Negative social norms, patriarchy, violence, discrimination and inequalities continue embedded in every society around the world, although at different levels.

This isn't because decision-makers don't know what needs to be done — there is an abundance of evidence before us – but the political responsibility to make the ICPD PoA a reality, both through policy implementation and adequate resourcing, is falling short of the goals set in 1994.

This is a critical moment for the UN system. More than halfway through Agenda 2030, attacks against marginalized people's human rights and equality seek to destabilize the long-held consensus that reproductive rights are human rights and are a matter of sustainable development. Those who seek to undermine these rights are aligned with those who seek to undermine democracy, science, evidence, civil society, civic space and the multilateral system itself. They must be stopped. The global community can't allow them to continue using human rights as a weapon, instead of a shield, institutionalizing discrimination and hatred into our laws and communities, and slowing global progress in areas like maternal mortality and HIV, where we see an increase for adolescent girls.

The ICPD PoA is essential to any Post-2030 future, but it requires adequate financing. The ODA commitments must be fulfilled. Systemic barriers and the promotion of integrated rights must guide the economic policies, mainstreaming gender and race equality and environmental integrity. It is concerning that we are still lacking the necessary system-wide policy coherence and

coordination amongst all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and accountability of ICPD PoA at national and international levels.

Young people, feminist groups, adolescents, and civil society must be guaranteed space to make their recommendations heard at the country level, as well at the UN. And those populations who have been pushed furthest behind must be prioritized.

It is important that Member States are coming together to reaffirm the global support for the ICPD 30 years on. But we also call on you, as the international community upon which so many depend, to increase the speed, to be accountable and make this agenda a reality: the UN and the Member States, together can do better to protect the rights of women, girls, adolescents, and young people in all our diversity. It is our future, our lives, our bodies that pay the price of inaction, or not enough action, and we have paid it for long enough.