

# Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development:

Regional Conferences on Population and  
Development Held in Preparation for the  
Review of the Programme of Action of the  
International Conference on Population and  
Development beyond 2014  
(Volume II)



**Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Population Division**

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and Development beyond 2014**

**Volume II**



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# DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

## Notes

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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## FOREWORD

In September 1994, the international community adopted the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development by consensus. The Programme of Action put people at the centre of sustainable development and emphasized that protecting human rights, investing in health and education, advancing gender equality and empowering women are crucial to improving the quality of life of all people. The Conference galvanized action at the national, regional and international levels, resulting in greater attention to issues of sustainability and improvements in the well-being of people around the world.

The Programme of Action stated clearly that the regional commissions of the United Nations, together with other relevant regional and subregional organizations, should play an active role within their mandates regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action.

On 22 September 2014, the General Assembly will hold a special session to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for its goals and objectives. As in 1994, the regional commissions, mandated by General Assembly resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010, undertook reviews in 2013 of the progress achieved and obstacles faced during the implementation of the Programme of Action within their respective regions.

As the Coordinator of the Regional Commissions in 2014, I have the pleasure of presenting the *Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development: Regional Conferences on Population and Development Held in Preparation for the Review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014*. The Compendium is a compilation of the outcome documents of recent regional conferences on population and development held as part of the twenty-year review and appraisal of the Cairo Conference.

The Compendium has been prepared by the five regional commissions and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It provides a valuable resource for all who seek a better understanding of the achievements and remaining challenges in implementing the Programme of Action at the regional level. It is my hope that this Compendium will contribute to a greater recognition of the regional dimensions of the linkages between population and development, and to strengthened national policy formulation and greater regional cooperation in this field.



(Signed) Alicia **Bárcena**  
Executive Secretary  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

## PREFACE

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date, accurate and scientifically objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance on population and development issues to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. The Division also undertakes regular studies on population levels, trends and dynamics, including trends of international migration, changes in population policies and the interrelationships between population and development.

As the substantive secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development of the Economic and Social Council, the Division is responsible for monitoring implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. To meet that responsibility, this *Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development*, in two volumes, has been prepared for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, to be held in New York on 22 September 2014.

Volume I maps substantive resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development since 1994 to the corresponding text from the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

Volume II is a compilation of outcome documents from recent regional conferences on population and development organized by the five United Nations regional commissions in collaboration with partners and held in preparation for the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, including a brief description of the regional meetings where the documents were adopted.

In preparing this report, the Population Division relied on the contributions of the United Nations regional commissions.

This report is available on the Division's website at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). For further information about this report, please contact the Office of the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, 10017, by telephone (+1 212) 963-3209 or e-mail at [population@un.org](mailto:population@un.org).

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The terms “developed” and “developing” regions are used for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement as to the developmental stage of a particular country or area. Where appropriate, the term “country” may refer to a territory or area.

The developed regions are comprised of all countries of Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. The term “developed countries” refers to countries in the developed regions.

Developing regions are comprised of all countries of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan) and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The term “developing countries” is used to designate countries in the developing regions.

The group of least developed countries, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions (59/209, 59/210 and 60/33, 62/97, 64/295, 67/136) included 49 countries as of 31 December 2013: 34 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania and 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The designation sub-Saharan Africa refers to all countries and areas in Africa except Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania. These are further divided into 21 geographical regions.

Country names and the composition of geographical areas follow those of “Standard country or area codes for statistical use” (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.3), available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

### **The following abbreviations have been used:**

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
LAS	League of Arab States
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODA	Official development assistance
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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## INTRODUCTION

The International Conference on Population and Development took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 5 to 13 September 1994. Preceded by population conferences in Bucharest (1974) and Mexico City (1984), it was the third high-level intergovernmental meeting on population to be organized by the United Nations, and also the largest and most recent. A total of 179 countries adopted the Cairo Programme of Action, a document that put people at the centre of the debate over sustainable development and offered a road map of practical policies and programmatic actions covering a wide array of population and development issues. Mandated by Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, and in preparation for the Cairo Conference, the United Nations regional commissions had organized meetings and conferences, both to review population policies and programmes in their respective regions and to propose future action.

Leading up to the 20-year review of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly in its resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010, decided “to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives”. The Assembly also decided “to convene a special session during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives”. It encouraged “Governments to undertake reviews of the progress achieved and the constraints faced therein in the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels, particularly at the national level and at the level of international cooperation”.

In response, the five United Nations regional commissions, in collaboration with partners in the field, held regional conferences in 2013 to prepare for the 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The present publication is a compilation of the outcome documents from these regional conferences, including brief summaries of each conference.



## CHAPTER 1

# Regional Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States (International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014)

Cairo, Egypt, 24 to 26 June 2013

### SUMMARY

The Regional Conference on Population and Development, “Development Challenges and Population Dynamics in a Changing Arab World”, took place in Cairo from 24 to 26 June 2013, organized by the League of Arab States in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the participation of 18 countries and 27 civil society organizations.

The Conference was structured around the following themes: (a) demographic and democratic transitions: regional and global perspectives; (b) young people shaping their future; (c) consolidating women’s rights in the Arab region; (d) maternal health: a right and a target; (e) family formation and dissolution; (f) comparative analysis of fertility plateaux in selected countries; (g) population, environment and climate change; (h) ageing in dignity; and (i) internal and international migrants: actors and partners in development. The findings and conclusions of the global survey<sup>1</sup> for Arab countries were also discussed throughout the Conference’s thematic sessions.

The findings of the regional review for Arab countries, along with the outcomes of the assessment of regional priority thematic population and development issues, led to the development of a new framework for implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 for countries in the region. The new framework has five main pillars: (a) dignity and equality; (b) health; (c) place and environment sustainability; (d) governance; and (e) ensuring sustainability at all levels, which has been mentioned throughout the document.

### THEMES

- **Demographic and democratic transitions: regional and global perspectives:** Discussion focused on economic development of the region and the need to create an environment fostering an inclusive “knowledge economy” that takes advantage of the demographic dividend, enhances equality, and eliminates discrimination.
- **Young people shaping their future:** Discussion emphasized the need to foster an environment that encourages youth participation in politics and decision-making, notably through the establishment of youth organizations; investment in capacity-building for youth economic and

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010, the United Nations Population Fund, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts, was tasked to undertake 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. The operational review was completed through a synthesis of critical inputs, including a global survey that was completed by States Members of the United Nations and others, consultations at the global and regional levels, thematic consultations on a range of development issues, including on youth, human rights and women’s health, and an evidence-based analysis of progress since 1994. The global survey was completed by 176 Governments and six territories and areas, representing all regions, and the responses were analysed at the global and regional levels.

social empowerment; creation of opportunities to access financial resources to implement economic and social development programmes, and ensuring broad dissemination of good practices and success stories.

- **Consolidating women's rights in the Arab region:** Discussion focused on two main issues: (a) empowerment of women in the Arab region and (b) endorsement of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and commitment to implementation of CEDAW and other relevant international documents.
- **Maternal health: a right and a target:** Discussion emphasized the need to accelerate progress towards reducing maternal mortality by mobilizing political commitment and advocating for the allocation of adequate social and financial resources. Key issues identified during the debate were: (a) how to ensure funding from domestic and external sources; (b) how to expand access to family planning and other reproductive health services and reduce unmet need for contraception; and (c) concrete measures needed to strengthen health systems and improve physical and financial access to timely high-quality health care.
- **Family formation and dissolution:** Discussion focused on issues of critical importance to families in the Arab region, including the need to: (a) enact policies and programmes to prevent child marriage; (b) empower women to exercise their rights, including the right to access health services in general, to reproductive health information and services in particular, and to protection from violence within the family; (c) initiate strategies and programmes to change attitudes and behaviour of communities and religious leaders, especially regarding early marriage, girls' education and employment, and to ensure the right to education and information for girls, including married girls; (d) develop policies responding to youth needs, particularly with regard to their right to marry and form families; and (e) ensure understanding and adoption of international treaties and conventions, and implementation of actions and programmes that address gender equality and equity.
- **Comparative analysis of fertility plateaux in selected countries:** Discussion focused on factors contributing to stable high fertility, and on policy options addressing the root causes of a fertility plateau. These included: (a) enhancing family planning programme performance; (b) adopting a new reproductive health paradigm to ensure healthy reproduction; and (c) adopting self-reinforcing policy directions and empowering relevant institutions, including population policy councils, towards the prioritization of population challenges, and the full integration of such policies into national development plans.
- **Population, environment and climate change:** Discussion highlighted government actions intended to ensure better management of natural resources and the environment, for example through the initiation of large-scale plans for the development of coastal zones based on coastal defence strategies. Discussions also addressed the need for regional and local climate change response initiatives to take into account the composition and vulnerability of the population. Support for data collection, research and analysis at all levels was needed to ensure that decision-making was based on accurate and reliable evidence.
- **Ageing in dignity:** An assessment of the current situation of older persons identified priorities and policy recommendations for the Arab countries, including: (a) creating a supportive environment for older persons; (b) establishing a dynamic, timely, gender, age and locality-disaggregated population database on older persons; (c) improving old-age income security and pension systems; (d) mainstreaming gender in national policies and strategies targeting older persons; (e) developing holistic comprehensive health-care models with patient-centred care including a life course perspective for the prevention and control of diseases; and (f) supporting and encouraging associations and networks focusing on older people.

- **Internal and international migrants: actors and partners in development:** Policies were highlighted in the discussion, including agricultural development policies and increased investment in the agricultural sector to combat rural unemployment and rural poverty. The discussion also emphasized the need to enhance industrial activities and productive services, and to enact development strategies that ensure the reallocation of investment and resources to marginalized and poor rural areas, while alleviating the risks of climate change and increasing the capacities of cities, particularly by upgrading infrastructure and ensuring access to basic services in slum areas. The discussions on international migration emphasized its role in the development of countries of origin and destination, while safeguarding the rights of migrants. Session recommendations addressed policy reforms in the following areas: (a) encouragement and support for migrants to invest in their countries of origin; (b) increased diaspora engagement in countries of origin; (c) ensuring the recognition of migrant qualifications in countries of origin and destination so that migrant skills are used effectively and prevent underemployment; (d) establishment of tax, financial, technological and administrative incentives in countries of destination to encourage migrants to engage in transnational development; (e) improved workforce planning in countries of destination to gain a realistic understanding of labour market needs for foreign labour; and (f) enhanced regional and international cooperation to ensure that migration yields triple-win outcomes (for countries of origin, destination and migrants themselves).

The discussion of the above-mentioned issues and the findings of the global survey for Arab States led to the drafting and unanimous adoption of the outcome document referred to as the “Cairo Declaration”. It highlights the main issues addressed by Arab Governments during the Conference, and reiterates the commitment of countries to redouble their efforts to fully implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and to address new and emerging population and development challenges facing the Arab region.

# Cairo Declaration

## PREAMBLE

*We, the representatives of member States of the League of Arab States (LAS), assembled in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 24 to 26 June 2013 for the Regional Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States, to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in Cairo in 1994, and to commit to key actions and priorities to expeditiously achieve the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the global development agenda post-2015,*

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/234 of December 2010 which extended the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and requested Governments to “undertake reviews of the progress achieved and the constraints faced therein in the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels of international cooperation”; mandating the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts, to undertake 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”, taking into account the need to respond to “new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development”,

*Referring* to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution confirming that the special session to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein,

*Further recalling* the outcomes of all relevant League of Arab States declarations and resolutions, including Arab Summits’ decisions as well as United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and beyond and outcomes and declarations of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),

*Recognizing* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, including the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health and reproductive rights by 2015, as specified in the Programme of Action and Millennium Development Goal Target 5b, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development,

*Further recognizing* the critical inter-linkages between population and sustained economic growth and sustainable development and their important central role to addressing the challenges and priorities of the region, and improving the quality of life of all people, especially children, adolescent girls, youth, women, older persons, people with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons; in eradicating poverty and social inequities; achieving universal primary and secondary education; achieving gender equality; improving maternal and child health; enhancing reproductive health and reproductive rights; combating sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; and eliminating gender-based violence as well as all forms of discrimination,

*Recognizing* the enormous potentials of young people in the region that can contribute effectively to the development efforts and to the implementation of the Programme of Action for population and development, as well as their roles and effective contributions — being an active partner in population

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development requires creating a supportive environment to empower them, appreciate their initiatives and ensure their participation,

*Acknowledging* the contribution of the League of Arab States (LAS), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in support of the region's priorities, including the review of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014:

1. Welcomes the findings and conclusions of the Arab regional review on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as its key actions and its follow-up beyond 2014;
2. Further welcomes the success of numerous population programmes implemented by Arab States since the adoption of the Programme of Action, especially in the areas of population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health, gender equity and women's empowerment, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and information and data;
3. Recognizes that in spite of the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action in the region, implementation has been uneven within countries and across the region in general, with the continuous challenges related to poverty and wealth disparities, social inclusion, youth, ageing, the status of women and girls, universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, migration, urbanization as well as complicated emergencies and armed conflict, the environment and climate change;

*Reiterating* the principles included in the Cairo Programme of Action related to the sovereign right of the state in implementing the recommendations in accordance with national laws, with full respect to various religious and moral values and the cultural background of the people, in accordance with internationally recognized human rights.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Public policies

*Conscious* of the need for formulating policies and programmes, building institutions and partnerships as well as allocations of appropriate resources that are commensurate with the challenges and priorities for achieving human well-being and sustainable development, which were identified by the regional review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations for its follow-up beyond 2014, including ensuring an integrated approach to inclusive economic growth and inclusive social development, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, equality of opportunity for all as well as access to social and health services and the need to recognize equality and dignity as central to progress and peace and security,

*We agree to the following:*

### A. Dignity and equality

*Recognizing* that while some government policies based on linking economic and social issues over the past 20 years have led to expanded opportunities and well-being for many, there is still a need for further efforts to combat poverty and attain fundamental rights and freedoms that enable people to fully participate in society, benefit from social, economic and technological advancement and enjoy decent life,

*Acknowledging* that expanding inequality has further undermined the grounds for ensuring minimum social justice for all, contributed to slower growth at the macro level and thwarted poverty reduction efforts and social mobility strategies at the micro level,

*Further recognizing* the important role of equity and equality, and that women and girls, young people, the elderly, migrants, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and persons belonging to ethnic, cultural and linguistic minorities, continue to be subject to multiple and overlapping forms of disempowerment and discrimination,

1. Address the issue of social and economic inequality, through redressing the mal-distribution of wealth and increasing opportunities ensuring full utilization of human capital to advance socioeconomic development;
2. Direct due attention to the rights and responsibilities of the family and all its members to ensure protection, well-being, stability and productivity;
3. Implement poverty reduction strategies and programmes aimed at vulnerable groups especially women, while paying more attention to women heading households, and provide them socioeconomic support;
4. Urge Governments to develop plans and programmes to enhance the role of women in family bonding and cohesion and educating young people on the values of citizenship;

*(a) Women*

*Recognizing* the important role that women play in all facets of life in the region and stressing that gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women lead to achieve and sustain population and development goals,

5. Call upon all countries that have not done so, to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW and its Optional Protocol) and translate in law and practice its provisions and develop strategies to uphold United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010); in a way consistent with the sovereignty of the state;
6. Call upon Arab countries to consider lifting any remaining reservations to any of the articles of CEDAW;
7. Commit to ensuring political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls without discrimination on the basis of religion, belief, ethnicity or national origin;
8. Integrate gender equality and women's empowerment principles in all development plans with a special attention to education and communication programmes and strategies; and work to provide equal opportunities and an enabling environment;
9. Protect the rights of women to effective participation in the conduct of public affairs as well as decision-making circles and adopt measures to promote it, including stimulating mechanisms;
10. Address legal and cultural challenges to promote women's equal opportunities, in urban and rural areas, in occupational mobility, especially at management, executive and political levels;
11. Enact reforms of marriage laws that prevent child marriage and ensure protection and well-being of the girl child and make compulsory the registration of marriage in official registry systems, and issuance of personal status legislations enhancing the rights of women and children in the family;



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12. Implement programmes and measures through the involvement of community leaders and civil society and youth to address the underlying causes of child marriage, and raise awareness about the serious consequences of child marriage on health and survival;
13. Implement programmes targeting changing the attitudes and behaviours of communities especially regarding child marriage, girls' education and employment, as well as ensuring the right to education and information for girls, including those who happen to be married;
14. Enhance engagement of men and boys and promote male participation and equal sharing of responsibilities through support programmes that promote gender equality in rights and opportunities;
15. Issuing legislations where they do not exist and implementing existing legislations and development of necessary national plans of action, including monitoring, reporting and criminalizing measures that protect women from all forms of violence within and outside the family and enable them to exercise their full rights, and promote a systematic collection of data on gender-based violence;
16. Strengthen national systems and partnership with international organizations, civil society and youth as relevant to build capacity and raise awareness of all stakeholders involved in the prevention and response to gender-based violence and abuse of the older persons (involving health professionals including mental health, police, security actors, etc.);
17. Strengthening coordination and creating alliances and partnerships with local communities, civil society and young people, to mobilize efforts to prevent gender based violence;

### *(b) Migrants and displaced persons*

18. Commit to the protection and fulfilment of the rights of all migrants, including refugees and displaced persons, which is essential to maximize their contribution to countries of origin and destination alike;
19. Pay special attention to the population and development conditions in the Arab States affected by occupation, war and conflict — especially refugees, displaced persons and forced migrants;
20. Emphasize the importance of protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all migrants, including displaced persons, refugees and victims of trafficking, which is essential to maximize their contributions to countries of destination and origin alike;
21. Ensure the protection of all human and labour rights of international migrants from and within the Arab region;
22. Paying particular attention to the situation of the population and development in Palestine and emphasize that it hinders the achievement of sustainable development and the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, as a result of the Israeli occupation and its implications on sustainable development and human rights;

### *(c) Young people*

*Reaping* the benefits of the demographic window of opportunity represented by the increasingly large youth population depends on the commitment to put in place legislation, policies, programmes and training, ensuring the rights and participation of young people and enhancing their human capital to ensure that they have the capabilities to spur social and economic innovation,

*Recognizing* that wider participation of young people in decision-making will meaningfully address their aspirations and enhance their potential to contribute towards social and economic development as well as the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

*Recognizing* that the contribution of youth to economic well-being, political stability and development will be ensured through their representation in political structures and their effective participation in the conduct of public affairs,

23. Improving the quality of and access to education to adequately respond to labour market needs in the Arab region are essential for young people's economic development, job creation and active civic participation; the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (2009) focuses on education quality as the ultimate goal of educational reforms in the region and highlights the need for building systems of quality assurance and evaluations;
24. Ensure the right of young people to decent work through effective policies and programmes that generate stable, safe, secure, non-discriminatory employment, especially with regard to gender, and which provides a decent wage and opportunities for career development, adhering to the rights of young people at work, including the right to fair hiring, adequate housing and to join and organize labour unions, consistent with international conventions;
25. Develop youth capacity for interaction and building healthy social relations, prevent social isolation, promote conscious sexual and reproductive health awareness through guidance and support of parents that is consistent with their developing capacities;
26. Commit to prioritizing the creation of jobs and a skilled workforce by increased investment, including the private sector, in programmes that foster youth entrepreneurship and provide capacity-building to young people through training programmes, using formal and non-formal curricula, education, vocational and employment counselling, quality paid internships; offer social protection, mentoring and expertise-sharing so that young people, persons whose conditions are leading to marginalizing them, and getting the necessary information and skills to access decent work opportunities;
27. Actively involve young people in all policies and mechanisms of national and regional programmes, including the planning, implementation and decision-making, monitoring and evaluation;
28. Enable effective participation of young people as volunteers and leaders of social change without being subjected to exploitation, violence or deprivation of rights;
29. Activate various mechanisms and joint Arab institutions dealing with youth issues for enhanced networking in support of greater efficacy and feasibility;

*(d) Older persons*

*Recognizing* that increasing longevity is one of humanity's greatest achievements and that with the right measures in place to secure health care, regular income, social networks and legal protection, there is a longevity dividend to be reaped by current and future generations,

*Further acknowledging* the accumulated experience of the older persons and recognizing the opportunity for them to contribute to the development process and the need to share in its benefits,

30. Nurture an enabling environment that empowers, values and invests in older persons' accumulated life experience and capabilities and recognize the societal and economic opportunities associated with ageing, thus reaping the rewards of the "longevity dividend";



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31. Work with stakeholders to ensure that ageing is mainstreamed into broader development processes, including poverty reduction strategies, across all sectors and agencies involving governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as civil society and the private sector and support issuing legislation enabling families to care for the elderly while anticipating an increase in their numbers;
32. Ensure supporting calls for ageing within the natural family setting, which is embedded in Arab culture and often reflected in laws, as an essential goal, and ensure that existing services, living conditions and the environment are responsive to it;
33. Focus on the human rights paradigm for advocating and implementing ageing policies including by involving grass-roots and civil society organizations as well as older persons themselves; this embraces the rights to financial security, health and social care, and safe environments.
34. Ensure that all older persons, particularly older women, can live with dignity and security, free of discrimination on the basis of age and free of abuse and violence against them; encourage Governments and local municipalities as well as urban planners and architects to take into consideration the specific needs and functional capacities of older persons when designing housing, public buildings, mass transportation, outdoor spaces and private homes; also support and encourage the establishment of associations and networks of older persons;
35. Promote “life cycle” approach for disease prevention and control through the promotion of health and well-being in old age, and the adoption of the framework of “active ageing”, which requires health system reform that increases the focus on health promotion, disease prevention and early screening, rather than traditional “therapeutic” practices, as well as promoting health education materials that teach the “self-care” and supports the messages “primary prevention”, to enjoy a healthy life;
36. Advocate for the inclusion of geriatrics specialization within the education programmes at universities, such as family medicine, and the inclusion of ageing diseases within the health basket;

### *(e) Persons with disabilities*

*Recognizing* the need to promote and protect the individual autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities, including the freedom to make their own choices and to participate actively in society and in decisions affecting their lives.

As well, *recognizing* the need to meet the reproductive health needs of persons with disabilities while acknowledging in particular that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk, within and outside their households, of violence, physical and sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation;

37. Call upon Arab countries that have not done so to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol and translate its provisions in law and practice;
38. Call upon Arab countries that have not done so to adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities and to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities in any aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life;

## B. Health

*Recognizing* that promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health, and protection of reproductive rights are not only essential to the realization of social justice and ensuring a healthy and secure life, but are essential to the achievement of national and global commitments for sustainable development,

39. Ensure that sexual and reproductive health is one of the priorities of the health sector, and an integral part of national health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations of resources and expenditures;
40. Adopt the life cycle as a comprehensive approach for reproductive health and the elimination of child marriage, forced marriage and early pregnancy; provide information and high-quality services to help couples in the Arab region make reproductive decisions based on accurate and reliable information and exercise their rights to access quality services without financial, institutional or any other obstacles, taking privacy into account;
41. Establish mechanisms that foster providers' compliance with human rights, ethical and professional standards, including full disclosure of complete scientific information, and regulating that such information and services are made available regardless of providers' personal beliefs, or objection upon suspicion;
42. Ensure that policies concerning fertility in Arab countries are based on the right of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, taking into account the need for such policies to be based on evidence and best practices;
43. Expand coverage through increasing the number of health units that provide family planning/ reproductive health services; ensure availability of female health providers and establish partnerships with civil society and the Arab private sector;
44. Increase access of men and male adolescents to sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services in support of family health;
45. Improve the quality of services through improving health workers' skills and capabilities, diversifying available contraceptive method mix and ensure effective counselling, respecting and protecting the rights of clients in an environment free of any form of discrimination;
46. Improve the skills and capabilities, through all accessible means, of all service providers working in health units that provide sexual and reproductive health services to enable them to serve women with better quality;
47. Develop policies to motivate human resources in the health sector to remain in their home countries and to motivate them to work in remote areas. Policies, incentives and mechanisms for distribution and capacity-building of health workers should be introduced and implemented. In addition, human resource policies in the health sector should address the issue of the brain drain and provide solutions to retain health-care providers;
48. Develop new approaches to maternal health service delivery that can reduce costs and ensure sustainability such as transferring experiences from some Arab countries to others about community participation in improving access to maternal health and the use of qualified cadre to provide family planning services in remote areas where human resources are constrained;
49. Enable accessibility of young people to high-quality, affordable and youth-friendly health services, including age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and information, as appropriate to their age, taking into account privacy and confidentiality, that is especially tailored to their needs free of all forms of discrimination and stigma;

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50. Enhance health of young people, including their mental aspects, and addressing irresponsible behaviour regarding smoking, drinking, drugs and road safety;
51. Dedicating special and urgent attention to adolescent reproductive health, particularly prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, through access to age-appropriate services with due respect to cultural values and religious beliefs and in partnership with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
52. Make available culturally and age-appropriate sexuality education, in and out of school, which addresses gender and life skills differences, which is necessary for young people to be able to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, promote values of tolerance and mutual respect, and refrain from all forms of violence;
53. Encourage young people to acquire skills and to assume responsibility for their own behaviour and to respect the rights of others so that they develop values of non-discrimination and gender equality, and to combat sexual abuse, gender-based violence and harmful practices;
54. Ensure that all victims/survivors of gender-based violence have immediate access to basic services, including: 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; and provide needed post-rape care, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to police protection, safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; and referrals and longer-term support;
55. Design and implement public education campaigns and community mobilization on human rights and laws related to sexual and reproductive health and protection of reproductive rights and reinforce a culture of acceptance, respect, non-discrimination and non-violence;
56. Eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls and engage men and boys, policymakers, parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, educators, health-care providers, the private sector and journalists in creating an environment that is conducive to enjoyment of these rights by all;
57. Amend or enact laws and policies in order to provide high-quality sexual and reproductive health services and to protect the reproductive rights of all and enable all individuals to enjoy the highest level of reproductive health without discrimination;
58. Eliminate child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting as soon as possible; prohibit practices that violate the reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls, such as forced sterilization and forced abortion, or discrimination in education and employment due to pregnancy and motherhood, age or family status;
59. Protect the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and prohibit all forms of stigma, discrimination or violence against them;
60. Respect and implement legislation related to ensuring reproductive health rights for working women such as maternity and childcare leaves;

### C. Place and environment sustainability

*Recognizing* that population dynamics — growth and decline, changing age structures, urbanization, migration and changing family structure — affect human development opportunities, and in turn, are determined by the people's choices and are essential for effective planning for comprehensive

economic growth and social development, as well as to achieve sustainable development and water and food security,

*Call upon* the League of Arab States, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, to hold preliminary consultations and preparations necessary to ensure the integration of the Arab point of view in the output of the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, periodically held by the United Nations General Assembly;

*(a) Internal migration and displacement*

As the level of urbanization is accelerating, due to internal migration, from rural areas and forced mobility, and is significantly growing and as future population growth will be primarily in urban areas, particularly small and medium-sized cities,

61. Secure access of internal migrants to the benefits of employment, labour market, health, education, land and housing policies, ensuring equal conditions that facilitate migrant integration;
62. Include migration policies and programmes in development planning and ensure availability of the required financial resources needed to implement them;
63. Develop ambitious urban planning strategies to revitalize the role of medium and small towns and cities through encouraging public and private investment;
64. Provide land, housing and utilities, secured by the State, for current and future urban residents living in squatter areas in the cities of the Arab region;
65. Create employment opportunities and provide quality utilities and social services, including education and health, and increase the investment in the agriculture sector and rural areas in order to combat unemployment and poverty in those areas;
66. Enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to displacement and migration due to climate change and relocation plans, as needed, at national, regional and international levels;
67. Prevent displacement as much as possible, through the facilitation of voluntary internal migration with support to displaced persons to facilitate returning to their original location, and pay due attention to all aspects of internal migrant women's special needs in all measures taken;
68. Strengthen service provision with a multisectoral response to all forms of violence associated with armed violence and displacement targeting women, young people and children, and secure availability of funding to ensure that appropriate multisectoral gender-based violence response services (health, psychosocial, security and legal) are accessible to all conflict-affected populations; local and national-level governments and humanitarian response organizations should facilitate effective communication between professionals in various relevant sectors;
69. Commit to addressing the living conditions of people in large urban centres as a priority, while ensuring equal access to quality and affordable basic health and social services for all, including those living in rural and suburban areas as well as the very poor groups and people with disabilities;
70. Ensure equity in access to services, by providing adequate geographic coverage in both urban and rural areas, and by making services free or affordable;

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### *(b) International migration*

*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development for various countries of the region, and the need to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination; and the need to make migration a matter of genuine choice, not due to lack of decent employment opportunities at home;

*Referring* to the outcomes of the Regional Consultative Meeting on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region, in preparation for a second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, in June 2013,

71. Acknowledge the benefits of international migration and its positive contribution throughout its economic, social and cultural dimension in countries of destination and origin;
72. Integrate the financial, human and social benefits of migration in the development plans in countries of origin;
73. Recognizing that remittances are private resources of international migrants and their families, incentives should be provided to put them at the service of development; to this end:
  - Countries of origin and destination should commit to reducing remittance fees by promoting competition and diversifying banks and other means or channels of formal remittances;
  - Countries of destination should consider tax exemptions on financial transfers to countries of origin;
  - Countries of origin and destination, within immigration regulations, should consider setting up social security systems for migrants that allow accumulation of periods of contribution and transfer of entitlements;
  - Countries of origin should consider diversifying channels of investments in individual and community projects and providing incentives to maximize remittances;
  - Encourage experiences and practices aiming at better use of return migrants to fill labour needs in countries of origin in order to enhance social sectors such as health and education;
74. Skills acquisition is a major benefit of international migration; in order to maximize its contribution to development:
  - Countries of destination should consider establishing systems for accrediting the skills acquired by migrant workers;
  - Countries of destination should consider organizing and supporting programmes for migrants wishing to return to their home countries; such programmes including training for public employment services at home countries, training of return migrants on how to look for jobs, training on initiating projects, establishing small and medium enterprises, support establishing commercial business with receiving countries;
75. The social, financial and human capital accumulated by Arab immigrants is a major asset for development; in order to make the best use of it:
  - Countries of destination should encourage diasporas' transnational activities, through tax incentives and financial, technological and administrative support;
  - A register of such activities should be set up so as to encourage emulation;
  - Countries of origin should also encourage such transnational activities through incentives and other forms of support;

- To encourage the transnational contribution of migrants, countries of origin should ensure and guarantee the full enjoyment of their political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights;
76. Highly skilled international migrants respond to the critical requirements for work in certain sectors and occupations in countries of destination; in order to avoid the detrimental effects of highly skilled migration and to maximize its positive contributions:
- Destination countries should study and make periodic projections of demand in their labour markets, which should allow countries of origin to design appropriate education and training policies;
  - Establish adequate links that can enhance the management of skilled migration; this includes direct labour matching mechanisms, provision of labour market information and enhancement of training and education; these projections can also be the bases for cooperation between countries of origin and destination;
  - Countries of destination should cooperate in setting up registers of highly skilled migrants who could be called upon to contribute to development in their countries of origin;
  - Countries of destination should consider supporting university and research institutions in countries of origin, which should allow an increase in the number of graduates who can meet internal and external demand for labour; this support should also allow improvement in working terms and conditions, and job satisfaction, which would result in fewer people desiring to migrate;
  - Research should be conducted to ascertain the feasibility of the return of migratory brains to the Arab countries;
77. Systematically combat all forms of hatred against expatriates, especially against Arab migrants as well as against migrants in the Arab region;
78. Combat smuggling and trafficking in human beings and in accordance with the provisions of the Palermo Convention of 2000 on cross-border crime and its Protocols to combat smuggling and trafficking;
79. Improve intercountry and multi-stakeholder collaboration and cooperation to ensure the orderly flow of migration and minimize the recourse to undocumented migration;
80. Consider developing pre-departure programmes to inform and prepare potential migrants for the migration journey and to warn them about smuggling and trafficking;
81. Mainstream migration into national development policies and into the post-2015 development agenda;
82. Encourage the ratification of all core international conventions on human rights and labour rights of migrants, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990) and the International Labour Organization on Domestic Workers Convention (2011);
83. Generate, analyse and disseminate periodic statistical information on international migration to help formulate and implement policies on the basis of evidence and related research;
84. Support cooperation between sending and receiving countries to ensure the orderly flow of migration and reduce irregular migration, and intensify awareness of the dangers of irregular migration networks and warning of smuggling and trafficking in human beings;



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### (c) Environmental sustainability

85. Ensure full understanding of the interaction between population, environment, climate change and economic development to create a foundation for sustainable development that takes into account the current and future size, composition, needs and rights of the population;
86. Remove the barriers to sustainability through increased use of clean technology, including innovation, sound governance, systematic awareness creation and sensitization of the public, and sustainable consumption behaviour that are beneficial to the environment;
87. Regional and local climate change response measures must take into account the distribution, vulnerability and resilience of the targeted populations;
88. Initiate a large-scale plan for development of coastal zones based on a coastal defence strategy, with full support to the residents of these areas, including minimizing displacement and providing developmental alternatives where displacement is unavoidable;
89. Identify capability gaps and needs of the local communities besides building institutional capacities to achieve long-term progress; this will only be possible through monitoring programmes to follow and continuously assess ecological, demographic and socioeconomic performance of the region and adequate environmental planning;
90. To better manage natural and environmental resources, there is a need to activate institutions at all levels — local, national, regional and global — along with independent juridical systems and good governance;
91. Promote and develop environment-friendly production patterns and consumption patterns through research and clean technology, and technical cooperation between countries and regions;
92. Young people, as agents of change, should be engaged in environmental protection efforts through concrete durable contributions that influence the mindsets, attitudes and behaviour of their peers and communities; as well, they should be provided with education on practical skills in disaster preparedness and adaptation to climate change, on the potential consequences of climate change and global environmental degradation, and on the technological and social foundations of sustainable development; youth can make sustainable choices with regards to consumption and lifestyles as well as green jobs and develop the innovations necessary to achieve sustainability;

### D. Governance

*Recognizing* that good governance based on transparency, accountability and participation for all, the rule of law, reduction of corruption and the promotion of good governance at the local, national, regional and global levels, is the basis for optimal development results and its implications for international peace and security,

*Further recognizing* that everyone's participation is critical to advancing sustainable development and responsive governance and institutions' flexibility is very important for the integration and sustainability of social and economic development,

93. Call upon those countries that have not ratified core international human rights treaties and conventions to do so and encourage those who have ratified them to take actions to achieve gender equality and equity for balanced and respectful relations between men and women in the region at societal and community levels and within the family;

94. Conduct scientific research to study the situation of older persons and identify their needs; and develop active ageing policies to utilize the knowledge and experience of the older population; support the collection of age and sex-disaggregated data and research on ageing, including national surveys that monitor the situation of older persons and make these available to inform policymaking;
95. Integrate women's empowerment and take measures to alleviate all kinds of gender-based discrimination in all macro and sectoral development plans and strategies, particularly ensuring access to equal opportunities, health services, employment, resource management and independence of financial decisions; and urge Governments to enact decisions and legislations that broaden women's participation in political and legislative decision-making;
96. Develop alternative strategies and programs to enrol girls in the education system and provide them with opportunities equal to those of boys to continue their education, including their secondary and higher education;
97. Secure funds for population programmes; and develop ways and mechanisms to sustain financing through establishing an Arab trust fund with the participation of the Arab private sector;
98. Pay due attention to the current high fertility in some countries of the region and devise appropriate rights-based policies and programmes;
99. Call upon the Arab countries to avail and disseminate national level and subnational data on population, conduct qualitative studies to analyse the underlying social determinants of reproductive health and assess the impact of population strategies at the national and subnational levels;
100. Create and strengthen relevant institutions with the necessary capacity to ensure effective integration of population dynamics into development planning as well as efficiency and accountability, including ensuring effective coordination of all relevant social and planning bodies;
101. Integrate population dynamics into development planning at the national and subnational levels in order to comprehensively address population and development issues;
102. Calling on Arab countries to conduct population censuses periodically and timely disseminate results in accordance with established standards; analyse and use these data and vital statistics systems, including registration of births and deaths, which are based on data classification by population groups, as well as survey data, for the purposes of planning, monitoring and evaluation;
103. Governments of Arab countries, the League of Arab States, United Nations organizations and relevant agencies at the local level should support research, data collection, analysis dissemination and utilization of high-quality and timely census, vital statistics and for the purpose of evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation, and adopt detailed methodologies to ensure adequacy of programmes to local conditions, enhance capacities to deal with various population challenges in different geographical areas and set up priorities for the population and under-served areas;
104. Consider integrating the impacts of sustainable development, environment and social responsibility in all trade negotiations, including social impacts on women, girls, young people and the poorest groups; commit to address, as a priority, the living conditions of people in large urban centres while ensuring equal access to quality and affordable basic health and social services for all, particularly for the vulnerable and poorest groups;



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105. Ensure firm commitment to democracy, justice, transparency, integrity and equal representation in all governance processes, in a way that enables youth and older persons to participate in the process of national development, through access to management opportunities, employment, innovation and a fair distribution of wealth;
106. Reinforce the culture of democracy and participation among youth through education, arts, literature and all forms of communication media;
107. Ensure that young people are key partners in the decision-making that concerns them, their families and their communities, ensuring that they are equal partners in development, not passive beneficiaries;
108. Ensure compliance with equal and equitable representation in politics, as well as promoting girls' access to higher education levels, and addressing harmful practices against young women and girls, including forced and child marriage, gender-based violence and all other forms of discrimination;
109. Promote the participation of young women and men from rural areas, and young people at-risk of marginalization in public debates and decisions;
110. Expand youth participation and empowerment through establishment and strengthening of institutional mechanisms that allow for meaningful youth participation in decision-making, particularly for those most marginalized, ensuring young people have access to the information they need to exercise their human rights, and strengthening the capacities of youth-led organizations and networks in order to enable them to fulfil their potential as active and equal members of society;
111. Establish a dynamic, up-to-date, gender, age, and locality-disaggregated population-based database to keep abreast of rapid demographic, socioeconomic and health changes in the region, to ensure effective and successful policies and programmes; relevant research, especially on vulnerable older persons and in-depth analysis of existing data can be powerful tools for evaluation of policies and practices;
112. Establish enabling legal and policy frameworks to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including national justice systems to ensure accountability for all forms of violence perpetrated during humanitarian emergencies, and the exclusion of these crimes from amnesty provisions or mitigating measures; ensure unimpeded access to justice and legal assistance to all;
113. Enact and implement laws that allow education in an environment free from discrimination, violence and abuse;
114. Initiate national campaigns through the media and educational curricula and through strengthening the capacity of the school/formal education and informal education systems and community groups, to fight violence against girls, raise awareness and change behaviour in the short term, and strengthen programmes to provide safe spaces for girls, based on best practices, in order to improve their knowledge, skills and self-confidence to live a decent life in the wider community where they belong;
115. Ensure universal access to free, quality and comprehensive education at all levels in a safe and participatory environment by adopting a rights-based approach to education, including formal, informal and non-formal education and for vulnerable and marginalized groups, particularly girls;

*(a) International cooperation and partnership*

116. Arab countries should benefit from all forms of international cooperation, within the framework of adapting to climate change and in facing up to its consequences and other environmental, developmental and population issues;
117. Improve coordination and partnerships among local, national and international development partners, including civil society to: (a) strengthen the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population programmes; and (b) resource mobilization in order to strengthen the health system and address priority health issues, in particular the high maternal mortality and low contraceptive prevalence rates in some countries; such funding mechanisms include the Paris declaration for donor harmonization, the Accra declaration of new aid and funding modalities that can serve as a tool for more effective donor programming and funding for Millennium Development Goal 5 targets to improve maternal health and reduce maternal mortality;
118. Provide financial, technical and institutional support to national population commissions/ councils in order to have legislation in place that facilitates playing active roles, and call upon countries that do not have such bodies to establish ones as soon as possible;
119. Call on the League of Arab States, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other organizations to develop plans and programmes to enhance capacities of national councils/ commissions and similar bodies, and provide assistance to countries in the process of establishing such institutions;
120. Encourage the development of regional initiatives on population and development to increase regional coordination and to mobilize resources and maximize returns;
121. Provide the financial resources necessary to achieve the objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and its close association with the post-2015 development agenda, and call upon international donors to fulfil their financial pledges in Cairo in 1994 in order to provide the necessary resources to achieve the goals of population and development beyond 2014 with the need for Arab countries to fulfil the announced obligations;
122. Promote international cooperation efforts, including the development of joint programmes and initiatives, strengthening policy dialogue and coordination, transfer of knowledge and technology, and the allocation and mobilization of financial and technical resources, for international cooperation in the area of population and development;
123. Call upon the League of Arab States, United Nations organizations and other international and regional organizations to increase their support for building regional and national capacity in the field of research and the collection and dissemination of data through censuses and sample surveys focusing on young people, women and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities and others, and to enhance capacities in the field of in-depth analysis using relevant software packages;
124. Expand the availability of quantitative and qualitative data covering population and development issues, trends and characteristics of migration through specialized research and scientific studies to forecast future trends;
125. Call upon Governments to reduce forced migration, confront and solve problems arising therefrom, provide protection and services to forced migrants, refugees and displaced persons, and facilitate their return;

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126. Encourage international cooperation with a view to maximizing the contribution of migration into development and to protecting and ensuring the rights of international migrants;
127. Countries of origin and destination should cooperate in the formulation and implementation of policies aiming at facilitating the reintegration of return migrants in their own labour markets and societies;
128. Countries of destination should formulate and implement policies that foster the integration of migrants and their families, without discrimination, in their workplaces and societies;
129. Promote and strengthen partnerships with the private sector in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes and policies, particularly in the areas of service delivery, commodity production and distribution; expand collaboration and support at all levels including North-South and South-South to exchange of experiences that lead to accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

Finally, the representatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations in the Arab region who have met in Cairo from 24 to 26 June 2013, raise their voices high, calling for efforts to achieve stability in the Arab region and to put an end to disputes and conflicts that directly affect the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the relevant declarations particularly the Millennium Development Goals and the prospects for 2015 and beyond, and that reflect negatively on the situation of the population, especially women and youth,

As well, the Conference calls for taking into account the declarations of the parliamentarians and the Arab Youth Alliance for Population and Development, the coalitions of NGOs working on women's issues and civil society associations and the recommendations contained therein.

## CHAPTER 2

# United Nations Economic Commission for Europe High-level Regional Conference Geneva, Switzerland, 1 to 2 July 2013<sup>2</sup>

### SUMMARY

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)<sup>3</sup> in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) carried out an implementation review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the ECE region from August 2012 to July 2013. The review process included preparation of a regional report based on responses of ECE member States to a global survey, three thematic expert meetings, and a high-level regional conference.

The ECE secretariat, after studying global survey results, relevant existing studies, and data provided in country implementation profiles, prepared the report “ICPD Beyond 2014: The UNECE Region’s Perspective”, assessing implementation of the provisions of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development across the region. The report’s findings confirmed the continuing relevance of the Programme of Action to achieving inclusive social and economic development, prosperous societies and environmental sustainability, based on gender equality and the respect for human rights.

The review in the region concluded with the ECE Regional Conference entitled “Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century”. The Conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 2 July 2013, organized jointly by ECE and UNFPA and hosted by the Government of Switzerland.

The Conference brought together more than 300 participants, including official delegations from 43 ECE member States, officials from the United Nations Secretariat and UNFPA, representatives of other United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, as well as numerous representatives of academia and non-governmental organizations.

The Conference was structured around three major themes: (a) population dynamics and sustainable development; (b) inequalities, social inclusion and rights; and (c) families and sexual and reproductive health over the life course. It addressed issues such as poverty, exclusion, low fertility, migration, ageing, sexual and reproductive health and rights through the prisms of sustainability, rights, equity and dignity. It stressed the need to better integrate population dynamics (i.e., ageing) into development planning at the national and subnational levels; take a long-term, holistic, rights-based approach; invest in building human capital throughout the life course of individuals; enable choices and the right to self-determination; and ensure lifelong equal opportunities for all. A special panel also discussed partnership and international cooperation.

The principal background document for Conference deliberations was the ECE regional report.<sup>4</sup> Other background documents included the discussion reports of the three thematic expert meetings held jointly by ECE and the UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in preparation for

<sup>2</sup> The full title of the meeting is “Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century”.

<sup>3</sup> The terms “ECE” and “UNECE” are used interchangeably.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2014). *UNECE Regional Report — ICPD Beyond 2014: The UNECE Region’s Perspective* (United Nations publication). Available at [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/icpd/Conference/Regional\\_Report/Regional\\_Report\\_ECE\\_ENG\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/icpd/Conference/Regional_Report/Regional_Report_ECE_ENG_WEB.pdf) (accessed on 1 August 2014).

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the Conference and a report on socioeconomic and demographic trends in the region, with scenarios for the future prepared by the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital in Vienna.<sup>5</sup>

The Conference outcome document was a Chair's summary based on consultations and consensus of the Conference. The summary acknowledged the progress made and highlighted the challenges faced by the region, including diverging trends in mortality and morbidity across countries and population groups within countries, an incomplete gender equality agenda, inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, discrimination against and social exclusion of migrants, minorities and other disadvantaged groups, and increasing inequalities in access to employment and income opportunities, which particularly disadvantages young people.

The summary stressed that the human rights of individuals should be at the centre of development processes and that sexual and reproductive health are central to the development agenda. Participants called for the results of the review of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 to be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

The summary also emphasized the need for reliable data, including data on vulnerable groups, and called for protecting the rights of migrants, especially victims of human trafficking, and for ensuring that governance is based on accountability, participation, transparency and the rule of law.

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<sup>5</sup> Other background documents to the Conference are available at <http://www.unece.org/icpd-2014/unece-regional-conference.html> (accessed on 1 August 2014).

## Chair's summary of the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Conference

The High-level Regional Conference “Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century”, held from 1 to 2 July 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, was organized jointly by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and hosted by the Government of Switzerland.

The Conference marked the culmination for the ECE region<sup>6</sup> of a process aimed at reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, held in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt. Its objective was to assess the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action in the region, highlight lessons learned and successful approaches, and make recommendations on the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the UNECE region beyond 2014.

The review process in the region included the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey, as well as a regional report based on the survey results and a study of population trends and policies in the region. It also included three thematic consultations corresponding to the three thematic sessions of the Regional Conference, as well as consultations with civil society, young people and parliamentarians.

The ECE Regional Report summarizes information on legislation, policies, programmes and strategies adopted and implemented by ECE member States in relation to the Programme of Action. Overall, the report confirmed the Programme of Action's continuing relevance for achieving inclusive social and economic development, prosperous societies and environmental sustainability, based on gender equality and respect for human rights. It indicates that significant progress has been made in policy development and programming.

The analysis shows that societies can prosper under conditions of slow or no population growth and ageing if they adapt their institutions and equitably invest in people's education, health and employment opportunities independently of gender, age and origin. Still, the region faces many barriers and challenges in developing people's full potential. These include unacceptably high differences in mortality and morbidity between countries and between groups within countries, an incomplete agenda of gender equality and women's economic empowerment, political leadership and participation in decision-making, large inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, discrimination and social exclusion of migrants, minorities and other disadvantaged groups, and increasing inequalities in access to employment and income opportunities which affect in particular, young people.

The Conference was chaired by Ambassador Urs Schmid of Switzerland and consisted of five sessions. The opening plenary session included a keynote speech by Ms. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland, followed by an intervention by young people on their vision and priorities for the region, and by the presentation and discussion of the ECE Regional Report on the outcome of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey in the region. Three thematic sessions were dedicated to the following topics: population dynamics and sustainable development; families and sexual and reproductive health over the life course; and inequalities, social inclusion and rights. Each thematic session commenced with a keynote presentation and two discussant interventions and proceeded with statements by delegations and discussions on the respective topics. Young people presented the Call to Action adopted by the Regional Youth Forum held in Istanbul in May 2013. A panel session on partnership and international cooperation

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<sup>6</sup> The ECE region encompasses 56 countries in Europe and Central Asia, as well as Canada, Israel and the United States of America. See also annex.



## Chapter 2: Chair's summary

for advancing the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 also took place during the Conference.

Participants included representatives of governmental authorities, including high-level officials, academia, civil society organizations and youth, as well as members of national parliaments. Experts representing relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional intergovernmental organizations also participated. In total, over 300 participants from 44 ECE member States and one area attended the Conference.

At the closing session of the Conference, Ambassador Urs Schmid, Chair of the Conference, presented this summary, which was prepared in consultation with the Conference participants.

### PROGRESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants welcomed the findings and conclusions of the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its follow-up beyond 2014, and reaffirmed their commitment to the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development. They emphasized that people should be at the centre of development, with particular attention to human rights, gender equality, health and education, especially the education of girls.

#### Population dynamics and sustainable development

Participants noted that in the ECE region, people are living longer, healthier lives and have higher levels of education than past generations. This has been accompanied by lower fertility, population ageing and more complex migration patterns, with resultant policy implications, all set against a backdrop of economic crisis. Participants underscored the need for better integration of population dynamics into development planning at the national and subnational levels in order to comprehensively respond to demographic change and its implications. Participants also underlined the necessity to take a long-term, holistic, rights-based approach to population dynamics and its interlinkages with sustainable development.

It was stressed that policies in both low- and high-fertility countries should be based on the right of individuals to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, taking into account the need for such policies to be based on evidence and best practices. Participants emphasized a recommendation for policymakers to develop a holistic approach and family-friendly, gender-sensitive and responsive policies across all relevant sectors — including health, education, employment and migration. Policies need to support all forms of families and address in particular, vulnerable families. They should also enable women and men to find a balance between family and work responsibilities, e.g., with flexible, affordable care options for children and older persons. Assumptions about low fertility were questioned by participants, as below-replacement-level fertility is not a threat if accompanied by adequate investments in health, education and employment opportunities. Participants also highlighted the evidence that in the European context, gender equality contributes to higher levels of fertility and to women's participation in the labour force. Moreover, participants emphasized that many countries with slow or no population growth are very prosperous.

One of the major successes identified by participants was that in many countries of the ECE region, people live longer and healthier lives. The reasons for this success include improvements in public health and better access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, progress in medicine, as well as the adoption of healthier lifestyles. At the same time, persisting differences in life expectancy and adverse trends in mortality, especially among working-age men, in some countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia were pointed out as an area of concern. Participants recommended that particular attention is paid to addressing excess mortality among men in these countries.

Participants recommended that Governments invest in building human capital throughout the life course of individuals, particularly in building the capacities of adolescents and young people and developing their full potential, and allow them meaningful participation in all stages of the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes, such as those related to job creation and employment.

Participants emphasized the right to quality education at all levels in a safe and participatory environment, and to decent work for young people through effective policies and programmes that generate employment that is secure and non-discriminatory and provides a decent wage and opportunities for career development. Participants were of the opinion that this is essential for social cohesion and for ensuring social, economic and human development, as well as returns from the demographic dividend in the less developed countries of the region where this is relevant.

Participants recommended the promotion of healthy lifestyles among adolescents and young people, with access to youth-friendly health services and social security coverage, in order to improve the lives of the future generations of older persons. To better respond to ageing societies, participants recommended that effective policies and programmes be adopted, aimed at providing appropriate health and social services. The Conference participants believed that prevention of discrimination, securing the health care, income and social networks of older persons will allow societies to benefit from their productivity and contribution as caregivers, volunteers and entrepreneurs, and reap the longevity dividend of current and future generations of older persons. Participants recommended that support be given to communities and families to ensure that older persons receive the long-term care they need, and to promote independent, active and healthy ageing at the place of residence.

Participants noted that population ageing in the ECE region has implications for intergenerational equity, and called for policies and measures that take into account that in most countries, relatively small generations of young people will shoulder higher per capita support for older generations.

Participants noted that in many countries, migration of young people from rural to urban areas is having a substantial impact on both rural and urban communities. They recommended that Governments formulate innovative policies and measures that are responsive to the evolving nature of these communities and create dynamic relations between rural and urban areas.

Participants recommended that greater attention be given to protecting and fulfilling the human rights of migrants, almost half of which are women and girls who are particularly vulnerable, including victims of human trafficking and those forced to leave their homes due to humanitarian crises. Participants also called for promoting policies that foster the integration and reintegration of migrants. They called for ensuring regional and international portability of acquired benefits from work abroad and migration. Participants were in agreement that migration can be of benefit for both countries of origin and destination, noting, however, the different impact that migration has each.

Participants noted the impact of climate change and that the ECE region has the highest levels of consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally, which has implications for the whole world. They called for further emphasis on innovations aimed at energy efficiency and in progressive adaptation policies related to climate change.

### **Families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course**

Participants emphasized that freedom and the ability and right to make informed choices and decisions empower individuals to fulfil their potential and participate fully in economies and societies. They underscored that the promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to achieving gender equality, social justice and sustainable development.



## Chapter 2: Chair's summary

Participants called upon Governments to take a human rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health, including support for sexual and reproductive health services that protect women's and girls' general health and well-being, allow for well-informed decisions and are respectful of individual choices. Participants stressed the need for national legislation and policies to be free of any form of discrimination, coercion and violence, including intimate partner violence. Governments, in partnership with parliamentarian networks and civil society organizations, should take effective steps to combat practices violating the reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls, such as spousal or parental consent requirements to receive health services, forced sterilization and forced abortion or discrimination in education and employment due to pregnancy and motherhood. Participants also called for the removal of all barriers preventing women and girls from access to safe abortion services and for protecting the rights of people living with HIV to access sexual and reproductive health services and education.

Participants recognized that gender-sensitive and life skills based comprehensive sexuality education, in a manner consistent with evolving capacity, is essential for adolescents and young people to be able to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDS, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to plan their lives. They called for the design and implementation of programmes, in particular youth-friendly programmes, that provide accurate information about human sexuality, including: growth and development; sexual anatomy and physiology; reproduction, contraception, pregnancy and childbirth; STIs, including HIV and AIDS; family life and interpersonal relationships; culture and sexuality; human rights empowerment; non-discrimination, equality and gender roles; sexual behaviour; sexual abuse; gender-based violence; and harmful practices; as well as, opportunities to explore values, attitudes and norms concerning sexual and social relationships, deal positively and responsibly with their sexuality, promote the acquisition of skills and encourage young people to assume responsibility for their own behaviour and to respect the rights of others, taking into account scientific data and evidence.

Participants recommended that professional groups such as health-care providers, members of the judiciary, teachers, social workers and law enforcement personnel be provided with training to enhance their understanding of human rights-based, gender-sensitive and responsive, non-discriminatory approaches to all individuals, regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity, class, religious affiliation, marital status, occupation, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, immigration status or language.

Participants reaffirmed the critical role policymakers, parliamentarians, community leaders and the media have in fostering an enabling environment for the full and equal enjoyment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Participants particularly stressed the recommendation to improve access to information, counselling, supplies and services that increase the ability of all couples and individuals to make free and informed decisions about the number and spacing of children. They emphasized that highest priority needs to be given to preventing unintended pregnancies by, inter alia, removing all barriers to access to contraceptives, including restrictions based on age or marital status, or the prohibition of certain contraceptive methods. The need to supplement affordable contraception with free contraception for marginalized groups was emphasized. Emergency contraception and counselling services need to be made available in a timely and non-judgmental manner to all women and adolescent girls. Participants further recommended that sexual and reproductive health services that offer a high quality of care be made widely available to all young people according to their needs. Availability includes both affordability and convenience, which generally implies a range of comprehensive and integrated services. Another recommendation made by participants was to have sexual and reproductive health services for women and men integrated within a system that offers both primary health care and referrals for more specialized

needs. The need to strengthen health systems in some countries of the region was also stressed by participants.

Participants observed that sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDS, continued to be a major concern in the UNECE region. Their prevention and treatment need to be an important part of health system responses. Investment in STI prevention will reduce leading causes of health problems for women of reproductive age, including secondary infertility — the prevalence of which is increasing in the region. Participants recommended that all Governments assume full ownership over the long term of their response to STIs, including HIV and AIDS, rather than relying on donor funding. The participants also recommended more funding for prevention and treatment of STIs, including, but not limited to, HIV. Funding and attention are especially needed in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Participants called for eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity by ensuring that all women have access to quality prenatal care and that all births are attended by skilled health personnel. Access to emergency obstetric care and management of complications arising from unsafe abortions, including revising restrictions within existing abortion laws, should be integrated into policies and practices to safeguard the lives of women and adolescent girls. Participants further called for establishing mechanisms that foster the compliance of providers with regard to human rights and ethical and professional standards.

Participants emphasized the need for comprehensive sexuality education training to be fully integrated into undergraduate and in-service training of teachers, school psychologists and social workers. Participants also recommended assisting parents through special programmes to increase their awareness of the benefits of comprehensive sexuality education for their children.

Participants recognized the sexual and reproductive health needs of migrants and recommended that affordable access to sexual and reproductive health services be made available to them in their own language and in places that are accessible to them. The Governments of countries of origin and destination should act jointly in a coordinated manner to address needs and rights of migrants.

Participants noted that laws and practices that criminalize consensual adult sexual behaviours and relationships, including outside of marriage and those of voluntary sex work, potentially marginalize the status of individuals in society, while constituting a public health threat.

In view of the fact that population ageing is a salient feature of demographic development in the region, participants called for ensuring effective policies and programmes related to sexual and reproductive health services that better respond to the needs of an ageing population.

Participants underscored the need for Governments and societies in general to ensure zero tolerance for gender-based violence and call for measures to criminalize violence against women and girls, provide all victims/survivors of gender-based violence with access to critical services, including 24-hour hotlines, and psychosocial and mental health support. Treatment of injuries, post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services in cases of violence, rape and incest should be provided in a timely manner.

Increasing access of men and boys to sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services is recommended by the participants. Participants also called on countries across the region to give more priority to engaging men and boys in promoting participation and equal sharing of responsibilities, such as care work, including through support programmes that target men and boys and sensitize them to gender equality and rights issues. Participants also recommended that priority be given to awareness-raising campaigns and to the introduction of programmes aimed at ending sex selection in the countries affected.

## Chapter 2: Chair's summary

Participants noted the diversity in the forms of the family in the region and called for appropriate public policy responses, responsive legal frameworks and support, including financial support, facilitating work-life reconciliation, providing quality early childhood education and quality care for both children and older persons. They also noted the need to address harmful gender norms, such as ideas of what are appropriate roles for boys and men, girls and women. Transforming gender norms is vital for the success of family policies. A life course approach is needed as individuals move in and out of families and partnerships, and as they experience various family transitions. This life course approach is also essential to ensure the protection of family members, including children, rendered vulnerable due to family circumstances.

### **Inequalities, social inclusion and rights**

Participants underscored that the realization of human potential and innovation depends upon guaranteed rights of personhood, bodily integrity and protection from violence; the right to health, education, housing, livelihoods; and the benefits of scientific development. They noted that many groups, in particular women, girls and minorities, continue to suffer from multiple and overlapping forms of disempowerment and discrimination. Participants called for policies to advance gender equality, enable equal participation and social inclusion of all individuals through cross-sectoral strategies including protection against violence and abuse; preventing sex selection; creating employment opportunities for women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups; raising awareness about their rights and facilitate their access to social services; and preventing discrimination, stigmatization and other forms of social exclusion.

Participants called for equality before the law and non-discrimination for all persons in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights. They emphasized the need to promulgate or enforce laws that punish any kind of discrimination, violence or hate crimes and take active steps to protect people in the region from discrimination, stigma and violence.

Participants emphasized that the ECE region is seen as a leader in the progress towards gender equality, and pointed out the successes in ensuring equal access to education, employment and political participation. At the same time, persistent gender inequalities and harmful practices were pointed out by participants as an area of concern. Participants emphasized that the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment can make a significant contribution to poverty reduction, inclusive growth, democratic governance, and peace and justice.

Participants called for the enactment and effective implementation of laws that allow education in an environment free from discrimination, violence, mobbing and bullying. They also called for inclusive education with gender-sensitive curricula in formal education systems, complemented or reinforced by programmes, peer education or sexual and reproductive health-related interventions delivered by non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups and supported through Government funding. Governments, civil society organizations and communities were called upon by participants to work together to ensure a scaling-up of effective sexual and reproductive health services for marginalized groups. Increased educational levels were also recommended by participants as an important tool in fighting unemployment and poverty.

Participants noted that despite the considerable progress made in the region, challenges from multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, disempowerment and discrimination still needed to be addressed. They called for measures to ensure non-discrimination in the exercise of the social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights of all individuals and to guarantee equality before the law, including the right to gainful employment, residence and access to services.

Participants highlighted the role of responsive governance based on accountability, participation, transparency and rule of law to address inequalities and achieve social inclusion and rights. They called

on Governments and other stakeholders to continue to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, provide adequate and sustainable funding, and support the work of civil society organizations in eliminating social exclusion.

### **Partnership and international cooperation**

Participants expressed the view that with the deepening of globalization, issues of population and development have become increasingly intertwined with global economic, social and environmental concerns. This requires a multi-stakeholder and international approach, including national Governments, the United Nations, donors, civil society and youth organizations, religious leaders and the private sector, to promote international cooperation efforts, including the development of joint programmes and initiatives, strengthening of policy dialogue and coordination, transfer of knowledge and technology, and allocation and mobilization of financial and technical resources.

While recognizing the role of civil society organizations as an advocate and service provider, an expert and a watch dog for sexual and reproductive health and rights, participants called for strengthened partnerships among local, national and international civil society organizations in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes and policies, and encouraged the promotion of activities directed at increasing the participation and strengthening the capacity of these organizations. Participants recognized the need for increased funding to civil society organizations so that they can continue to play their multiple roles effectively on the ground.

Participants also called for strengthening partnerships with the private sector in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes and policies, in particular in the areas of service delivery and commodity production and distribution.

Advancing the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development is only possible through strengthened international solidarity and through strong collaboration between countries. Countries should prioritize these challenges by emphasizing good governance, by making domestic resources available, by involving civil society actors and by addressing legislative and cultural barriers that impede access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Participants emphasized the need for institutions in the region, including ECE and UNFPA, to strengthen and ensure adequate human and financial resources to support the implementation of the recommendations of the review of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. They also called for a respect of the commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product for official development assistance (ODA).

### **Cross-cutting issues**

Participants recommended that more attention be paid to generating, collecting and using quality, timely and disaggregated census, survey and vital registration data for the purposes of research and analysis, as well as of planning, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes. They also recommended employing comparable methodologies across studies and sectors, within countries and the region. These measures are particularly important in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where better data are also needed on migration, human trafficking, early marriage, gender-based violence, sex selection, teenage pregnancy, the situation of older persons and persons with disabilities.

Participants called for strengthening of policies and legislation that are evidence-based by utilizing qualitative and quantitative data, disaggregated by age, sex and social vulnerability criteria. Participants noted that a gap still existed between legislation, policies and their implementation. They

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called for youth involvement in the design of programmes and policies, and in their monitoring and evaluation. Special emphasis was placed on the need to ensure adequate funding, involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries, and accountability systems for follow-up. Participants also recommended the establishment of a regional platform to exchange lessons learned and good practices, and to promote effective interventions for scaling up. In general, the region has rich experiences and capacities in implementing the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, yet in some countries and in some areas, capacity is lacking. Participants recommended that more attention be given to strengthening capacity by promoting “South-South” exchanges within the region.

Recognizing the returns of investing in the implementation of the Programme of Action, participants recommended that Governments at all levels, as well as communities, strive to increase budget allocations and to ensure their effective utilization.

Participants recommended the creation of a mechanism for continuous follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

### CONCLUSION

The Conference outcomes, together with the ECE Regional Report on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, will constitute an agenda for the region's implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014 and to the global review process. Given the centrality of sexual and reproductive health in the development agenda, participants called for the integration of the results of the review of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 into the post-2015 development agenda. This summary will, through the good offices of the Government of Switzerland, as host and Chair of the Conference, be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for consideration and possible further action. A formal report and proceedings of the meeting will be prepared and issued by the organizers of the Conference.



## CHAPTER 3

# Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean Montevideo, Uruguay, 12 to 15 August 2013<sup>7</sup>

### SUMMARY

The first session of the recently established Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which reviewed the International Conference on Population and Development and its follow-up beyond 2014 in the region, was hosted by the Government of Uruguay in Montevideo from 12 to 15 August 2013.<sup>8</sup> The technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, the Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), prepared two working documents as a basis for Conference discussions and deliberations: (1) “Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: review of the 2009-2013 period and lessons learned. Summary and overview”;<sup>9</sup> and (2) “Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014”.<sup>10</sup> The documents were prepared in close coordination with the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund and included inputs from various actors, including civil society.

The first document presented major progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action in Latin America and the Caribbean. It reported on actions that had facilitated progress and identified programme objectives yet to be achieved. It also included a systematic account of lessons learned in the nearly 20 years of the implementation of the Programme of Action in the region. These will be used for monitoring the future agenda on population and development.

The second document identified priority topics and approaches being considered for inclusion in the population and development agenda for the region after 2014, taking account of lessons learned during implementation of the Programme of Action, including regional and global trends in economic and social development and the specific socioeconomic, cultural and institutional characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean. The proposal is consistent with the idea that the regional agenda should be strengthened and expanded to address new and emerging regional challenges, and advances the integration of population dynamics into sustainable development, with a focus on human rights and equality. In particular, it holds that the future regional agenda for population and development must take account of both current and emerging global processes, such as globalization, climate change and environmental sustainability.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 38 member and associate member countries of ECLAC; officials from the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund; representatives of other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies; representatives of intergovernmental organizations; as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations in

<sup>7</sup> The full title of the meeting is “First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cepal.org/celade/CRPD2013> (accessed on 1 August 2014).

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/2/50562/CRPDSummary.pdf> (accessed on 1 August 2014).

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/7/50547/CRPDProposedregionalagenda.pdf> (accessed on 1 August 2014).

### Chapter 3: Summary

consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations. With over 800 participants, it was one of the region's largest intergovernmental meetings in recent years.

Different thematic panels discussed priorities for the period beyond 2014, including high-level government officials and experts. The outcome document, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which has a rights-based perspective strongly emphasizing social inclusion, was structured around priority population and development issues beyond 2014 and addressed the following topics:

- Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights
- Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth
- Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges
- Gender equality
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services
- International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants
- Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability
- Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights
- Afro-descendants: rights and combating discrimination
- Frameworks for the implementation of the future regional agenda on population and development.

The Regional Conference agreed to hold its second session in Mexico in October 2015.

# Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

*The representatives of the countries participating in the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 12 to 15 August 2013,*

## PREAMBLE

*Bearing in mind* that the main focus of this first session has been the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014, the aim being to review the progress achieved in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past 20 years, and to identify key measures for furthering its implementation with emphasis on emerging issues at the regional level relating to population and development, human well-being and dignity, and to their sustainability,

*Reaffirming* the relevance of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in Cairo in September 1994,

*Reaffirming also* the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-first special session, which was held in New York from 30 June to 2 July 1999,

*Recalling* the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, adopted in 1994 by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in resolution 536(XXV),

*Taking into account* resolution 65/234, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 December 2010, in which it decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and called for an operational review of its implementation in order to respond to the important new challenges that are relevant to population and development and to strengthen the integration of population and development issues in global development processes,

*Taking into account also* its decision in that resolution that the Commission on Population and Development should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action as well as its decision in resolution 67/250 of 2013 to hold the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on 22 September 2014 in New York,

*Reiterating* the earlier agreements of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the agreements adopted at its last meeting, held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012, which were ratified at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,

*Bearing in mind* resolution 60/265, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006, wherein Member States are urged to achieve the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, established at the International Conference on Population and Development,

*Keeping in mind* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995; the Quito Consensus, adopted at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito in August 2007; the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the



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eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010; and the conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, agreed in 2013 at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Bearing in mind also* the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its two Optional Protocols and resolution 2012/1, adopted by the Commission on Population and Development in April 2012 at its forty-fifth session, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of boys, girls, adolescents and youth,

*Bearing in mind further* the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2012 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing of 2002,

*Recognizing* the progress achieved by the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and welcoming resolution 67/139 of the United Nations General Assembly, establishing that the Group shall, as part of its mandate and starting from its fourth session, to be held in 2013, consider proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons,

*Considering* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo in March 2006, and General Assembly resolution 67/219 of 21 December 2012 on international migration and development, which acknowledges the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination,

*Underscoring* the importance of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be held in September 2013 in New York, and in particular the need for Governments to negotiate and adopt a document for presentation at that meeting,

*Taking into account* resolution 61/295 of 10 December 2007, wherein the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 42 of which states that the United Nations and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and shall follow up on its effectiveness,

*Keeping in mind* the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, and resolution 67/155, in which the General Assembly decided to launch a preparatory process with a view to the proclamation in 2013 of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Bearing in mind also* the important contribution of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in incorporating disability-related issues as an integral part of national sustainable development strategies, from a human rights perspective, with equality and without discrimination,

*Keeping in mind* resolution 2012/1 adopted in April 2012 by the United Nations Commission on Population and Development at its forty-fifth session and the Bali Declaration adopted in December 2012 by the Global Youth Forum, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of adolescents and youth to enable them to take control of their sexual health and reproductive health and decide freely

and responsibly on such matters, free from coercion, discrimination or violence and to provide them with comprehensive education on sexuality, human rights and gender equality,

*Highlighting* the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception, and the promotion, at the recent sessions of the Commission, of equality as the overarching normative ethical principle and the ultimate objective of development, and recognizing the work of the United Nations Population Fund with respect to adolescents, young people and gender equity,

*Having considered* the documentation prepared by the secretariat, with support from the United Nations Population Fund, for the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the lessons drawn from the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the region over the past 20 years,<sup>11</sup>

*Noting* that, notwithstanding the progress towards fulfilment of the targets and goals of the Cairo Programme of Action, considerable deficiencies persist in its execution many of which are linked to the structural inequality characteristic of the Latin American and Caribbean region,

*Taking note* of the recommendations from the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development contained in “The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014”, which was endorsed by the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its sixteenth meeting, held in Georgetown on 11 July 2013,

*Taking into account* the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, established by resolution 47/189 of the United Nations General Assembly, and reaffirming the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which reinforced the principles of sustainable development and the relevant commitments embodied in Agenda 21, and recalling the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in 2005, pursuant to resolution 57/262 of the United Nations General Assembly, and which served as the culmination of a ten-year comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action, and looking forward to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in 2014,

*Stressing* the fact that this agreement reaffirms, complements and expands on the Cairo Programme of Action and the earlier agreements adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Recognizing* the important linkages existing between the Cairo Programme of Action, human rights, the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda,

*Considering* resolution 66/288 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 11 September 2012, which endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and reaffirming the relevance of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in respect of all issues pertaining to sustainable development, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

*Considering also* the Final Declaration of the International Forum on Afro-descendent Youth, which contains recommendations on policies for young people in the areas of health, education, decent work, rights, sexuality and social participation,

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<sup>11</sup> LC/L.3640(CRPD.1/3).

### Chapter 3: Montevideo Consensus

*Underscoring* the findings, conclusions and lessons learned at the global and regional levels from the operational review of the Cairo Programme of Action and the proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014,

*Recognizing* the region's progress in designing policies and programmes, establishing institutional structures and allocating the resources necessary and the budgets required for the full implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and their contribution to the Millennium Development Goals in terms of promoting health and protecting human rights,

*Emphasizing* that, notwithstanding the progress towards the fulfilment of the targets and goals of the Cairo Programme of Action and of the Millennium Development Goals, significant gaps persist in the policies and programmes and institutional and financial capacity in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and in the attainment of the Goals, in particular Goal 5, and that these gaps must be taken into account in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and in the post-2015 development agenda,

*Underscoring* the important contributions made by civil society, other non-governmental stakeholders, women's and youth organizations, and social movements to the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action,

*Recognizing* that, notwithstanding the significant advances achieved in the region in promoting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights over the past 20 years, these advances have not reached the entire population and that, while economic and social inclusion policies have enhanced opportunities and well-being, many people still live in extreme poverty and face inequalities as a result of historically entrenched patterns and new forms of discrimination, and, as such, are unable to exercise their rights fully,

*Underscoring* the fact that the inclusion of alternative and participatory development models and approaches in the region, such as "good living", reconciles economic development with human development, human rights and respect for the environment and that these are enriched by the energy, dynamism and creativity of those persons who traditionally were discriminated against,

*Recognizing* that the Earth and its ecosystems are important for achieving a proper balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations,

*Affirming* that freedom, capacities and the right to take informed decisions, empower persons to develop their potential and participate fully in the economic and social spheres; that the realization of human potential and innovation depend on guaranteed human rights, physical integrity and protection against violence and that the right to health, education, housing and a livelihood ensures full empowerment and inclusion of all,

*Reaffirming* that the promotion and protection of sexual rights and reproductive rights are essential for the achievement of social justice and the national, regional and global commitments to the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

*Recognizing* that population dynamics — growth and decline, changes in the age structure, urbanization, migration and changing household and family structures — influence the opportunities for human development, are shaped by the decisions that people take and are essential for planning economic and social growth as well as for the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

*Reaffirming* that poverty, in all its manifestations, is essentially a denial of rights and that poverty eradication is a moral imperative for the region which Governments must address,

*Underscoring* that the preparation of public statistics by State agencies must be consistent with an inclusive approach which encompasses the broad range of rights under public policy and that the information generated on Afro-descendent populations, indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, gender, social inequalities and gaps, ageing and other issues constitutes a basic input for public policy formulation and is vital for monitoring the objectives established in national and regional agendas.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

*Reaffirming* the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

*Reaffirming also* the principles of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development,

*Reaffirming further* that every country has the sovereign right to decide whether or not to apply the recommendations contained in the Cairo Programme of Action and in the present document, subject to its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with universally agreed international human rights,

*Decide*, by virtue of these general principles, to:

*Reaffirm* that the agreements contained herein, the outcome of a series of discussions over time since the International Conference on Population and Development, are an essential point of reference for each country's resolutions,

*Highlight* the need for a cross-cutting, universal, comprehensive, inclusive and equitable approach, based on equality, solidarity, and respect for dignity and human rights in order to address the needs of all vulnerable groups and related issues in connection with health, education, community, governance and sustainability for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action at the regional level and key actions for its further implementation and follow-up beyond 2014,

*Reaffirm* that a secular State is one of the elements fundamental to the full exercise of human rights, the deepening of democracy and the elimination of all forms of discrimination,

*Reaffirm also* the importance of strengthening participatory forms of government as a guarantee for the effective exercise of democracy,

*Strengthen* the role of the State and enhance its capacity for strategic management from a long-term and national development perspective,

*Recognize* that enabling the voices and interests of all men and women is essential in order to advance towards sustainable development and that responsible governance and robust institutions are fundamental for social and economic inclusion and sustainability,

*Recognize also* that population and development issues are closely linked to the economic, social and environmental realities and that, in order to address them, steps must be taken to strengthen international cooperation and forge global, regional and subregional partnerships and to establish agreements between countries as well as innovative approaches, including private initiatives,

*Reaffirm* the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, for the implementation of the Programme of Action on Population and Development beyond 2014 and of a future regional agenda on population and development,

*Recognize* the importance of including issues relating to population in the sustainable development goals and in the post-2015 development agenda,

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*Reaffirm* the political will and commitment to adopt immediate measures in response to the expectations of the populations of the region and eliminate existing inequalities, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and those that are subject to discrimination,

*Recognize* that a favourable economic environment where peace and governance prevail at all levels is indispensable for solving population and development problems,

*Recognize also* the adverse impact of unilateral coercive economic measures on the development of countries targeted by such measures and on their populations,

*Recognize further* that effective governance is based on accountability, broad-based participation, transparency and the enforcement of the rule of law, and that strengthening national and local governments is key for achieving the objectives of development, peace and security,

*Ensure* that the support of the United Nations system reflects the priorities contained in the present document and that these are embodied in the strategic plans of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and in the agreements to be adopted by these bodies through their respective executive boards and governing bodies for the period 2014-2017, in particular concerning the presence of these entities in the countries of the region,

#### PRIORITY ACTIONS

*Decide* to adopt the following priority actions identified in the proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014<sup>12</sup> in order to reinforce the application and further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and its follow-up,

#### A. Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights

*Recognizing* that advances have been made in the region towards integrating population issues into public policies and programmes on a basis of respect for human rights, but that, at the same time, many challenges remain pending in terms of their formulation and implementation,

*Agree to:*

1. Reinforce the public policies and actions needed to eradicate poverty and break the cycles of exclusion and inequality as a condition for achieving development in the region;
2. Apply a human rights approach with a gender and intercultural perspective in addressing population and development issues, and step up efforts to recognize, promote and uphold relevant goals in order to eliminate inequalities and foster social inclusion;
3. Build and strengthen national and subnational public institutions with responsibility for population and development issues, and ensure that they function in an integral and sustainable manner with the active participation of non-governmental stakeholders;
4. Ensure full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development planning, sectoral policies and public policies and programmes in general — in particular in development and land-use planning — at national and subnational levels, drawing on sociodemographic knowledge and information and harnessing technological advances;
5. Pursue sustainable development as a means of securing now and in the future human well-being for all peoples on an equitable basis, and ensuring that the linkages between population,

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<sup>12</sup> LC/L.3641(CRPD.1/4).



resources, the environment and development are fully recognized, appropriately administered and maintained in a harmonious and dynamic balance with a thriving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems;

6. Guarantee sustainable production and consumption patterns and avoid exacerbating the undesirable climate change phenomena brought about by human activity.

## **B. Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth**

*Recognizing* that boys, girls, adolescents and young people are rights-holders and stakeholders in development,

*Noting* that childhood, adolescence and youth are key phases in the lives and development of individuals and that government action taken from a human rights perspective to address these phases has been limited and that the current demographic situation in the region opens up opportunities for increasing social investment in these age groups,

*Noting also* that early childhood, including the perinatal period and care for mothers and infants, is crucial, since poverty or vulnerability experienced at this stage of life can cause chronic diseases in adulthood,

*Considering* that the 15 to 29 age group in the region now numbers some 160 million persons — in other words, young people account for one quarter of the population — and that the demographic dividend offers a unique opportunity for social investment in adolescence and youth, based on intergenerational solidarity, an investment which is essential for the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

*Reiterating* the objective of addressing the specific needs of adolescents and youth, and concerned at the high and unequal levels of adolescent pregnancy in the region, which, especially in the case of girls under the age of 15, is usually associated with forced marriage, abuse or sexual violence,

*Expressing concern* for the high levels of violence experienced by boys, girls, adolescents and young people in the region, in particular violence by organized groups that perpetrate criminal acts,

*Agree to:*

7. Guarantee for all boys, girls, adolescents and young people, without any form of discrimination, the chance to live a life free from poverty and violence, and to enjoy protection and exercise of their human rights, a range of opportunities and access to health, education and social protection;
8. Guarantee also the existence of mechanisms for the effective participation, without any form of discrimination, of adolescents and young people in public debate, in decision-making and in all policy and programme phases, in particular on matters that affect them directly, and strengthen institutional mechanisms for youth;
9. Invest in youth, through specific public policies and differentiated access, especially through the provision, without discrimination, of universal, free, public, secular, high-quality, intercultural education in order to ensure that this stage of life is full and satisfactory, to enable them to develop as autonomous individuals with a sense of responsibility and solidarity and with the ability to tackle creatively the challenges of the twenty-first century;
10. Promote and invest in labour and employment policies and special training programmes for youth to boost personal and collective capabilities and initiative and to enable them to reconcile studies and work activities, without precarious working conditions and guaranteeing equal opportunities and treatment;



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11. Ensure the effective implementation from early childhood of comprehensive sexuality education programmes, recognizing the emotional dimension of human relationships, with respect for the evolving capacity of boys and girls and the informed decisions of adolescents and young people regarding their sexuality, from a participatory, intercultural, gender-sensitive and human rights perspective;
12. Implement comprehensive, timely, good-quality sexual health and reproductive health programmes for adolescents and young people, including youth-friendly sexual health and reproductive health services with a gender, human rights, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, which guarantee access to safe and effective modern contraceptive methods, respecting the principles of confidentiality and privacy, to enable adolescents and young people to exercise their sexual rights and reproductive rights, to have a responsible, pleasurable and healthy sex life, avoid early and unwanted pregnancies, the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and to take free, informed and responsible decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive life and the exercise of their sexual orientation;
13. Introduce or strengthen policies and programmes to prevent pregnant adolescents and young mothers from dropping out of school;
14. Prioritize the prevention of pregnancy among adolescents and eliminate unsafe abortion through comprehensive education on emotional development and sexuality, and timely and confidential access to good-quality information, counselling, technologies and services, including emergency oral contraception without a prescription and male and female condoms;
15. Design intersectoral strategies to help young women avoid subsequent pregnancies, including antenatal, childbirth and postpartum care, access to contraceptive methods, protection, support and justice;
16. Guarantee for boys, girls, adolescents and young people the opportunities and the basis for harmonious coexistence and a life free from violence, through intersectoral strategies to address the factors that disrupt harmony in the community and foment violence, to provide education from early childhood that promotes tolerance, an appreciation for diversity, mutual respect and respect for human rights, conflict resolution and peace, and to ensure protection, timely access to justice and compensation for victims;
17. Guarantee also reliable statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, race and ethnicity, cultural variables and geographical location, with regard to education, health, in particular sexual health and reproductive health, employment and the participation of adolescents and young people;

#### C. Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges

*Considering* that older persons are rights-holders who have contributed and continue to play an active role in the many areas of development, and that countries should recognize them as key stakeholders in the formulation of public policies,

*Considering also* that older persons, by virtue of their age and vulnerability, continue to be subjected to discrimination, abuse and ill-treatment, which ultimately impairs the enjoyment and exercise of their rights,

*Concerned* that the violence suffered by older persons, in both the public and private spheres, undermines their human rights,

*Deeply convinced* of the importance of medium- and long-term planning in anticipating the major economic and social transformations that will be generated by the demographic changes taking place in the region, in particular with respect to the age structure of the population,

*Considering* that most countries are now transiting through the demographic dividend, in which the relative increase in the number of working-age persons provides an opportunity to boost growth and development and to advance with or consolidate reforms in terms of social protection,

*Bearing in mind* that the change in the age structure of the population will impact on lifestyles, human relationships, patterns of consumption, investment, savings and sectoral demands, mainly due to the significant increase in the proportion of older persons over the coming decades,

*Considering* that the epidemiological profile of Latin America and the Caribbean is characterized by overlapping stages, with the increasing prevalence of chronic and non-communicable diseases, declining fertility and a growing older population, but that levels of communicable diseases remain significant, as do external causes of disability and death,

*Considering also* that the increase in the older population is expected to be accompanied by a significant rise in the demand for health care and that a gap has emerged between this demand and the available institutional frameworks to address it, so that States are passing on the responsibility to households, causing situations of greater vulnerability and adding significantly to the burden traditionally borne by women,

*Bearing in mind* that the feminization of ageing calls for the development of specific policies to address the particular needs of older women,

*Reaffirming* the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in 2012,

*Reaffirming also* that in every decision the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrate the political will and determination to guarantee the full exercise of human rights, by empowering individuals to be agents of change, and that all older persons should thus be enabled, through the elimination of the barriers to equality between men and women, to have full decision-making power over issues that affect them,

*Recognizing* that the empowerment of older persons is a key element in enforcing their human rights and in ensuring their full participation in a development model that cannot be sustainable unless it is inclusive,

*Considering* the significant contribution that older persons can make to society in terms of their acquired knowledge, savoir vivre and emotional capacity,

*Agree to:*

18. Formulate policies with a gender perspective to ensure a good quality of life in old age, not only for urban-dwellers, but also for those who live in rural and forest areas;
19. Design and implement public policies, plans and programmes — at all political and administrative levels — that take into account changes in the age structure, in particular population ageing, and the opportunities and challenges associated with these changes over the medium and long term;
20. Design policies at the national, federal and local levels to guarantee quality of life, the development of potential and the full participation of older persons, taking account of the need for intellectual, emotional and physical interaction and the different situation of men and women, with emphasis on the groups that are most susceptible to discrimination, such as older persons with disabilities, those without economic resources or pension coverage, or those who live alone or lack a support network;

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21. Ensure the inclusion and equitable participation of older persons in the design and application of policies, plans and programmes that concern them;
22. Eradicate the multiple forms of discrimination that affect older persons, including all forms of violence against older women and men, taking into account the obligations of States with respect to ageing with dignity and rights;
23. Establish or consolidate human rights programmes to tackle and eliminate violence against older persons in the public and private spheres;
24. Give the highest priority to older persons in plans for disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, including disaster preparedness, relief worker training on emergency prevention and response and the availability of goods and services;
25. Formulate policies to take advantage of the unique opportunity provided by the demographic dividend and that include coordinated investments in education and health and the creation of decent work on the basis of intergenerational solidarity;
26. Bring health policies into line with the challenges of the varied and changing epidemiological profile arising from ageing and the epidemiological transition, reinforcing the fight to eradicate communicable diseases and implementing actions for the prevention and treatment of chronic, diseases traditionally referred to as non-communicable, but now known to be strongly influenced by conditions of social and economic vulnerability in the early years of life, and ensure that these policies take into account gender, age, regional, ethnic and socioeconomic specificities;
27. Include older persons as a priority focus of public policy and as fundamental stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of policies aiming to improve the quality of life of older persons;
28. Foster policies to encourage individuals to save during their active, productive life so that in the long run they can enjoy a decent old age;
29. Foster the development of and access to palliative care, to ensure a dignified, painless death;
30. Promote the development of allowances and services relating to social security, health and education in the social protection systems targeting older persons to improve their quality of life, economic security and social justice;
31. Include care in social protection systems, through allowances, social and health-care services and economic benefits that maximize autonomy, in particular for older persons, and guarantee the rights, dignity and well-being of families and older persons, including the right to a dignified death with proper care, without any form of discrimination or violence;
32. Extend social protection and social security systems, with a gender perspective, to include those women who have devoted their lives to productive work, whether as domestic workers, women in rural areas or informal workers;

#### **D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services**

*Considering* that sexual rights and reproductive rights are embraced by human rights and that their exercise is essential for the enjoyment of other fundamental rights and for achieving the international development targets and poverty eradication,

*Taking into account* the fact that progress towards achieving the target of universal access to sexual and reproductive health has been insufficient and uneven, and that education and the quality of

health care are fundamental factors for achieving the ultimate objective of improving sexual and reproductive health,

*Reaffirming* that maternal mortality is an affront to human rights and recognizing that the overwhelming majority of maternal deaths are preventable,

*Concerned* at the high rates of maternal mortality, due largely to difficulties in obtaining access to proper sexual health and reproductive health services or due to unsafe abortions, and aware that some experiences in the region have demonstrated that the penalization of abortion leads to higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity and does not reduce the number of abortions, and that this holds the region back in its efforts to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that, although antiretroviral treatment is available and vertical HIV transmission has been reduced, challenges persist in terms of increasing awareness of and preventing HIV/AIDS, encouraging timely, voluntary detection, providing care for persons with HIV/AIDS and eliminating the stigma and discrimination, which continue to be widespread, especially towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, sex workers, women living with HIV/AIDS, drug users and other key groups,

*Considering* that health gaps are still wide in the region and that average statistics usually mask the high levels of maternal mortality, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS infection and the unmet need for contraception among the population living in poverty and in rural areas, among indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and vulnerable groups, such as women, adolescents and young people, and persons with disabilities,

*Agree to:*

33. Promote, protect and guarantee sexual health and rights and reproductive rights in order to contribute to the fulfilment of persons and to social justice in a society free from all forms of discrimination and violence;
34. Promote policies that enable persons to exercise their sexual rights, which embrace the right to a safe and full sex life, as well as the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and that guarantee the right to information and the means necessary for their sexual health and reproductive health;
35. Review legislation, standards and practices that restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the provision of comprehensive user-friendly services for adolescents and youth, and guarantee access to full information on all of the service options available to all persons, without any form of discrimination, in order to ensure that the highest international standards of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are met in the region;
36. Design policies and programmes to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the exercise of sexual rights and the manifestations thereof;
37. Guarantee universal access to good-quality sexual health and reproductive health services, bearing in mind the specific needs of men and women, adolescents and young people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, older persons and persons with disabilities, with special attention to vulnerable persons, persons living in rural and remote areas and to the promotion of citizen participation in the follow-up to commitments;
38. Promote the prevention and timely detection of and guarantee universal access to comprehensive treatment for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and eliminate the stigma and discrimination to which persons living with the virus are often subjected;

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39. Strengthen measures for detection of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections in pregnant women and for prevention of the vertical transmission of the virus;
40. Eliminate preventable cases of maternal morbidity and mortality, including, within the set of integrated benefits of sexual health and reproductive health services, measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortion, including sexual health and reproductive health education, access to modern and effective contraceptive methods, counselling and comprehensive care in cases of unwanted and unaccepted pregnancy, as well as comprehensive post-abortion care, where necessary, on the basis of a risk and harm reduction strategy;
41. Promote prevention and self-care programmes for the sexual health and reproductive health of men;
42. Ensure, in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under the relevant national legislation, the availability of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unaccepted pregnancies, and urge all other States to consider amending their laws, regulations, strategies and public policies relating to the voluntary termination of pregnancy in order to protect the lives and health of women and adolescent girls, improve their quality of life and reduce the number of abortions;
43. Ensure that all women have effective access to comprehensive health care during the reproductive process and specifically to skilled, institutional, compassionate obstetric care and to the best possible maternal health services during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, as well as to services that include the termination of pregnancy in those cases where the law provides for such services, and guarantee universal access to assisted fertility treatments;
44. Guarantee effective access to a wide range of culturally relevant, scientifically sound, modern contraceptive methods, including emergency oral contraception;
45. Formulate plans for strengthening mechanisms for detecting problems during pregnancy, including at the preconception stage, improve the quality of antenatal care to include an intercultural perspective, guarantee the provision of a safe supply of blood for care during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum and puerperium period, and enhance compassionate care during delivery and birth and comprehensive perinatal care, bearing in mind the needs of women, boys, girls and families;
46. Guarantee sufficient financial, human and technological resources in order to provide universal access to sexual health care and reproductive health care for all women, men, adolescents, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities without any form of discrimination;

#### E. Gender equality

*Reaffirming* the validity of the Quito Consensus of 2007 and the Brasilia Consensus of 2010 and the continuing relevance of the commitments contained therein, in particular those relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, the eradication of gender discrimination and multiple forms of discrimination, the elimination of violence and the building of State structures for promoting the advancement of women and gender equality,



*Reaffirming* the commitment to ratification and implementation of International Labour Organization Convention Nos. 100, 102, 111, 156 and 189,<sup>13</sup>

*Reiterating* that protecting the rights and autonomy of women, promoting the full exercise of their sexual rights and reproductive rights, gender equality and the elimination of the multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including gender-based forms of such acts, are fundamental to Governments' commitment to advance towards development with equality,

*Recognizing* that, in the region, the sexual division of labour, poverty in all its manifestations and unequal access to resources continue to be obstacles to the promotion and protection of all the human rights of women and that the elimination of political, economic, social and cultural inequalities must therefore figure among the principal sustainable development goals,

*Bearing in mind* that violence against girls, women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, in particular sexual violence, is a critical indicator of marginalization, inequality, exclusion and gender discrimination against women and affects their autonomy, self-determination, individual and collective health and the exercise of human rights,

*Considering* that discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity places lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in a vulnerable position, preventing their access to equality and to the full exercise of citizenship,

*Conscious* of the persistently unequal distribution of unpaid domestic and care work between men and women, of the scant recognition and lack of appreciation for the role of women in fulfilling these tasks and of the fact that demographic changes will have an impact on the need for care services,

*Bearing in mind* that parity is aimed at achieving equality in the exercise of power, in decision-making, in mechanisms for participation and social and political representation and in family, social, economic, political and cultural relationships and that there is still a notable underrepresentation of women in decision-making spheres,

*Agree to:*

47. Fulfil the commitment to strengthen institutional machineries in order to build development policies with equality that will guarantee the autonomy of women and gender equality, and give these machineries the autonomy and the necessary human and financial resources to enable them to have a cross-cutting impact on the structure of the State, recognizing the strategic role that they play and establishing them at the highest level;
48. Fulfil the commitment to increase and enhance opportunities for the equal participation of women in adopting and implementing policies in all spheres of public authority and in high-level decision-making;
49. Take steps to promote and strengthen the preparation, implementation and accountability of gender-sensitive budgets, in order to achieve equal spending in the public sector, the inclusion of the principles of gender equality in the different stages of planning, budgeting and meeting the specific social needs of women and men;
50. Fulfil the commitment to promote and ensure gender mainstreaming and its intersection with perspectives on race, ethnicity, age, social class and disability status in all public policies, especially in economic and cultural policies, and coordination between branches of government and social stakeholders, including organizations of young, Afro-descendent or indigenous women, to ensure gender equality;

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<sup>13</sup> NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards; see <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12000:0::NO::> (as of 30 July 2014).



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51. Promote parity and other mechanisms to ensure access to power in electoral systems as a precondition for democracy and a target for eradicating the structural exclusion of women in society, which affects mainly those in vulnerable situations, by training women leaders;
52. Adopt legislative measures and institutional reforms to prevent, punish and eradicate political and administrative harassment of women who reach decision-making positions through electoral means or by appointment at national and local levels, as well as in political parties and movements;
53. Develop and strengthen policies and universal care services based on the highest human rights standards, from a gender equality and intergenerational perspective, in order to share the delivery of services between the State, the private sector, civil society, families and households and between men and women and facilitate dialogue and coordination between all the parties involved;
54. Promote legislation and design and strengthen public policies on equality in the labour market in order to eliminate gender discrimination and asymmetries in relation to access to decent employment, job security, wages and decision-making on labour issues, as well as to recognize the productive value of unpaid domestic work and care work;
55. Strengthen the participation of women in high-level and decision-making positions in companies and support the training of men and women during hours that are compatible with their family life, and encourage businesswomen to adopt leadership roles;
56. Establish mechanisms for preventing sexual and other forms of harassment and violence against women and men, especially in the workplace and educational settings, as well as for filing relevant complaints and punishing such practices;
57. Enforce existing policies and adopt, on the one hand, preventative and punitive measures, and on the other measures for protecting and caring for women in order to eradicate all forms of violence, including forced sterilization and stigma against women in public and private spheres and especially the gender-motivated violent murder of girls and women, and ensure effective and universal access to fundamental services for all victims and survivors of gender-based violence, with special attention to women in high-risk situations, such as older women, pregnant women, women with disabilities, culturally diverse groups, sex workers, women living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, Afro-descendent, indigenous and migrant women, women living in border areas, asylum seekers and victims of trafficking;
58. Reaffirm the commitment and political will of Latin America and the Caribbean, at the highest level, to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including domestic violence and femicide/feminicide, and actively promote awareness-raising regarding gender mainstreaming among law enforcement personnel;
59. Broaden the access available to men, including boys, adolescents and young men, to sexual and reproductive health-related information, counselling and services and promote the equal participation of men in care work through programmes for raising men's awareness of gender equality, and foster the development of new masculinities.
60. Develop and strengthen plans and programmes for addressing disparities in the representation and performance of boys and young men in the education system, especially in the English-speaking Caribbean;
61. Ensure the sharing of responsibility between the State, the private sector, the community, families, women and men for unpaid domestic and care work, incorporating care into social

- protection systems through allowances, services and benefits that maximize women's autonomy and guarantee their rights, dignity, well-being and enjoyment of free time;
62. Improve statistical systems, official indicators and administrative records, mainstreaming the gender perspective and advancing towards the full recognition of women's economic and social contribution to the development of society;
  63. Strengthen the capacity of countries to prepare and disseminate the gender statistics needed for the formulation of public policies on gender equality and the empowerment of women;
  64. Consider measuring the care economy using specialized accounts and the creation of satellite accounts on unpaid work, and the incorporation of such accounts in the system of national accounts;
  65. Implement, with the support of available technologies, multisectoral, comprehensive, integrated, coordinated, interdisciplinary and accessible services, programmes and actions targeting women that are sustainable at all levels, include specialized and confidential care in cases of violence, have sufficient resources available and that bring together sectors such as the police, the judiciary, medical and psychological services and evaluation, including sexual and reproductive health services, as well as opportunities for training and generating earnings, with a view to promoting women's autonomy in all its forms;

#### **F. International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants**

*Bearing in mind* that the human rights of migrants are a priority in all initiatives relating to cooperation on migration and that concerns about the protection of migrants are shared by the international community and should be included in all cooperation agendas,

*Bearing in mind also* that the migrant population in the region is significantly high, currently amounting to approximately 30 million persons, and that migrants make substantial contributions to their home countries as well as to their countries of destination,

*Concerned* at the impact of the economic crisis on the living conditions of migrants, the increasing complexity involved in migration, with regard to migrants' journeys and integration as well as during transit and return migration,

*Expressing concern* at the evident and systematic human rights violations suffered by migrants as a result of racism, xenophobia and homophobia, as well as the lack of guarantee of due process and specific problems that affect different groups, especially women, girls, boys and adolescents, in terms of discrimination, abuse, trafficking in persons, exploitation and violence,

*Considering* that the full exercise by migrants of their human rights and access by them to basic public services, in particular education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, should not depend on their migration status,

*Bearing in mind* that the global economic development process breeds inequalities and asymmetries which, in turn, generate an available workforce that is willing to work for minimum wages and in precarious conditions, and creates demand for highly flexible conditions that seek to extract the productive strength from these workers without respect for their human rights, in particular in the case of persons from less developed economies or living in dire poverty,

*Recognizing* the consensus adopted by the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration, as well as at the first meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States concerning management of international migration, and at other subregional forums

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and entities which assume approaches associated with the protection of the human rights of migrants, the comprehensive treatment of migratory processes and special attention for the victims of trafficking,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to redouble their efforts to face the challenges and opportunities posed by migration for countries of origin, transit and destination, from the perspective of human rights, promotion of development and shared responsibility,

*Considering* that the important role that migrants play in economic growth has not been sufficiently appreciated or matched by any increase in the recognition of their human rights, including their labour rights or the rights of their family members,

*Agree to:*

66. Ensure that international migration issues, including migration regularization policies are fully incorporated into global, regional and national post-2015 development agendas and strategies;
67. Provide assistance and protection to migrants regardless of their migration status, especially vulnerable groups, with full respect for their rights and in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and those of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, highlighting the need to afford them comprehensive attention in countries of transit and destination;
68. Prepare comprehensive global and regional strategies to prevent infringement of the human rights of migrants, as well as to take advantage of the benefits, and face the challenges arising from migration, including those relating to remittances and skilled migration in high-demand sectors, as well as the differential participation of men and women and the transnationalization of care;
69. Promote the signing of bilateral and multilateral social security conventions to enable migrant workers to accumulate years of service;
70. Incorporate principles of consistency and reciprocity in dealing with the various situations faced by emigrants from the countries in the region, at all stages of the migration process, whether at the intraregional level or outside the region;
71. Achieve concrete results through dialogue and international cooperation relating to migration, human rights and development in regional forums as well as in forums linked to other regions of the world, in particular North America and the European Union, with a view to reducing existing asymmetries in this area and asserting the interests of Latin American and Caribbean countries;
72. Protect decisively the human rights of all migrants, avoiding any form of criminalization of migration, and guarantee migrants access to basic social services in education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, where appropriate, regardless of their migration status, with special attention to highly vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, displaced persons in an irregular situation, women who are victims of violence, victims of trafficking, returnees and forcibly displaced asylum seekers;
73. Give priority, in each country, to strengthening coordination channels between sectors and between countries, to reinforcing intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms in order to guarantee the exercise of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, from a gender-based perspective;
74. Strengthen cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to address the causes and challenges of irregular migration, so as to generate safe, orderly, humane

- migration conditions through bilateral arrangements for labour force mobility and ensure protection of the human rights of migrants;
75. Ensure that the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, leads to the adoption of a consensual outcome document and, in that regard, to submit for consideration the question of whether it would be appropriate to propose the contents and guidelines of an international convention on migration;

### G. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability

*Keeping in mind* the importance of agreement 2 relating to population, territory and sustainable development, adopted in Quito in 2012 by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the appeal to member States to consider territory as a key element in sustainable development and human coexistence, and to reduce territorial inequalities since these exacerbate economic, social and environmental inequities, at the subnational level and between countries,

*Bearing in mind* that in agreement 2 referred to above, the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America called on member States to advance towards the consolidation of planning systems that will help to build societies that are equitable and free of social exclusion, by designing public policies geared to reducing gaps in the quality of life and in the exercise of the rights of all persons, with emphasis on the living conditions of human beings and their relationship with the territory where they live,

*Taking into account* the particular challenges facing the countries of the region owing to conditions of poverty, structural processes such as globalization, specialization in extractive production and climate change, and the relationships between these processes and population mobility, spatial distribution, settlement and vulnerability of the poor population,

*Taking into consideration* the special characteristics of the spatial distribution of the population in the region, such as high rates of urbanization with the attendant opportunities and risks, the persistent rural exodus, the trend towards concentration of population and activities in a few dynamic centres, the limited options for development in rural areas and small population centres and the segregation and vulnerability facing poor people by virtue of their geographical location,

*Appreciating* the advances achieved and the region's experience in decentralization, development planning and territorial planning processes at the national and disaggregated levels and, especially, the successful experiences arising from the incorporation of population features and trends in development and territorial planning exercises,

*Concerned* at the high cost in human life, infrastructure, persons affected and economic losses caused by natural and socioenvironmental disasters in the region in recent years, which expose the human settlements of the poorest populations to the highest levels of vulnerability,

*Agree to:*

76. Develop more closely coordinated, integrated and cohesive territories by designing and executing territorial and urban management plans, policies and instruments, administered in a participatory manner and based on a people-centred approach with a gender and human rights perspective and a vision of sustainability and environmental risk management;
77. Promote the development and well-being of people in all territories without any form of discrimination, and provide full access to basic social services and equal opportunities for

- populations whether they live in urban or rural areas, in small, intermediate or large cities or in isolated areas or small rural settlements;
78. Expand and improve the processes of decentralization, deconcentration and participatory planning at the subnational and local levels, with emphasis on availability, accessibility and the quality of basic services, education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, and the prevention of violence against girls, adolescents and women;
  79. Design programmes to promote peaceful coexistence, continuing education, creative leisure pursuits, mental health and citizen security for the population in their territories in order to prevent the current social problems associated with issues such as poverty, social exclusion, the abusive use and trafficking of drugs, and gender-based violence;
  80. Formulate development strategies for city systems to encompass territorial planning and environmental sustainability, promoting energy transition and sustainable production and consumption processes, taking into consideration social and environmental externalities, within a human rights framework, in order to promote sustainable and inclusive urban development, and strengthen all segments of such systems, including intermediate and small cities;
  81. Plan and manage territorial and urban development, from a human rights and gender perspective, by formulating mobility, population settlement and activity location policies that contemplate, among their objectives, avoiding the use of vulnerable and protected areas and preventing and mitigating the impact of socioenvironmental disasters and combating the environmental vulnerability of those living in poverty and ethnic and racial groups who are subject to discrimination, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation;
  82. Formulate and implement strategies and policies that respond fully to situations of vulnerability to natural disasters, with a multidimensional protection focus before, during and after such events;
  83. Promote inclusive development of natural resources, avoiding the social and environmental damage that this may cause;
  84. Promote the use of georeferenced, sociodemographic analysis, disaggregated by sex, race and ethnicity, to improve territorial planning and environmental risk management;

#### **H. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights**

*Considering* that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes and reaffirms that indigenous individuals are entitled, without discrimination, to all human rights enshrined in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

*Reaffirming* the contribution that the indigenous peoples of the region make to development and to the conservation of the planet and that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humanity,

*Concerned* at the sharp inequality that affects indigenous peoples and individuals as a result of historical injustices and structural discrimination, which are expressed in higher levels of material poverty, exclusion and marginalization, as well as to their more limited participation in decision-making in power structures and in citizens' representation mechanisms, which undermines their human rights,

*Conscious* of the urgent need to respect and promote the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, as a prerequisite for the development of their identity and autonomy as peoples and for the challenges that



this implies in the context of globalization, especially given the increase in the exploitation of natural resources and the pressure on the territories of indigenous peoples, including the peoples living in voluntary isolation,

*Concerned* at the high levels of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples, particularly among women, girls and adolescents living in rural areas,

*Recognizing* the need to protect and respect the collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the need for greater protection for their development and against the forms of violence to which indigenous boys, girls, adolescents, young people, women and older persons are subjected,

*Highlighting* the importance of the high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010,

*Agree to:*

85. Respect and implement the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization on indigenous and tribal peoples — and call on those countries that have not already done so to sign it and ratify it — adapting legal frameworks and formulating the policies necessary for their implementation, with the full participation of these peoples, including indigenous peoples that live in cities;
86. Consider the special demographic dynamic of indigenous peoples in public policy design, with special emphasis on indigenous peoples threatened with extinction, those who have no contact with the outside world, those living in voluntary isolation or that are in a phase of initial contact, and respect their right to self-determination;
87. Guarantee indigenous peoples' right to health, including sexual rights and reproductive rights, and their right to their own traditional medicines and health practices, especially as regards to reducing maternal and child mortality, considering their socio-territorial and cultural specificities as well as the structural factors that hinder the exercise of this right;
88. Respect and guarantee the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, including those of peoples living in voluntary isolation and those in the initial phase of contact, with special attention to the challenges presented by extractive industries and other major global investments, mobility and forced displacements, and design policies that facilitate free, prior and informed consultation on matters that affect these peoples, pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
89. Adopt, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, the measures needed to ensure that indigenous women, boys, girls, adolescents and young people enjoy protection from and full guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination, and take measures to ensure the restitution of rights;
90. Guarantee indigenous peoples' right to communication and information, ensuring that national statistics respect the principle of self-identification, as well as the generation of knowledge and reliable and timely information on indigenous peoples through participatory processes, with reference to their requirements and international recommendations relating to these issues;
91. Participate actively and at the highest possible level, with provision for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in national delegations, in the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting entitled the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014, as well as in other relevant international forums;



### I. Afro-descendants: rights and combating racial discrimination

*Reaffirming* that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, provide a comprehensive human rights framework for the well-being and development of Afro-descendent persons and a solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Convinced* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin and that victims can suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, economic status, birth or other situation,

*Underscoring* the contribution that Afro-descendent populations make to the development and well-being of humanity as a whole and that cultural diversity should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and embraced as a permanent feature which enriches societies,

*Deeply concerned* at the disadvantaged position of Afro-descendent persons and communities in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, child mortality and life expectancy, in particular when the inequality is due to racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance,

*Agree to:*

92. Respect and implement the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, by adapting the legal frameworks and formulating the policies necessary for their implementation, with the full participation of Afro-descendent persons;
93. Address gender, racial, ethnic and intergenerational inequalities, bearing in mind the way these dimensions overlap in situations of discrimination affecting women, especially young Afro-descendent women;
94. Consider the special demographic and sociocultural dynamics of Afro-descendent populations in the design and implementation of public policies, ensuring their full participation and the development of disaggregated statistics;
95. Ensure that Afro-descendent persons, in particular Afro-descendent girls, adolescents and women, can exercise the right to health, especially the right to sexual health and reproductive health, taking into account the specific socio-territorial and cultural features and the structural factors, such as racism, that hinder the exercise of their rights;
96. Promote the development of Afro-descendent populations by implementing public policies, establishing standards and creating institutions to guide and carry forward affirmative action policies, plans and programmes at the sectoral level, whereby the principles of equality and non-discrimination can be incorporated into all levels of government, with organized civil society participating throughout the process of design, implementation and evaluation of those instruments;
97. Ensure that policies and programmes are in place to raise the living standards of Afro-descendent women, by fully enforcing their rights, in particular their sexual rights and reproductive rights;
98. Generate knowledge, reliable and timely information with a gender perspective and disaggregated by sex, age and socioeconomic status, among other variables, on Afro-descendent populations through participatory processes, paying attention to the international requirements and recommendations relating to the issue;

## J. Frameworks for the implementation of the future regional agenda on population and development

*Reaffirming* the strategic role that the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is called upon to play in the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the definition of priorities for its implementation beyond 2014,

*Underscoring* the need for operational instruments, monitoring systems and resources for action in the area of population and development in the region to address the emerging challenges in this sphere,

*Agree to:*

99. Reiterate the appeal to establish or strengthen a national coordinating mechanism, with the participation of civil society organizations, to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and to act as a permanent liaison with the Regional Conference;
100. Adopt a regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean fully respecting the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014;
101. Generate regional and national machineries to oversee the fulfilment of this regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 and ensure its accountability;
102. Improve data sources, particularly population censuses, administrative records, vital statistics and specialized surveys, promoting the full independence of national statistical systems and ensuring, by means of legal and institutional frameworks, that users and producers apply the fundamental principles of official statistics at both the national and international levels as well as harmonized methodologies to ensure comparability between countries;
103. Ensure sufficient financial and human resources to develop integrated systems that provide reliable, timely, good-quality, gender-sensitive information, disaggregated by territory, sex, age, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, to facilitate decision-making and the formulation, follow-up and appraisal of development policies and programmes;
104. Promote cooperation between national statistical offices and the relevant bodies in the field of statistics to aid in the production and improvement of those statistics, as well as in the use of health-sector administrative records for statistical purposes;
105. Ensure sufficient financial resources and the mobilization of international cooperation resources for Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to expedite the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and the measures agreed upon herein, putting in place at the same time clear and effective transparency and accountability mechanisms;
106. Design and implement training strategies in the area of population and development that cover various issues, territorial levels and course formats, using the academic establishments in the region and available technological advances, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations system;
107. Guarantee the effective participation of civil society and social movements in the implementation, oversight and appraisal of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014, incorporating the measures agreed upon herein;
108. Submit a proposal to the Statistical Conference of the Americas, at its next meeting, on the harmonization of health indicators, in particular sexual health and reproductive health, for the

### Chapter 3: Montevideo Consensus

region, including small island developing States, in order to facilitate the comparison and analysis of regional trends;

#### FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDATIONS

109. Resolve that these agreements represent the input of Latin America and the Caribbean for the report reviewing the status of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action which the Secretary-General will present to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session, to be held from 7 to 11 April 2014, and for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, to be held on 22 September 2014 in New York;
110. Request the secretariat, within the framework of the existing links between population and development, to continue to give priority to the following issues from a gender perspective: determinants and consequences of demographic trends; sociodemographic inequities; maternal and child mortality; sexual health and reproductive health; youth; ageing and older persons; indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean; international and internal migration; sources of sociodemographic information (population censuses and vital statistics); and human resources training in the fields of demography and population and development;
111. Request also the secretariat to continue providing support for countries in affording statistical visibility to the indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations of Latin America and the Caribbean by seeking to develop specific and innovative indicators, including the exchange of best practices, and providing accessible training opportunities for national personnel, and to continue to monitor regionally the issues relating to these population groups in Latin America and the Caribbean;
112. Commission the secretariat to provide all necessary support for the implementation of the regional activities to be held in preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which will take place on 22 and 23 September 2014;
113. Also commission the secretariat to provide technical assistance for the activities relating to the preparatory process of the International Decade for People of African Descent;
114. Further commission the secretariat, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to continue to head cooperation efforts to assist Latin American and Caribbean countries in the area of international migration, in particular in generating information and knowledge, preparing regulations and formulating and assessing policies using a human rights-based approach, respecting the commitments established in resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, which was adopted at the thirty-first session of the Commission;
115. Request the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to continue generating information and knowledge and to provide technical assistance to the countries for following up implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for other activities aimed at protecting the human rights of older persons within the purview of the United Nations;
116. Encourage the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to continue, through the inter-agency groups, to coordinate efforts with other international and multilateral agencies in order to implement priority activities relating to population and development for the benefit

- of member States; and urge it to promote and expand South-South, triangular and extraregional cooperation and sharing of best practices;
117. Resolve that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the secretariat, shall hold a meeting in 2014 in preparation for the second session of the Regional Conference;
  118. Invite member States to propose the creation of working groups on issues agreed upon herein to the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, for adoption at the second session of the Conference, which will be held in 2015;
  119. Requests the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Population Fund, to include in their strategic plans for 2014-2017 the priority areas of the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to allocate funds according to the indicators of need as required in each of the priority issues proposed by this Conference;
  120. Further request the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation activities, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterate the importance of developing human resources through training, the exchange of experiences and specialized knowledge, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which entails strengthening institutional capacities, including planning, management, follow-up and evaluation capabilities;
  121. Ask the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to lend technical assistance, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to provide technical support to State machineries and regional forums for the advancement of women in the management of cooperation and technical assistance resources with a view to enabling the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action and these agreements;
  122. Also ask the United Nations Population Fund to strengthen cooperation activities with Governments of the region in the framework of their commitment to strengthen investment in youth and, in particular, to intensify efforts to coordinate actions relating to access to quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education, gender equality, decent work for youth and their access to quality health care, including sexual health and reproductive health services, in conjunction with other cooperation agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system;
  123. Further ask the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Population Fund, in consultation with the Governments and in coordination with the relevant organizations in the United Nations system, to foster South-South cooperation in order to continue to advance towards the goals and objectives of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014;
  124. Thank the United Nations Population Fund for its technical assistance and financial support for the operational review of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/234, as well as for its support for the organization and holding of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has facilitated the formulation of the agreements adopted herein;

### Chapter 3: Montevideo Consensus

125. Ask the secretariat to report to the Regional Conference on Population and Development, at its second session, on activities carried out in the substantive areas referred to in the foregoing paragraphs;
126. Thank and congratulate the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for organizing the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of ECLAC for preparing the corresponding documentation, particularly the reports “Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned. Summary and overview” and “Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014”; and thank the United Nations Population Fund for its collaboration;
127. Thank also the Commission for the support provided to the countries of the region, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of ECLAC, in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Cairo Programme of Action and for the activities carried out between July 2012 and July 2013, which are described in the document “Report on the activities conducted by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC during the period 2012-2013”,<sup>14</sup> and thank the United Nations Population Fund for its collaboration;
128. Express appreciation to the civil society organizations and social movements for monitoring implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, in particular for their contributions to the first session of the regional conference;
129. Thank the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for hosting the first meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and for providing all the support needed for the event;
130. Welcome the kind offer of the Government of Mexico to host the second meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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<sup>14</sup>LC/L.3643/Rev.1.

# Appendix 1 to the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

## RESERVATION PRESENTED BY THE DELEGATION OF GUATEMALA

The delegation of Guatemala presents the following written statement:

My delegation wishes to state that, for reasons of interest to our country, Guatemala issues the following reservations and requests that they be incorporated in the final report of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- (a) Guatemala has the sovereign right to implement the recommendations contained in the agreement issued at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 12 to 15 August 2013, subject to the provisions of our Political Constitution and national laws, and those of the international treaties and conventions to which it is a party, wherefore none of the provisions or recommendations emanating from this session may or should be interpreted in a manner inconsistent with those legal instruments. Moreover, the decision of whether to implement these recommendations will be adopted in the light of our country's development priorities and with full respect for the various ethical and cultural values and the philosophical conviction of our multi-ethnic, multilingual and pluricultural people and in a manner consistent with universally recognized human rights;
- (b) The reservations of Guatemala relate in particular to the issues, terms, conditions and provisions contained in the present agreement with reference to the following:
  - Unqualified respect for the right to life from the moment of conception, as well as unqualified respect and the right that parents have to choose the education to be provided to their underage sons and daughters. It ratifies and guarantees social, economic and legal protection for the family on the basis of the legality of matrimony, equality in the right of persons to decide freely on the number and spacing of their children and the dignity of motherhood; in accordance with the ethical, moral, legal, cultural and natural criteria espoused by the Guatemalan people;
  - The concept of gender, which is interpreted as meaning only the female gender and male gender in reference to women and men, and reservations are expressed as regards the interpretation of the expression “sexually diverse groups”, “sexual orientation” and “sexual diversity and gender identity”.

The reservation entered by this delegation is based mainly on the following:

Paragraph 1.15 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states that it “does not create any new international human rights”,<sup>15</sup> but “affirms the application of universally recognized human rights standards to all aspects of population programmes”.

“The Programme of Action will require the establishment of common ground, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds. The impact of this Conference will be measured by the strength of the specific commitments made here and the consequent actions to fulfil them, as part of a new global partnership among all the world's countries and peoples, based on a sense of shared but differentiated responsibility for each other and for our planetary home.”

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<sup>15</sup> The Government of Guatemala originally submitted “does not create any new international human rights” with bold emphasis.



### Chapter 3: Appendix 1 to the Montevideo Consensus

As regards the issue of youth, three objectives were established and there is no reference to their reproductive rights:

“6.7. The objectives are:

(a) To promote to the fullest extent the health, well-being and potential of all children, adolescents and youth as representing the world’s future human resources, in line with the commitments made in this respect at the World Summit for Children and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) To meet the special needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women, with due regard for their own creative capabilities, for social, family and community support, employment opportunities, participation in the political process, and access to education, health, counselling and high-quality reproductive health services;

(c) To encourage children, adolescents and youth, particularly young women, to continue their education in order to equip them for a better life, to increase their human potential, to help prevent early marriages and high-risk child-bearing and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity.”

## CHAPTER 4

### Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference Bangkok, Thailand, 16 to 20 September 2013

#### SUMMARY

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia-Pacific Regional Office, convened the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013.

The Conference was attended by nearly 500 ministers, senior officials and civil society representatives from 47 ESCAP members and associate members (not associated). It reviewed progress and gaps in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and identified priority actions in addressing a broad set of population-related challenges, with a view to advancing people's rights and well-being through inclusive and equitable development.

After intense deliberations, the Conference adopted by majority vote the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. The Ministerial Declaration articulated a rights-based, gender-sensitive, and non-discriminatory approach to population and development strategies, programmes and policies for the next 10 years in the Asia-Pacific region. It identifies priority actions in the areas of poverty eradication and employment; health; education; gender equality and women's empowerment; adolescents and young people; ageing; international migration; urbanization and internal migration; population and sustainable development; and data and statistics, and includes modalities for implementation at the global, regional and national levels.

The Declaration reaffirms Governments' commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, stressing States' responsibility to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to address the root causes of poverty. It calls for universal and equitable access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information, access to contraceptive services for all couples and individuals, further reductions in maternal deaths, and universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The Declaration emphasizes the promotion of gender equality and calls for an end to gender-based violence and child and forced marriage.

Taking account of Asia-Pacific responses to the global survey<sup>1</sup> on countries' implementation of the Programme of Action, the Declaration highlights actions essential to further progress. The central focus is on the rights of young people and their needs, including provision of comprehensive sexuality education programmes, education and employment opportunities and opportunities to participate in decision-making.

The Declaration explicitly addresses population ageing, urbanization, and international migration, and it calls for rights-based policies that effectively respond to these trends. Since Asia-Pacific is experiencing the most rapid population ageing of any region in the world, the Declaration calls for strengthening health and social protection systems to adequately address the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and social isolation.

Governments adopted the Declaration by a vote of 38 to 3, with 1 abstention. Some Governments recorded reservations regarding references in the agreement to "sexual rights" and "sexual orientation and gender identity".

## Chapter 4: Summary

In preparing for the meeting, the secretariat also circulated a comprehensive survey requesting information on the actions taken by Governments to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Responses were received from 51 of the 62 ESCAP members and associate members. The responses were consolidated into a regional review report assessing progress made towards achieving the Programme of Action in the region, challenges and future priorities. Additionally, in the lead-up to the Conference, a comprehensive preparatory process was carried out to ensure ownership by all relevant stakeholders. Government experts, policymakers, parliamentarians and civil society representatives participated in several preparatory meetings and consultations during the course of 2013.

# Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

## I. PREAMBLE

1. *We, the ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, assembled at the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013,*
2. *Recalling* the Programme of Action<sup>16</sup> adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, and its annexes, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>17</sup> adopted in 1999 and the recommendations arising from their subsequent 5-, 10- and 15-year reviews,
3. *Also recalling* the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>18</sup> and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews,
4. *Further recalling* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,<sup>19</sup> adopted in 1995,
5. *Further recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session,<sup>20</sup>
6. *Welcoming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>21</sup> in which the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives reaffirmed the Rio principles including common but differentiated responsibilities, and committed to promoting a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities,
7. *Reaffirming* the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>22</sup> and the Vienna Declaration and its Programme of Action<sup>23</sup> as well as other international instruments relating to all human rights, including the right to development and international law, and emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status,
8. *Expressing* grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity,
9. *Further recalling* Commission resolution 74 (XXIII) on regional cooperation in the field of population, by which the Asian Population Conference was established as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years, for consideration of all aspects of population questions and their impact on social and economic development,

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<sup>16</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>17</sup> General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

<sup>18</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>19</sup> General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

<sup>20</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/1.

<sup>21</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>22</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A.

<sup>23</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

## Chapter 4: Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration

10. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/234, in which the Assembly decided to convene a special session during its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,
11. *Also recalling* Commission resolution 68/6, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok in 2013 with a view to utilizing the Conference as an intergovernmental platform for the Asia-Pacific preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014,
12. *Further recalling* the commitment to improve maternal health by 2015, and to achieve universal access to reproductive health, as set out in the targets under Millennium Development Goal 5,
13. *Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration<sup>24</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,<sup>25</sup> adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011, and the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, held in December 2012,
14. *Also recalling* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,<sup>26</sup> in which Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments declared their commitment to ending the epidemic with renewed political will and strong, accountable leadership,
15. *Further recalling* Commission resolutions 66/10 and 67/9, on achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific and on a regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, respectively,
16. *Recalling* the outcomes of all relevant United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, as well as the previous outcomes and declarations of the Asian and Pacific Population Conferences,
17. *Also recalling* the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council pertaining to sexual violence, such as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent relevant resolutions on women, peace and security,
18. *Recalling* the Moana Declaration: Outcome Statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for Population and Development, adopted on 15 August 2013, in which the Pacific parliamentarians committed to promote a rights-based approach and good governance in advancing the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development for all peoples of the Pacific region, taking into account the unique circumstances and needs of the Pacific peoples,
19. *Welcoming* the overall success of population programmes implemented by members and associate members of the Commission since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly in the areas of increased access to sexual and reproductive health services and reduced maternal and child mortality,
20. *Recognizing* that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the impact of the financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security and safety, as well as the increasing challenges posed by natural

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<sup>24</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II.

<sup>26</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

disasters, conflicts, complex emergencies, climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains,

21. *Noting* the specific development challenges and barriers faced by fragile and conflict-affected States in shaping their development agendas, including those related to population and development,

22. *Recognizing* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and that population dynamics are all-important for development,

23. *Further recognizing* that the freedom and ability to make informed and responsible decisions empower individuals to fulfil their potential and participate fully in economies and societies,

24. *Noting* that despite the considerable progress made in the region, challenges from multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, disempowerment and discrimination still need to be addressed, through commitment to equality before the law and non-discrimination for all persons, without distinction of any kind, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights, including the right to gainful employment, residence and access to services, as well as the need to promulgate or enforce laws that punish any kind of discrimination, violence or hate crimes, and to take active steps to protect people in the region from discrimination, stigma and violence,

25. *Recognizing* the importance of considering the impact, in terms of potential marginalization of the status of individuals in society and on public health, of laws and practices on consensual adult sexual behaviours and relationships,

26. *Recognizing* the critical role of policymakers, parliamentarians, community leaders and media in fostering an enabling environment for the full and equal enjoyment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights,

27. *Further recognizing* that professional groups such as health-care providers, members of the judiciary, teachers, social workers and law enforcement personnel need the necessary training to enhance their understanding of human rights-based, gender-sensitive and responsive, non-discriminatory approaches to all individuals, without distinction of any kind,

28. *Recognizing* that poverty is a major common denominator in health-related issues and is responsible for the serious worsening of common health indicators, deterioration of living standards, shortening of average life expectancy and persistence of, and, in some cases, the increase in preventable disease and death, particularly among children,

29. *Noting with concern* that, despite some progress made in public health in the last decade, for millions of people throughout the world the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, vaccines and commodities, equipment and other supplies and to comprehensive primary health-care services, health promotion and disease prevention, remains a distant goal and that, in many cases, especially for those living in poverty and populations in vulnerable or marginalized situations, the attainment of this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

30. *Reaffirming* that good public health is better achieved through a combination of good public health policies, including multisectoral policies that stress better nutrition, safe drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and sustainable urbanization and that combat major risk factors effectively,

31. *Also reaffirming* our commitments regarding the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger and acknowledging that food security, safety and nutrition have become pressing global challenges, and recalling Millennium Development Goal 1,



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32. *Acknowledging* the negative impact of nutritional insufficiency on the health of infants, children and their mothers,
33. *Recognizing* the need to implement policies and programmes on adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health and child health that fully respect all internationally recognized human rights, and further recognizing the need for countries to learn from each other on approaches towards achieving universal health care, including universal health coverage, and the use and mutually agreed sharing of all relevant technologies and know-how, including information and communications technology,
34. *Reaffirming* that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental aspects constitute a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,
35. *Acknowledging* that increased inequalities in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in lack of access for many to healthy nutrition, quality education, safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, productive employment, decent shelter and acceptable standards of health and living, and that addressing inequalities will continue to be a challenge in the region,
36. *Further acknowledging* that increased inequalities in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in lack of access for couples and individuals to safe, acceptable, affordable, effective and voluntary forms of modern contraception and that demands for these services will continue to grow over the next several decades, especially for those who face greater barriers in accessing such services,
37. *Also acknowledging* the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cancers, including reproductive cancers, and noting the linkages between non-communicable diseases, mental disorders and some communicable diseases, such as HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the effect of morbidity in reducing quality of life,
38. *Recognizing* the significant progress that has been made in the region in preventing and treating HIV and AIDS, and noting the need to continue and accelerate efforts to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care and to address the continuing barriers faced by key affected populations at higher risk of HIV infection in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support,
39. *Further acknowledging* the need for analysis of population data to inform policy formulation, and the need to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms in countries in the region to generate, analyse and disseminate reliable and comparable population data, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant categories, and accessible to all, as needed to monitor the achievements of the objectives and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,
40. *Emphasizing* that priority actions are required to harness the benefits and address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty and sustainable development, taking into account the needs and human rights of people living in the most vulnerable situations, keeping in mind that universal reproductive health-care services, commodities and supplies, as well as information, education, skill development, national capacity-building for population and development and transfer of appropriate technology and know-how, on mutually agreed terms and conditions, to developing countries are essential for achieving the objectives and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014,
41. *Acknowledging* the importance and effectiveness of utilizing and promoting science, technology and innovation and with the experience of past learning for achieving progress in the field of population and development,

42. *Affirming* that well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems, including birth and death registrations, are crucial for inclusive and sustainable development in the region,
43. *Recognizing* that discrimination based on gender is inextricably linked to other factors, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, disability, age, class, caste or all other status, and that these multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination can compound women's and girls' experience of injustice, social marginalization and inequality,
44. *Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the Asian and Pacific region and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable and can constitute a violation of their human rights, as well as of international humanitarian law and international criminal law,
45. *Recognizing* that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,
46. *Recognizing* that implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development requires the establishment of common ground with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds,
47. *Also recognizing* that a number of forms of violence against women and girls throughout the life cycle derive from harmful cultural practices, in particular the effects of certain traditional or customary practices, and that all acts of violence against women and girls linked to race, ethnicity, age, sex, language or religion perpetuate the lower status accorded to women and girls in the family, the workplace, the community and society,
48. *Further recognizing* the importance of empowering all women through education and training in Government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,
49. *Stressing* the need for States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices, such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, thereby creating imbalances in the sex ratio at birth that have negative social and economic impacts on society,
50. *Noting with concern* that there are still many challenges to be addressed to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, have the right to equitable access to economic and social opportunities and political participation and all other aspects of life,
51. *Recognizing* that the region is undergoing a historically unique transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of fertility and mortality, known as the demographic transition, which has strong effects on the age structure of populations, and cognizant of the fact that countries are at different stages of this transition, with some countries still experiencing higher levels of fertility and mortality, and others experiencing fertility that is below the replacement level,
52. *Mindful* of the unprecedented pace of the demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asian and Pacific region, which is home to the largest segment of older persons in the world, the majority of whom live in developing countries,
53. *Recognizing* that Governments must play a catalysing role in preparing for and responding to an ageing society in order to respond to the social, economic and political implications of population ageing,

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54. *Further recognizing* that older persons make vital contributions to the economy and society and that they often face challenges, including age discrimination, abuse and violence, limited access to health-care services, social protection measures and labour markets,

55. *Recognizing* that the change of family structures in the Asian and Pacific region is resulting in an increased number of older adults living alone,

56. *Also recognizing* the vulnerability of older persons, especially women, and the particular risks of poverty, discrimination and violence they face, and the need to promote and protect their human rights and address their specific needs,

57. *Acknowledging* that, at the same time, more than 60 per cent of the world's youth live in the Asian and Pacific region and that they require policies and strategies to promote and protect all their human rights, including the right to development, and address their specific needs, including in reproductive and sexual health,

58. *Recognizing* that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to improve the economic conditions of youth and to promote their interests, including the full enjoyment of their human rights and opportunities, among other things, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

59. *Noting* that evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education and life skills, which are consistent with evolving capacities and are age appropriate, are essential for adolescents and young people to be able to make responsible and informed decisions and exercise their right to control all aspects of their sexuality, protect themselves from unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to plan their lives, while recognizing the role and responsibilities of parents, as well as of teachers and peer educators, to support them in doing so,

60. *Recognizing* the need for States to adopt a life course approach in building and strengthening social protection systems that acknowledge differing needs at different stages of life,

61. *Noting* that the number of urban-dwellers in developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region is growing significantly and that future population growth will be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries,

62. *Also noting* that internal migratory flows in Asia and the Pacific will continue to have a significant impact on the distribution and concentration of populations in cities and large urban agglomerations, and recognizing the growing numbers of urban poor who often have no other option but to live in slums,

63. *Recognizing* that a significant portion of the world's poor live in rural areas, and that rural communities play an important role in the economic development of many countries,

64. *Acknowledging* the link between international migration and development in the Asian and Pacific region, and the need to address both the opportunities and challenges that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants and to the global community,

65. *Recognizing* the importance of preventing and eliminating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, while acknowledging the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children,

66. *Concerned* that the Asian and Pacific region is the most disaster-prone region of the world, noting the severe impacts of disasters on women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons,

and recognizing the need to build the resilience of populations in the region, including vulnerable groups in mitigation and adaptation strategies, to reduce vulnerability to disasters,

67. *Noting with appreciation* the secretariat's overview of regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>27</sup> which offers a valuable contribution to identifying the progress and gaps in its implementation in Asia and the Pacific and areas for future action,

68. *Recognizing* the need for greater resource flow and assistance for the Asian and Pacific region, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to effectively attain the goals, objectives and actions set out by the International Conference on Population and Development,

69. *Recommend* the following set of policy directions and priority actions in the Asian and Pacific region to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014, and inclusion in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,

## II. POLICY DIRECTIONS

70. Reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>16</sup> the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>17</sup> and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and by doing so, thereby commit to address remaining implementation gaps and to address new and emerging challenges and opportunities in the nexus between population and sustainable development;

71. Reaffirm also the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or the proposals contained in the present Declaration, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

72. Reaffirm further that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stress that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of all States regardless of their cultural, political or economic systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

73. Commit to promoting development, peace, prosperity and happiness through the incorporation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, as appropriate, in national development plans and their successful implementation, taking into account the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 to improve the quality of life of the people in the Asian and Pacific region;

74. Reaffirm that education is closely linked with socioeconomic development and demographic change, and hence a key factor in sustainable development and at the same time a component of well-being through its links with economic, social, cultural and demographic factors;

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<sup>27</sup> E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/1.

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75. Accord high priority to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as an integral part of national health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations and expenditures;

76. Recognize that sexual and reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents and rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, and the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

77. Note the importance of human security, which focuses on individuals, including youth, women and girls, as well as older persons, by protecting and empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty, including by building their resilience to any potential changes in their circumstances and environment, and fulfil their potential;

78. Resolve to strengthen access for all to the primary health-care system through appropriate public spending on health care as determined by national contexts, with appropriate allocation on primary health care, as this is necessary in attaining the goal of universal health coverage, which is not just about health financing but requires strong health systems to provide a range of quality, affordable services to address diversified health needs, including sexual and reproductive health needs;

79. Resolve to promote the right of women and girls to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to achieve gender equality, and reaffirm further that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and education and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services is essential for achieving the goals enshrined in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews;

80. Resolve to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive rights, without which the ability to exercise other rights is significantly constrained, and to create an enabling environment, including national rules and regulations, enactment of laws, as appropriate, for the exercise of those rights and the right to access to justice, as well as the right to equal and full participation in parliamentary and policymaking processes;

81. Resolve to take all possible preventive and remedial measures, by all relevant stakeholders at all levels, to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including by empowering women and girls and protecting them against all forms of violence, informing them of their human rights, disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information and support, including remedial, legal, health and other support and services, as may be necessary, is available to all women and girls who have been subjected to violence, at all levels of the social service system and justice system, and raising public awareness of women's and girls' rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

82. Recommit to the importance of addressing the social determinants and structural and underlying causes of inequality at the national and international levels in order to effectively reduce them;

83. Ensure that a people-centred approach is at the core of sustainable development policies and programmes to promote social integration and foster social harmony and social cohesion;

84. Work to reduce vulnerability and eliminate discrimination based on sex, gender, age, race, caste, class, migrant status, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation and gender identity, or other status;



85. Adopt a life course approach in order to address the needs and fulfil the human rights, including the right to development, of young people with a focus on adolescents, as well as to respond to and prepare for the process of population ageing;
86. Develop evidence-based policies and ensure accountability in meeting commitments, including through the implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and community-based monitoring, in accordance with national laws and regulations, as appropriate;
87. Increase regional and international cooperation and global partnerships in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development and implement its Programme of Action and the key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as their follow-up beyond 2014;
88. Reaffirm the important role of partnerships among key stakeholders, including Governments, community-based organizations, civil society, the not-for-profit sector and the private sector, in implementing the Programme of Action and the key actions as well as their follow-up beyond 2014;

### III. PRIORITY ACTIONS

#### A. Poverty eradication and employment

89. Accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels;
90. Commit to address poverty and hunger as matters of urgency, reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;
91. Create enabling environments at all levels for poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration and protection;
92. Enhance food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations;
93. Revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors and take the necessary actions to better address poverty and the needs of rural communities through, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples, people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care and social services, education and training, employment knowledge, and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater, water harvesting and storage;
94. Empower rural women and men as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security, safety and nutrition;
95. Focus on bolstering agricultural productivity and output quality, as a sharp increase in agricultural productivity could accomplish several things simultaneously, including: reducing hunger; reducing child mortality through improved nutrition; reducing maternal mortality through improved nutrition; and increasing household incomes and economic growth;
96. Adopt forward-looking macroeconomic policies for job creation that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development;



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97. Enhance employment and income opportunities for all, especially for women and men living in poverty and, in this regard, support national efforts in the Asian and Pacific region to provide the poor in both rural and urban areas with new job opportunities, including support to small and medium-sized enterprises, including by promoting equal skills development and employment opportunities, and reducing wage gaps between women and men;

98. To promote policies and programmes aimed at encouraging the active participation of women in the labour force;

99. Address the challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies and policies that provide young people with access to decent and productive work, as over the coming decades, decent jobs will need to be created to be able to ensure sustainable and inclusive development and to reduce poverty;

100. Encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices on ways to address the high levels of unemployment and underemployment, in particular among youth;

101. Increase access to decent and productive employment and promote entrepreneurship as a fundamental component of pro-poor growth and the efforts to address poverty and hunger;

102. Widely apply successful programmes, especially employment-intensive initiatives, small and medium-sized enterprise promotion, employment guarantee schemes and conditional cash transfers, as well as vocational and technical training and entrepreneurial skills development, especially for unemployed youth to cover larger parts of the population, especially women and people living in rural areas;

103. Address the special needs of persons with disabilities in national population policies and programmes;

### **B. Health**

104. Adopt appropriate policies and programmes to achieve universal health coverage;

105. Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability, affordability, quality and comprehensiveness of health-care services and facilities through well-functioning and responsive public health services for all people, in particular for the poorest and marginalized segments of the population in accordance with national commitments to provide access to basic health care for all, as well as the need to increase the healthy lifespan and improve the quality of life of all people, and to reduce disparities in health status, morbidity, mortality and life expectancy among and within countries in the region;

106. Promote science and the exchange of knowledge in addressing communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases with a view to increase life expectancy, improve the quality of life and reduce morbidity and mortality;

107. Strengthen national health systems and implement multisectoral national policies for the provision of equitable universal health coverage, and promote quality and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases;

108. Strengthen health systems so that they can deliver equitable health outcomes on the basis of a comprehensive approach by focusing appropriate attention on, among other things, increasing health financing, training and effective deployment of human resources for health, strengthening procurement and distribution of medicines and vaccines, infrastructure, information systems, service delivery, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, universal access and political will in leadership and governance;

**C. Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights**

109. Accord priority to policies and programmes to achieve universal access to comprehensive and integrated quality sexual and reproductive health services for all women, men and young people in order to, among other things, reduce the unmet need for family planning with special attention on ensuring access for adolescents and unmarried persons, as well as to eliminate maternal, newborn and child mortality, decrease morbidity and to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

110. Provide a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health information and other services that includes adequate counselling, information and education, access to a full range of acceptable, affordable, safe, effective and high-quality modern contraceptives of choice, comprehensive maternity care, including prenatal and postnatal care, access to safe abortion under the criteria permitted by law, post-abortion care, safe delivery services, prevention and treatment of infertility, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, employing a rights-based approach, paying particular attention to women, newborns, adolescents, youth, and hard-to-reach and underserved groups;

111. Ensure that national laws and policies respect and protect reproductive rights and enable all individuals without distinction of any kind, to exercise them without discrimination on any grounds;

112. Prohibit practices that violate the reproductive health and rights of women and adolescent girls, such as spousal or parental consent requirements to receive health services, including: (i) sexual and reproductive health services; (ii) denial of access to sexual and reproductive health services; (iii) violence in health-care settings, including sexual harassment, humiliation and forced medical procedures or those conducted without informed consent, and which may be irreversible, such as forced hysterectomy, forced Caesarean section, forced sterilization and forced abortion and forced use of contraceptives, as well as mandatory HIV testing; (iv) early and forced marriage; (v) female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices; or (vi) discrimination in education and employment due to pregnancy and motherhood;

113. Prioritize the provision of free education for girls at all levels, access to sexual and reproductive health information services and efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage;

114. Fully engage the participation and involvement of men in ensuring the promotion and protection of their own, and their partners' reproductive health and rights;

115. Implement evidence-based policies, including in low- and high-fertility countries, that are based on the rights of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the means to do so, taking into account that the need for such policies is to be based on evidence and best practices;

116. Ensure access to contraceptive services for all couples and individuals, with comprehensive information about, voluntary access to and choice of the widest possible range of safe, effective, high-quality, affordable, acceptable and modern methods of contraception, so that all couples and individuals are able to voluntarily exercise free, responsible and informed choice;

117. Strengthen partnerships in communities between professional bodies, civil society, community-based organizations, including village health and sanitation committees, grass-roots democratic institutions, municipal bodies, not-for-profit entities and the private sector, and increase involvement of elected government officials, in order to improve the delivery of sexual and reproductive health information and services;

118. Eliminate preventable maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity through increasing the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, particularly in developing countries, the use of prenatal and postnatal care, access to family planning services and information, access to emergency

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obstetric and newborn care, and management of complications arising from unsafe abortion and comprehensive abortion care where it is not against the law, as well as training and equipping health service providers and take other measures to ensure that abortion is safe and accessible in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls;

119. Significantly scale up efforts to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, free of discrimination and bearing in mind gender perspectives, and the goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015, in particular by integrating HIV and AIDS interventions into programmes for primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, and maternal, neonatal and child health, including by strengthening efforts to eliminate the vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child, by preventing and treating other sexually transmitted infections, expanding access to essential commodities, including all required medicines for treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS, and to male and female condoms, through the adoption of measures to reduce costs and improve availability;

120. Address the legal and policy barriers that impede access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, particularly among key affected populations, including sex workers, persons who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and transgender and mobile populations;

121. Strengthen existing health services and health systems to increase the capacity of prevention, early detection, treatment and palliation of cancers of the male and female reproductive systems, especially prostate, breast and cervical cancers;

122. Promote evidence-based innovative communication technologies and approaches to increase access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including for young people, the poor and the most vulnerable;

123. Ensure timely, accessible and affordable essential reproductive health commodities, within the context of comprehensive, safe, acceptable, affordable and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services;

124. Integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health services and programmes, as part of a broader, multisectoral, coordinated response, including within maternal, newborn and child, adolescent and youth health, family planning and HIV-related services, and ensure that all victims and survivors of violence have immediate access to critical services, including emergency contraception and safe abortion;

125. Support the active engagement of community and religious leaders in the promotion of reproductive health and rights;

126. Ensure that the human rights of women and girls, including their reproductive health and rights, receive increased attention in humanitarian assistance and post-crisis recovery by providing access to timely, safe, high-quality, affordable and acceptable information and services on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, in particular for women and girls in accordance with the World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews;

### D. Education

127. Ensure the right of everyone to education and emphasize that education should be directed towards the full development of the human person and his or her dignity and should strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and implement commitments made at the international

level that emphasize inclusive high-quality learning, including early childhood education, and universal access to complete, free and compulsory high-quality primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and skills training, and lifelong learning, without any form of discrimination that is necessary to successfully transition from school into the labour force, as well as equal access to education and successful schooling for all people living with HIV and AIDS and children from indigenous communities and in orphanages and institutions;

128. Ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, including for married adolescents and young mothers, especially educational opportunities, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education and promoting the empowerment of girls through improving educational quality and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools, physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities and childcare, and increasing financial incentives for women and their families where necessary;

#### **E. Gender equality and women's empowerment**

129. Increase and track the investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the diversity of needs and circumstances of women and girls, including victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective and gender-sensitive budgeting in resource allocation, and ensuring the necessary human, financial and material resources for specific targeted activities to ensure gender equality and the advancement of women and girls at the local, national, regional and international levels within comprehensive multisectoral national plans for gender equality, as well as through enhanced and increased international cooperation;

130. Mainstream gender dimensions into strategies, plans and programmes in all socioeconomic sectors and develop and implement strategies, policies and programmes to prohibit and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

131. Review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that have a discriminatory impact on individuals, without distinction of any kind, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

132. Review, and where appropriate, repeal laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions, where applicable, as well as end their imprisonment for such acts, bearing in mind that in no circumstances should abortion be considered as a family planning method;

133. Strengthen legal frameworks and develop comprehensive and multisectoral national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and resource allocation aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

134. Ensure that all victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, rape and incest, including indigenous people and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, have immediate access to critical services, including: 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services; police protection; safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; referrals; and longer-term support;

135. Fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in promoting gender equality and preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, and develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility of men and boys in preventing and eliminating

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all forms of violence against women and girls; and in this context address and eliminate intimate partner violence and expand and ensure the availability and access to services to prevent, respond to and protect survivors of such violence and their children;

136. Design, adopt and implement evidence-based and effective policies and programmes focusing on the empowerment of female-headed households through providing them with adequate socioeconomic support and health services;

137. Focus employment policies to enable parents to play an active role in the development of their children and balance the demands of these responsibilities with those of caring for older adults in the family;

138. Establish and implement legal and institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, build capacity of doctors, midwives, law enforcement agencies and judges, and increase public awareness on the value of the girl child, including in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child, child and forced marriage and the root causes of son preference, which reinforce traditional gender roles impeding the advancement of women and girls and contribute to harmful, unethical and illegal practices, such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, which result in an imbalance in the sex ratio at birth and a distorted population composition;

139. Undertake, where appropriate, legislative, administrative, financial and other measures to give women full and equal access to economic resources, particularly women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, assets, investments, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, among other things, by means of international cooperation; prioritize and intensify initiatives towards the economic empowerment of women at the grass-roots level, including through entrepreneurship education and business incubators, as ways of uplifting their status and increasing choice and opportunities;

140. Take all necessary legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities as they are especially vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, discrimination, violence and abuse, including in the workplace, educational institutions, the home and other settings;

141. Encourage and empower women's full and effective leadership at all levels in order to maximize their contribution to policymaking;

142. Ensure the implementation of programmes that increase women's participation in political processes and other leadership activities, including the removal of discriminatory hiring practices, increasing peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and promoting civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

143. Improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and relevant indicators to inform policies, and ensure the collection and dissemination of internationally comparable gender statistics;

### F. Adolescents and young people

144. Ensure that adolescents and young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to youth-friendly sustainable health and social services without discrimination and judgement, including marginal groups, such as youth with disabilities, HIV and AIDS, ethnic minorities and other status;

145. Respect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people and give full attention to meeting their sexual and reproductive health, information and education needs, with their full participation and engagement, and respect for their privacy and confidentiality, while acknowledging



the roles and responsibilities of their parents, as well as of their teachers and peer educators in supporting them to do so and that in this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services;

146. Design, ensure sufficient resources and implement comprehensive sexuality education programmes that are consistent with evolving capacities and are age appropriate, and provide accurate information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health, while recognizing the role and responsibilities of parents;

147. Address youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society;

148. Enable adolescents and young people to participate in decision-making, including planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to develop and strengthen opportunities for young people to be aware of their human rights and responsibilities, promote and enable their social, economic and political participation, remove obstacles that limit their full contribution to society, and promote and support adolescent and youth associations, volunteer groups and entrepreneurship;

## G. Ageing

149. Adopt policies and national action plans to prepare for and respond to population ageing throughout the life course;

150. Accord priority to addressing the rights of older persons in national legal and policy frameworks;

151. Strengthen data collection and analysis on older persons to increase the knowledge base on ageing to develop evidence-based national policies on ageing;

152. Establish and/or strengthen national coordination bodies or mechanisms on ageing, as appropriate, to promote and protect the human rights of older persons, develop sustainable social protection and health policies, consider increasing domestic and international resources to support developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,<sup>28</sup> and to coordinate and track resource allocations for ageing;

153. Conduct regular reviews of national policies to ensure that ageing issues are mainstreamed into national development plans, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including older persons, to facilitate social and economic participation of older persons, remove barriers that limit their full contribution to society and to promote an enabling environment for healthy and active ageing as set out in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

154. Ensure that gender differentials in longevity and the well-being of older persons are taken into account in national ageing responses, and establish or strengthen programmes, policies and services that address the specific health and care needs of older persons, with a particular focus on older women;

155. Assess the well-being and family situation of older persons and provide necessary support for those who live alone and/or away from their families and consider measures to encourage the role of families and communities in respecting and supporting older adults;

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<sup>28</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.



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156. Develop or strengthen inclusive social protection systems, with particular attention given to older persons and their vulnerability to poverty and social isolation, including the provision of universal pensions and the strengthening of solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships, as well as bonds within families to ensure the care, protection, economic security and empowerment of older persons;

157. Promote the role of older workers as transmitters of knowledge and experience to younger workers;

158. Strengthen health and social protection systems to prepare for and respond to the needs of older persons by adopting a life course approach and by providing an integrated continuum of care, including preventive care, acute care, chronic disease management, long-term care and end-of-life care, and palliative care;

159. Share experiences and implement good practices on ageing, especially with regard to social safety nets, such as pensions, health and long-term care insurance, and social protection systems that support populations throughout their life course, including specific forms of support for older persons, as well as community action;

160. Develop strategies to meet the rising demand for care of older persons, acknowledging the linkages between ageing and disability, emphasizing home and community-based care and improving the coverage and quality of care in formal and informal settings;

161. Implement and monitor laws and regulations on the basis of gender equity and equality to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against older persons, including ageism in employment, health care and other settings;

162. Create and promote enabling environments to support active participation of all persons, especially older persons and persons with disabilities, including through increased investment in universal design, to ensure access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication;

163. Support the formation of organizations of and for older persons that provide an effective community mechanism for strengthening the voices of older persons;

### H. International migration

164. Effectively promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>22</sup> and their applicable international human rights obligations in accordance with national laws and policies and where appropriate, and consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;<sup>29</sup>

165. Address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability and risks;

166. Acknowledge the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin, transit and destination and consider the multidimensional and beneficial aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;

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<sup>29</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

167. Examine the root causes of undocumented migration, including by promoting cooperation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and commitments at all levels so as to foster orderly, regular and safe processes of migration;
168. Examine the causes of emigration to minimize the adverse effects of the migration of highly skilled persons on the development efforts of developing countries;
169. Promote dialogue and establish cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, as appropriate, to provide social protection to migrants, especially health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, employment services, job training, social insurance, social assistance and remittances, to promote social inclusion and also to address the implications of deportation of migrants, taking into account the interests of countries of destination and origin;
170. Provide access to relevant documentation for foreign residents to facilitate their access to social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services;
171. Adopt and implement legislation and policies that ensure equal treatment of migrant workers with national workers, where appropriate, in employment and working conditions, while stressing that such migrants should not be punished for submitting complaints and by promptly investigating all alleged crimes against them;
172. Incorporate a gender perspective into all policies and programmes on international migration in order to reinforce the positive effects that migration can have for the empowerment of women and the contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, coercion, discrimination, trafficking in persons and other types of exploitation and abuse of women and girls, especially of domestic workers, who are predominantly women;
173. Ensure that migration is safe and orderly and combat trafficking in persons, especially women, boys and girls, while ensuring access by victims and survivors of trafficking to counselling, rehabilitation services and alternative economic opportunities;
174. Consider, where appropriate, enacting national legislation and introducing further effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation and sexual violence;
175. Strengthen international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and, where appropriate, consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,<sup>30</sup> and implementing them as appropriate;
176. Strengthen policies to ensure that international migration for the purpose of marriage does not lead to situations of exploitation or abuse, and to assist with the social integration of marriage migrants and their children;
177. Ensure access to civil, economic, social and cultural rights for all children affected by migration, whether as migrants or those staying behind, regardless of their parents' migration status, and include children affected by migration in social protection systems, policies and programmes;
178. Devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures and specific policies to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, sexual exploitation, violence or sexual abuse;

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<sup>30</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

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179. Improve national data collection and pursue regional cooperation to harmonize the collection and analysis of migration data and statistics for evidence-informed policymaking, including by taking advantage of advances in methodologies and technologies for data collection and analysis, and regular collaboration in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of migration and other relevant data;

### I. Urbanization and internal migration

180. Consider population and migration trends and projections, including data on the number and situation of internal migrants, in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating regional, national, community, rural and urban development strategies and policies, and seize opportunities and address challenges associated with demographic change, including migration;

181. Promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of, and promote equal opportunities for, internal migrants to combat all forms of discrimination against them, including the sexual violence and exploitation that women and girls face as rural-to-urban migrants, to provide them with access to education, health care and social services, to foster social integration, especially for marginalized migrants, and to ensure their safety and security;

182. Harness the benefits of persons moving to urban areas and seize the advantages of higher population density, notably higher energy efficiency in transport and housing, as well as cheaper provision of basic services, including health and infrastructure development, while at the same time working to mitigate the adverse impacts of the rapid concentration of populations in cities of metropolitan areas and ensuring that urbanization is a planned, sustainable and equitable process;

183. Reduce urban poverty, acknowledging that many urban-dwellers work in the informal sector of the economy, and promote the integration of internal migrants from rural areas into urban areas by developing and improving their income-earning capability, with special attention to women, in particular female workers and female heads of households;

184. Recognize the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes the upgrading of slums and regeneration of urban areas;

185. Commit to improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban- and rural-dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing, water and sanitation, and mobility;

186. Enhance the capacity of Governments in sustainable urban planning and promote, where relevant, the decentralization of decision-making in order to better address local needs;

187. Encourage the exchange of experiences and implement best practices for the successful management of population-related challenges in megacities (cities of 10 million or more residents), including the provision of basic services, as well as internal migration;

188. Promote development that would encourage linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence including through strategies that are aimed at eradicating poverty by integrating a gender perspective and promoting interactions between cities and rural localities;

189. Develop measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters in urban areas, and ensure the provision of necessary and prompt assistance to affected populations, especially vulnerable groups, such as persons with disability, migrants and older adults;

**J. Population and sustainable development**

190. Promote sustainable development by proactively addressing population dynamics through the systematic consideration of population data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other factors, and the formulation of rural, urban and national development strategies and policies, as well as multisectoral development strategies for infrastructure and services;

191. Recognize the need to increase efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including by increasing diverse methods of achieving sustainable food production and productivity to ensure food security and safety, and using limited natural resources effectively, such as effective use of water through irrigation systems;

192. Promote sustainable development by directing individual choices and opportunities through incentives designed to empower and promote the participation of all sections of populations, which is an important and effective instrument for promoting the transition to sustainable development and green economies;

193. Promote public education, giving special attention to youth, about the need for sustainable production and consumptions patterns, sustainable natural resource use and prevention of environmental degradation;

194. Ensure the collection, availability and use of high-quality data, disaggregated by sex, age, region and urban and rural residence, on the impact of disasters in order to promote effective policymaking for enhanced disaster preparedness and management;

195. Promote participation of the affected sections of the population in the planning and decision-making processes on relevant natural disaster risk reduction strategies;

196. Ensure forecasting of the consequences of climate conditions and climate change, and prioritize addressing the needs of people living in fragile ecosystems in planning and decision-making processes on economic activities that affect the environment, including through such policies as those for promoting employment;

197. Ensure collective efforts to halt global carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions, as part of protecting livelihoods and ensuring survival, as well as to support and facilitate adaptation and/or migration with dignity and respect for identity where countries can no longer support the lives of people due to adverse changes in their circumstances and environment resulting from climate change;

**K. Data and statistics**

198. Strengthen national statistical systems at all levels to produce reliable, disaggregated and internationally comparable statistics on population, social and economic development in a timely manner to help monitor subnational, national, regional and international development;

199. Support collection and analysis of data at the household level, in cooperation with research and statistical institutions, as appropriate, on issues related to the International Conference on Population and Development in order to design policy interventions;

200. Support the collection and sharing of data, statistics and qualitative information on the quality of life and dignity of older persons, including cases of violation and abuses of their rights, in order to design and implement appropriate, evidence-based policy measures;

201. Improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on, among other things, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants, domestic workers, indigenous peoples and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities in order to effectively protect their rights, and to design and implement policies and programmes to enhance their well-being;

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202. Develop national human capital through training, proper recognition and incentives to generate good-quality data and fully exploit the potential of the data for evidence-based management and programming;

203. Use new technologies for data collection and processing to ensure their proper use and cost-effectiveness and sustainability;

204. Ensure timely availability and easy accessibility of data files and statistics for national and international users through the Internet, including the World Wide Web;

### IV. MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

205. Confirm that the present Declaration should provide an effective response to population and development challenges beyond 2014 and link to the development agenda beyond 2015;

206. Designate a national focal point agency to coordinate the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration at the national level;

207. Ensure stronger political commitment and establish or strengthen national, subregional and regional mechanisms to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and the recommendations of the present Declaration, taking into account, as appropriate, the outcomes of national and regional reviews, including a review in 2018 of the progress achieved at the midpoint towards the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

208. Strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions to ensure effective integration of population issues into development planning, including ensuring effective coordination of all relevant planning bodies and multisectoral approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations contained in the present Declaration;

209. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation by relevant national authorities of progress towards the continuing implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its related follow-up outcomes, as well as the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, and reflect, as appropriate, the findings in national and regional policies and programmes;

210. Ensure adequate financing to fully implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations contained in the present Declaration in all countries through new and additional resources, with a focus on domestic resource mobilization, resource tracking, public and private financing and ensuring the continuation and fulfilment of official development assistance commitments made by international donors;

211. Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and relevant national institutions and mechanisms to employ holistic approaches to generate, analyse and disseminate reliable population data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other categories as needed, and increase the use of data for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies by relevant national authorities;



212. Conduct an assessment of civil registration and vital statistics systems, including birth and death registration, and develop a national multisectoral improvement plan which includes strengthening the capacities and coordination of relevant institutions;

213. Create effective partnerships and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and the recommendations of the present Declaration at the local, district, national and regional levels, with all relevant stakeholders, including through the involvement of political and opinion leaders, community and religious leaders, school teachers, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for the participation of civil society and community-based organizations and increased space for constructive dialogue at the local, national and regional levels;

214. Strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and engagement with philanthropic foundations and the private sector for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the present Declaration;

215. Empower communities to ensure the accountability of Governments in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration, as well as the accountability of health and social service providers;

216. Promote regional cooperation, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations of the present Declaration, including on the use of information and communications technologies, and encourage the sharing of successful experiences and best practices among developing countries in the area of population and development, including sexual and reproductive health, especially for adolescents;

217. Ensure, in support of national development efforts, an enabling international environment, supportive of universal, non-discriminatory, timely and affordable access to medicines, vaccines, commodities, equipment, technologies and other supplies required for the comprehensive provision of health-care services, to guarantee the basic human rights of women, children, adolescents, older persons and other groups in vulnerable situations;

218. Request the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and all other relevant partners:

(a) To accord priority to the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration;

(b) To provide the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with support, upon request, in the implementation of the present Declaration at the national and regional levels;

(c) To conduct a regional intergovernmental review meeting of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration in 2018, and to submit the outcome of the regional meeting to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session;

(d) To ensure, while fully respecting the principles of national leadership and ownership, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Development Group regional teams, the integration of the outcomes of the Conference, in consultation with United Nations country



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teams and national Governments, into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, at the country level;

(e) To facilitate regional cooperation, including the sharing of best practices among member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, including the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, including on the use of information and communications technology in population and development-related issues and approaches on the provision of universal health care;

(f) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, through the President of the General Assembly, to the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, as the Asia-Pacific regional input;

(g) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session;

(h) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to the Commission at its seventieth session for consideration and endorsement.

# Annexes to the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

## RECORD OF VOTING

The Conference adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development by a roll-call vote of 38 to 3, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan.

*Not present:*

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan.

## STATEMENTS MADE IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE AND RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED

### Statement by the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran requesting a recorded vote

The delegations of the Russian Federation and Islamic Republic of Iran have thoroughly studied the draft ministerial declaration on population and development, submitted by the Chair of the senior officials segment for adoption by the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (referring to E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/WP.1/Rev.3).

Once again, we reiterate our appreciation to the Chair, as well as to the joint secretariat for all their hard work on the preparation of this document as well as for all their efforts to ensure consensus during negotiations. We also thank those delegations that have shown a constructive approach, flexibility and eagerness to compromise in order to elaborate a consensus draft declaration.

The Russian and Iranian delegations, in turn, have made maximum efforts to achieve consensus on most arguable provisions during the plenary session, bilateral contacts and in other established formats. Unfortunately, our efforts have been in vain and no significant result has been achieved.

In these circumstances, we have no other option but to point out once again that a significant number of provisions of the draft declaration do not take into account our concerns on the issues that are of the utmost importance for the Governments of our countries. The document contains a series of notions that are totally unacceptable to the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and therefore we are not in a position to support its adoption.

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In view of the above, we have been instructed by our Governments to request a recorded roll-call vote on the draft declaration in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and practice of the United Nations.

### Oral statements in explanation of vote and reservations expressed (in order of delivery)

#### *Azerbaijan*

The delegation of Azerbaijan shares the view expressed by the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran in expressing a lack of agreement on a number of points in the draft declaration. The draft declaration in its current form is not acceptable to the delegation of Azerbaijan, as it does not conform to our current legislation, and includes many wordings and references to sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual rights. Azerbaijan thus considers that due to these points, we could not adopt the draft declaration.

#### *Afghanistan*

Let me express, on behalf of my delegation, the official position of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the outcome document of the Conference. My country is a State party to most international conventions, particularly those on human rights. Afghanistan remains committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. For this reason, we have been actively involved in the negotiation of the outcome document in both the senior officials and ministerial segments. However, the concerns of my delegation have not been considered in the outcome document, i.e., sexual orientation, gender identity and abortion. We want to underscore the importance of respect for religion, culture and national laws.

#### *Maldives*

Maldives would like to congratulate and thank the member countries for their hard work over the last few days.

Maldives, in general, agrees with the draft declaration. However, we would like to offer that the following paragraphs of the declaration will be interpreted by Maldives in accordance with national laws and regulations: 8, 25, 26, 75, 76, 80, 84, 116 and 124.

#### *Pakistan*

Pakistan supports the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, particularly issues related to poverty eradication and employment, health, education, gender equality and women's empowerment, ageing, international migration, urbanization and internal migration, as well as population and sustainable development. Nevertheless, Pakistan does not support the proposals and paragraphs contained in the draft declaration regarding sexual orientation, specifically in paragraphs 8 and 84 of the document. Pakistan requests that its reservation be duly reflected in the final version of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

#### *Indonesia*

The Indonesian delegation would like to convey its appreciation to the Chair for his leadership in the adoption of this draft declaration. The delegation would also like to convey the cooperative spirit of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and its full support for the implementation of the declaration in line with its national priorities.

Recalling the agreed language of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Indonesia would like to once again reaffirm its position that the declaration should, without any hesitation, use the agreed language that has been adopted within the United Nations, in particular within the framework of the International Conference on Population and Development. For example, the declaration should employ the exact wording “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”, as has been agreed upon in the outcome documents of the regular sessions of the Commission on Population and Development.

Indonesia is also of the view that youth is a crucial and valuable asset for the development of the nation within the global community. Indonesia intends to work to overcome differences among member States on various issues that may distract their efforts to implement national domestic laws and development programmes in accordance with their priorities, particularly on the issues of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and adolescents and young people as addressed in the outcome document of this Conference.

We would like to reaffirm our support to the prospect to empower youth in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015.

Indonesia once again emphasizes that the text of the declaration must be consistent with the agreed language of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that its content in its entirety must not go beyond what has been mandated by the Programme of Action.

In this regard, Indonesia considers that the words “sexual and reproductive health (and rights)” must be understood as “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”, in order to be consistent with what was agreed in the Programme of Action and the outcome documents of the Commission on Population and Development.

Furthermore, Indonesia expresses strong objection to the insertion of the words “sexual orientation and gender identity” reflected in any part of the declaration in its entirety.

In detail, Indonesia’s reservations to the adopted declaration are as follows:

(a) In “Contents”, section III, heading C, should be replaced with “Sexual and reproductive health, services and reproductive rights”;

(b) Paragraph 8 should be deleted;

(c) In paragraph 26, “sexual and reproductive health and rights” should be replaced with “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”;

(d) In paragraph 76, “Recognize that sexual and reproductive rights” should be replaced with “Recognize that reproductive rights embrace certain”;

(e) In paragraph 80, second line, “including their sexual and reproductive rights” should be replaced with “including their reproductive rights”;

(f) In paragraph 84, third line, “status and sexual orientation and gender identity, or other status” should be replaced with “status, or other status”;

(g) Under “Priority actions”, heading C should read “Sexual and reproductive health and services and reproductive rights”;

(h) In paragraph 145, first line, “Respect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of” should be replaced with “Respect the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of”.

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### *Malaysia*

We wish to express our serious reservations about the new terms introduced throughout the draft declaration, such as “consensual adult sexual behaviours and relationships”, “sexual and reproductive health and rights”, as well as “sexual orientation and gender identity”, which are not consistent with the language agreed upon at the International Conference on Population and Development. We are concerned that the new terms could give the impression that new rights have been created, and it will create misunderstanding and confusion, which will hinder the successful formulation of policies as well as the effective implementation of the relevant programmes and activities on the ground.

We are also concerned that the new terms could give the impression that religious, ethical values and cultural aspects are no longer important in the overall development of our society, particularly in the context of the family, relationships and sexuality, which is contrary to the terms and spirit of the International Conference on Population and Development.

As a country that has hosted a large number of migrants, Malaysia attaches great importance to the issue of migration and development. We wish to reaffirm that this issue should be addressed through a comprehensive and balanced approach. As such, we note that the draft declaration contains a reference to the need to examine the root causes of undocumented migration, as well as an emphasis on the need to promote cooperation so as to foster orderly, regular and safe passage of migrants as well as the cooperation to address the issue of trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

We wish to reaffirm our position on the right of every nation State to decide who can enter and stay on its territory and under what conditions, as stipulated in paragraph 10.15 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. We also wish to state that it is our understanding that nothing in the draft declaration shall be interpreted as legitimizing the illegal entry of any person into any State, nor would it be interpreted as restricting the State when promulgating laws and regulations concerning entry into its territory and the eventual terms and conditions of any stay, or to when establishing differences in treatment between nationals and non-nationals.

We would have preferred a more balanced text that takes into account all the views and concerns of all parties. However, we realize that it is crucial for the Asia-Pacific region to come up with a document that would serve as an important input to the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. In a spirit of constructive cooperation and moving forward, our delegation therefore supports the draft declaration.

### *Bhutan*

In a spirit of moving forward, in principle we support the adoption of the draft declaration. However, we would like to request the Chair to place on record the following:

(a) We would like to reserve comment on any references to sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual rights in the declaration;

(b) With reference to the recommendations under heading H of section III (“International migration”, “Priority actions”), in the interest of making the commitments more pragmatic, we would like to interpret as follows:

(i) In paragraph 170, “Provide access” will be interpreted as “Facilitate”;

(ii) In paragraph 171, “Adopt and implement” will be interpreted as “Urge the implementation of”;

(iii) In paragraph 177, “Ensure” will be interpreted as “Promote”.

*Bangladesh*

I am taking the floor to explain the position taken by Bangladesh on the voting on the draft declaration.

Throughout the week, the delegation of Bangladesh has constructively engaged with other delegations to arrive at objective, realistic and balanced text in the declaration. We had hoped to reach consensus on the text, which would provide a tangible and implementable road map and which is in consonance with the aspirations and realities of our countries.

I would like to reiterate that Bangladesh is deeply committed to the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and has continuously strived to attain those goals and objectives in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

However, we note that the declaration before us falls short of our expectations. It contains references to concepts such as “sexual orientation and gender identity” and “sexual rights”, which Bangladesh does not subscribe to nationally. Neither is there a consensus on these regionally or globally. Hence, they are not acceptable to us.

Bangladesh does not wish to stand in the way of the adoption of the declaration, but would like to express its reservations specifically on paragraphs 8 and 84 of the declaration and to all such relevant parts of the declaration which contain references to the concepts mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

I would request that our reservation be recorded as such and reflected in the relevant documents and report of the Conference.

*Russian Federation*

The Russian Federation voted against the adoption of the draft declaration, because the document, in its current state, is not acceptable for our delegation for a number of reasons.

The Russian Federation reaffirms its commitments to the principles and provisions of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and stresses the inadmissibility of violating General Assembly resolution 65/234, operative paragraph 4 of which states that the agreements contained in the Programme of Action will not be renegotiated.

However, the text of the declaration still contains formulations and numerous references to “sexual orientation”, “gender identity” and “sexual rights”.

At respective multilateral forums and United Nations conferences, including the current one, the Russian representatives have repeatedly stated that these terms have not been formalized in any internationally agreed official document. I would repeat — our primary argument against insertion of these formulations is the absence of any explicit definition or provision relating to such notions in international human rights law. Likewise, fundamental international human rights agreements lack separate norms regulating protection of persons in line with their sexual orientation or so-called “gender identity”.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly stated that it condemns any form or manifestation of discrimination on any grounds. We proceed from the assumption that a ban on discrimination in international legal acts on human rights is all-embracing and relates to all people without exception. These norms are more than enough. All States should thoroughly observe them.

In order to make the text more acceptable for all delegations the Russian Federation has proposed, during negotiations, a number of agreed formulations, taken from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the



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Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. However, our proposals were turned down.

Apart from the terminology, stipulated above, we also cannot go along with the provisions of the document related to the promotion of policies aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among sex workers, persons who inject drugs, men having sex with men and transgender people, which would in turn qualify them as an exceptionally “vulnerable group”.

Finally, the Russian delegation is not in a position to accept those paragraphs that mention comprehensive sexuality education. We have said several times, and would repeat it again, that such education should be considered only with due regard to the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents. Unfortunately, the current document does not contain such a message.

Therefore, the Russian Federation voted against the whole text of the draft declaration. Taking into account the results of the vote, the adopted declaration cannot be considered as consensual and we do not consider ourselves bound by its provisions.

### *Islamic Republic of Iran*

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains fully committed to ensuring the highest attainable standards of health, education and well-being of its people. We reiterate our commitment to address all emerging challenges with innovative and pragmatic practices that ensure full and accessible services for all without discrimination. Iran also reaffirms its commitments to the provisions of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. With such conviction, we have joined and supported the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 global, regional and national review processes.

As regards that process, Iran would like to reiterate that operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 67/250 on the organization of the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 are both crystal clear in reaffirming that the process will be “undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein”.

It is our understanding that fulfilment of the mandate established by the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions has been and continues to be the ultimate goal of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 review process.

It is, however, very unfortunate that the Chair’s text before us contains provisions that amount to reopening and reformulating the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in a way that dilutes its balance and undermines the mandate of the General Assembly. The Chair’s text not only goes beyond the mandate given by the General Assembly resolutions, it also overlooks the terms of ESCAP resolution 68/6. In fact, divergence of the Chair’s text from the critical population and development issues recognized in operative paragraph 2 of the ESCAP resolution is obvious.

In the course of negotiations held during the expert meeting held in May and the senior officials segment, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran showed substantive flexibility in trying to accommodate the concerns raised by different delegations. We undertook this practice in good faith and with a view to reaching consensus. Regrettably, the present Chair’s text falls significantly short of the expected balance and fairness concerning the diverse positions expressed during the negotiations.

Among others, we would like to express our dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Chair's text against the contribution of religion and culture. Unlike what is implied in the text, we truly believe that religion and culture are, and shall be, a major part of the solution rather than the problem. Our national experience explicitly confirms this conviction.

We would also like to point out that, according to paragraph 1.15 of the Programme of Action, the International Conference on Population and Development did not create any new international human rights. Therefore, our international commitments will continue to be defined and confined by the covenants and instruments to which we have subscribed.

Procedurally speaking, we also register our dissatisfaction with the process of negotiation itself. It overtly disregarded established United Nations procedural practices and standards. This is a reason why the Chair's text is unable to reflect a balanced and fair account of the discussions and positions. The Chair's text is regrettably a lost opportunity to build consensus around such a critical issue as population and to make a better and more prosperous future for our people, especially for those in the most vulnerable situations.

On these notes, my delegation joined with the delegation of the Russian Federation in asking for a recorded vote on the text, and voted against it.

The Islamic Republic of Iran requests its statement to be fully recorded and reflected in the report of the Conference to be issued as an official ESCAP document.

#### *India*

Over the last five days, in the ministerial segment under the Chair's able guidance, as well as during the senior officials segment, all member States present here have engaged in an intense and useful discussion on our common challenges. The ideals and cooperative spirit of Cairo have served as our guiding light. My delegation is heartened and inspired by the desire of all to make the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development even more relevant for our people, youth and future generations. We believe that Chair of the senior officials segment, taking into account the extensive discussion among member States, and with the support extended by the joint secretariat of ESCAP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has produced a text that reflects this genuine desire to move forward. As far as my delegation is concerned, this document may not be perfect since it does not fully reflect our own views, but we do believe that it is forward-looking, based on a participatory approach, and is what our people expect of us. My delegation therefore has lent its support to adoption of this document as a whole.

I am reminded of a similar, transformative, people-centric and people-driven event that took place last year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Over 100 world leaders and more than 40,000 delegates from all across the world assembled in Rio de Janeiro to express a firm political commitment of the highest order to the agenda for our common future — the future we want. The leaders reaffirmed the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development. They committed themselves to promoting the equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, economic opportunities and health-care services. They reiterated that the United Nations system works for promoting and achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in all aspects of life. They resolved to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development, equal rights and opportunities for women in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation.

Our leaders reaffirmed all the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, with regard to sustainable development. Our region comprises a number of small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing States. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development fully recognized their special case in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

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All these are fundamentally important themes that needed to be forcefully reflected and reiterated in the outcome document that we considered today. Looking at this historic opportunity, let me convey our firm conviction that this document should have reaffirmed the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to take into cognizance the commitments and the political will expressed by the world leaders, civil society, the private sector, indeed all stakeholders, who assembled at Rio to support the task we have at hand today. We would therefore have preferred the word “Reaffirming” in place of “Welcoming” in paragraph 6, but have noted the comprehensive support of the Conference on this issue. The Indian delegation requests that its views be recorded in the report of the Conference.

### *United States of America*

The Government of the United States thanks the ESCAP secretariat for their work to bring member States to consensus on this expansive outcome document negotiated during the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. This document provides a comprehensive assessment of progress made in meeting the goals laid out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and provides a useful road map for continued progress in the region, including by identifying areas of accomplishment as well as those where our efforts have fallen short.

We join consensus with the express understanding that it does not imply that States must become parties to instruments to which they are not a party or implement obligations under human rights instruments to which they are not a party. Furthermore, to the extent that it is implied in this declaration, the United States does not recognize the creation of any rights or principles that we have not previously recognized the expansion of the content or coverage of existing rights or principles, or any other change in the current state of treaty or customary international law. Furthermore, we understand the declaration’s reaffirmation of prior documents to apply to those who affirmed them initially.

We understand a “human rights-based approach” to mean an approach anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international human rights law.

We interpret this outcome document in light of well-known positions of the United States on the topic of the right to development and on economic, social, and cultural rights, including those related to food, education and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. We interpret this document’s references to the right to food, education and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, in light of Article 2, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with respect to States parties to that instrument.

While the United States is committed to finding ways we can work together constructively to make the issue of the “right to development” a uniting, rather than divisive, issue, our position on this is well known, and we are disappointed with the effort to inappropriately single out this one issue throughout this document. As we have repeatedly stated, theoretical work is needed to define the right to development; discussion of the right to development needs to focus on aspects of development that relate to human rights, universal rights that are held and enjoyed by individuals, and which every individual may demand from his or her own Government.

As the United States stated for the record at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United States understands and accepts that principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development highlights the special leadership role of developed countries, based on their industrial development, experience with environmental protection policies and actions, and wealth, technical expertise and capabilities. The United States does not accept any interpretation of principle 7 that would imply a recognition or acceptance by the United States of any international obligations or liabilities, or any diminution of the responsibilities of developing countries under international law.

The United States does not believe it is constructive to attempt to delineate the scope and appropriate application of a potentially contentious concept like “common but differentiated responsibilities” in a regional forum such as this. In this regard, the United States does not join consensus on this language.

Regarding paragraph 104, we emphasize that there are many ways toward the realization of universal health coverage as a goal to advance equality of access and quality health services for all our populations, and that achieving and sustaining this coverage is primarily the responsibility of national Governments.

Concerning paragraph 68, the United States expresses its concern that the text appears to focus excessively on the need for additional external resource flows, including official development assistance, in making progress toward the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development. This is out of step with the discussions on financing for development which began at Monterrey and continued in Doha. Those documents clearly state that countries have primary responsibility for their own development, reflecting the declining relative share of official development assistance as a resource for development, and the importance of effective domestic resource mobilization.

The United States remains focused on the eradication of extreme poverty and will continue to support efforts towards that end. With reference to paragraphs 89 and 90, however, the United States does not support any interpretation of that language inconsistent with a coherent approach that integrates in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

As a point of clarification, the United States fully endorses and supports reproductive rights, and we look forward to an opportunity to work with United Nations Member States in a global forum to come to agreement on the term “sexual rights”. While my country strongly supports the right of every individual to have control over and make free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, according to their gender identity and sexual orientation, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and to have the means and information to do so, including through access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, we cannot endorse the term “sexual rights” until there is international consensus on its full meaning.

Moreover, we do not interpret the clauses within this outcome document related to “sexual and reproductive health and rights” to mean anything beyond the International Conference on Population and Development and its review conferences; nor do we interpret this document to create any new rights in the field of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Regarding paragraph 29 of the declaration, the United States has joined other countries in supporting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and we note that countries have a wide array of policies and actions that may be appropriate in promoting the progressive realization of the right. Therefore, we think that the declaration should not try to define the content of the right.

We are concerned with the call to ensure that the international environment supports national development efforts around universal, non-discriminatory access to medicines, vaccines, commodities, equipment, technologies and other supplies, when the predominant issues relate to national-level actions. While the United States clearly supports greater access to medicines, particularly to essential medicines, this is a multifaceted and complex issue. There can be multiple reasons why medicines are less widely available than they should be, such as inappropriate tax and tariff policies, weak health systems or lack of essential medicines procurement systems in place to support health delivery, services and access, all barriers best addressed through domestic action.

The United States recognizes that States must respect the human rights of migrants, consistent with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law. The United States

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fulfils these obligations by providing substantial protection under the United States Constitution and other domestic laws to aliens within the territory of the United States, regardless of their immigration status. The United States takes this responsibility very seriously and urges other States to do so as well. The declaration as constructed limits the topics for discussion for international cooperation. There are many more human rights issues that should be discussed through international dialogue, such as legal and physical protection. The United States remains supportive of paragraph 38 of Commission on Population and Development resolution 2013/1, adopted at the forty-sixth session of the Commission, which encourages the discussion of a broad array of issues pertaining to the human rights of migrants and migration management and thus does not limit the discussion.

Further, the United States remains committed to working with our partners around the world to address climate change. It is important for all countries to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as well as take measures to build resilience to climate impacts. In this regard, we have supported discussions on these incredibly complex issues including in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Security Council, and continue to support UNFCCC decisions 1/CP.16 and 3/CP.18, in which climate-induced displacement and migration is addressed. The language in this document does not reflect those agreements, and we stress that the text before us today does not prejudge, renegotiate or replace discussions in other forums that seek to examine and address these issues.

Nineteen years on, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development is still a relevant and vital guidance document that assists Governments, international organizations, civil society actors and all stakeholders in their efforts to meet sexual and reproductive health needs and to promote reproductive rights for women, men, adolescents and young people. The regional commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development is as strong, if not stronger, than it was in 1994, when 179 countries agreed to the Programme of Action in Cairo.

My Government wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the ESCAP secretariat and all ESCAP member States for their excellent spirit of cooperation in working together to accomplish this important reaffirmation of regional commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development.

### *China*

The Chinese delegation appreciates the great efforts of all the delegations and the secretariat during the past five days in discussions on the outcome document of the Conference.

The Chinese delegation believes that the Conference has conducted thorough discussions over a long time and reached consensus on most parts of the outcome document. The declaration basically reflects the concerns of all parties. However, we also noticed that a few expressions in the declaration differ from recognized United Nations official expressions, resulting in the declaration being adopted not through consensus. This is not what we had hoped to see. Nevertheless, in the spirit of cooperation and moving forward, the Chinese delegation voted in favour of the declaration.

### *Australia*

Australia is proud to have joined the overwhelming support for this historic declaration. We have made real progress on issues of fundamental importance to the needs of the most vulnerable. The declaration represents the voice of so many in our region in committing to protect all of our citizens from discrimination and violence, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and recognizing their reproductive and sexual rights. As we raised earlier this week, we have some reservations about the language used in the climate change section of the declaration, particularly the use of the term “to halt global carbon dioxide and greenhouse emissions”. In this regard, we note it is not physically possible, nor scientifically desirable, to halt emissions altogether.



We acknowledge that the movement of people due to environmental change is something that is presently garnering significant focus on the international stage; however, currently, an evidence base does not exist on which to assess the international migration implications of this type of migration. Australia, as a member of the Steering Group for the Nansen Initiative, is keenly engaged in a process to develop such an evidence base. Nevertheless, without clearer evidence on how States plan to support each other, or are supporting each other, we cannot agree to support language that requires us to facilitate the migration of people under these circumstances.

### *Philippines*

The Republic of the Philippines expresses support for the document that expresses the forward-looking aspirations of the Asian and Pacific peoples.

This delegation, however, expresses its reservation to paragraph 46, which appears to be lifted from the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development but, in reality, has been intentionally shortened, apparently to create confusion in the understanding of the guiding principles contained in the Programme of Action because it does not include the phrase “and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights”.

The production of a strong outcome document as a regional input to the global review process cannot be underestimated. However, a long, hard fought battle in the provision of reproductive health services among our people should be given equal importance. While our Government respects religious values, this should, in no way, hinder the provision of a better quality of life and hold our people hostage to some beliefs crafted during the Stone Age, forcing our countries to go backward, instead of moving forward.

Our delegation has reservations on paragraph 118. The insertion of the phrase “where it is not against the law” after comprehensive abortion care makes the provision of health care highly selective. While we agree that induced abortion is definitely not a family planning method, our delegation gives strong emphasis to our obligation to save women’s lives.

No woman should die giving life. Also, no woman should die simply because she made the wrong judgement about undergoing induced abortion, hence depriving her of proper health care.

### *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

The Government of the United Kingdom thanks the ESCAP secretariat for its work to help member States reach consensus on the outcome document negotiated during the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. This document provides a comprehensive assessment of progress made in meeting the goals laid out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and provides a useful road map for continued progress in the region. However, during the Conference, the United Kingdom expressed its reservations to the text put forward in paragraph 197 and we welcome this opportunity to explain our position.

The United Kingdom remains committed to addressing climate change. In particular we are committed to delivering, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a new legally binding agreement applicable to all countries by 2015 to achieve the internationally agreed goal of limiting global temperature increases to 2°C above pre-industrial levels and for it to come into force by 2020. It is important for all countries to take ambitious action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as well as take measures to build resilience to climate impacts.

The issue of climate change-induced displacement, migration and planned relocation is extremely complex. In this regard, we have supported discussions in the UNFCCC and the Security Council, and continue to support UNFCCC decisions 1/CP.16 and 3/CP.18, in which enhancing understanding,



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learning, coordination and cooperation are primary. We are concerned that the language proposed in this document does not properly reflect those existing global discussions and agreements.

Given those global agreements highlighting the need for enhancing understanding, we are therefore concerned that the language in paragraph 197 risks both failing to engage the expertise contained in relevant international bodies and prejudging discussions in such relevant forums.

Finally, we are concerned that the wording contained in paragraph 197 could be read to imply that migration is not an adaptive response to climate impacts but an alternative to adaptation. While we recognize that many adaptive responses, including transboundary migration and planned relocation, often are not the preferred course of action for many people, communities or populations, we also believe that they are part of a spectrum of adaptation options facing those people who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

As such we are compelled to recognize that the text in paragraph 197 does not prejudge, renegotiate or replace discussions in other forums that seek to examine and address these issues.

### *Tuvalu*

Mr. President, I thank you for your leadership in this process and my delegation would like to register our utmost appreciation to ESCAP and UNFPA and to member States who voted in favour of the document. Mr. President, we have turned a new page in our efforts to address key population issues that are relevant to our setting in this changing world. We are indeed addressing human issues that are inclusive in nature, upholding the human rights of every individual in this region. My delegation is committed to a forward-looking agenda for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and to its inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda and fully endorses the document in its entirety. Mr. President, in your words “Te mauri, te raoi ao te tabomoa” (“Health, peace and prosperity”).

### *Sri Lanka*

In the context of deep-rooted Sri Lankan culture and the existing law, the delegation of Sri Lanka is of the strong belief that paragraphs 111 and 118 (under heading C, “Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights”) and paragraphs 145 and 146 (under heading F, “Adolescents and young people”) are not in conformity. Therefore, the delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to flag its reservations to the aforementioned paragraphs.

### *Fiji*

The delegation of Fiji wishes to align itself with the expression of gratitude conveyed by other delegations to His Excellency for his able chairmanship in bringing this Conference to a conclusion with overwhelming support for the draft document. We would like to thank the ESCAP secretariat for its excellent support. Prior to the Conference, Pacific leaders met and discussed the way forward for their region on population and development beyond 2015. The outcome document captures the priority areas that are articulated in the Moana Declaration and we thank you for the adopted draft document.

### *Democratic People’s Republic of Korea*

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea expresses its reservation to paragraphs 8 and 84 of the declaration regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Written statements submitted in explanation of vote**

*Nepal*

The Government of Nepal is firmly committed to implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and supports all global and regional efforts for its effective implementation. Moreover, Nepal also stands firmly for the language and commitment already agreed in the Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development and the General Assembly, and other relevant human rights documents in relation to women's empowerment and gender equality. The Government of Nepal accords high priority to sexual and reproductive health and rights as an integral part of national health plans, programmes and public budgets. In line with this, Nepal supports all recognition, affirmation and action pertaining to sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout the outcome document, including the recognition of sexual orientation and gender identity.

While recognizing cultural sensitivities, Nepal commits to ensure that sociocultural practices that are harmful and have serious health ramifications do not impede free access to and utilization of health services, including sexual and reproductive health services. Therefore, Nepal reaffirms the expansion of access to sexual and reproductive health information and education and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services as well as enactment of laws as appropriate for the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights.

In line with the above reaffirmation, the Government of Nepal voted for the full adoption of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

## CHAPTER 5

### African Regional Conference on Population and Development Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30 September to 4 October 2013

#### SUMMARY

The African Regional Conference on Population and Development “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: the Future We Want for Africa” took place in Addis Ababa, from 30 September to 4 October 2013. It was organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and was attended by 776 ministers, senior officials and civil society representatives from the 53 ECA member States as well as relevant agencies of the United Nations.

An operational review<sup>1</sup> of the Programme of Action had been undertaken by ECA on the African continent in collaboration with UNFPA, and received feedback from 52 member States. The process included a review of country reports and country implementation profiles; relevant policy decisions; strategies and programmes that had been formulated to implement actions in line with the various themes of the Programme of Action; the institutional frameworks and governance structures that had been put in place; and the resources that had been mobilized to implement the policies, programmes and strategies. The process documented achievements, challenges, constraints and residual gaps, and identified strategic priorities for population and development in Africa.

The African regional review showed a high level of political commitment of countries to the implementation of the Programme of Action. Policies related to improvement of reproductive health and rights, gender equality, equity and empowerment of women had been formulated by member States and widely implemented. However, the needs of older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples; urbanization and internal migration; international migration and development had received less attention.

Implementation of the Programme of Action in Africa has been fragmented, in part due to new and emerging demographic trends, such as rapid urbanization, international migration and the rapid increase in the number of youth and adolescents. Furthermore, it has been difficult to harmonize population policies with sectoral policies in areas such as health, education, economic development and social protection.

The paucity of data and policy research affects implementation of the Programme of Action in Africa. Furthermore, cultural and behavioural factors, and the lack of certain laws and policies such as those concerning the minimum ages for marriage and retirement, prevent full implementation. Existing social and health protection systems provide insufficient coverage to the population. Registration of births, deaths, migration and divorce is also deficient. However, many countries in Africa recognize that addressing these challenges is critical to social and economic transformation.

The Conference reviewed the progress and gaps in the implementation of the Programme of Action and identified policy actions around three main themes — framing Africa’s future; the demographic dividend; and equality and human dignity — to lead to implementation modalities for the full achievement of the Programme of Action in Africa. The outcome of the African Regional Conference on Population and Development, the Addis Ababa Declaration, made up of 88 commitments, is a plan for continued commitment by African countries to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development, peace and security, framed within a rights-based approach to population and development strategies,

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programmes and policies for the region. It includes many priority actions in the areas of: (a) improving the quality of life of all people, particularly children, adolescents, girls, youth, women, older persons, groups marginalized on the basis of culture or history or indigenous people, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and displaced persons; (b) eradicating poverty and social inequities; (c) achieving universal primary and secondary education; (d) achieving gender equality and women's empowerment; (e) improving maternal and child health; (f) promoting reproductive health and rights; (g) combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS.

Presentation of the draft Declaration generated heated debate around issues of sovereignty, culture and religion. In particular, the phrases: (a) the protection of human rights of all individuals "without distinction of any kind"; (b) the punishment of any kind of hate crimes "based on any kind of identity"; (c) to protect "all persons" from "discrimination, stigmatization and violence"; and (d) to enact and enforce laws and policies that "respect and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals" were objected to by some delegations.

The Conference concluded with an endorsement of the draft Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, with reservations raised by 16 countries on three commitments (17, 18 and 35): Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Tunisia. One country, Chad, did not adopt the whole declaration. After the Conference, Egypt also raised a reservation. Subsequently, 14 countries (Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone and Tunisia) sent letters withdrawing their reservations. In addition, Ethiopia's reservation was verbally withdrawn during the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development.

## Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014

*We, African Ministers, assembled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 October 2013 for the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Africa, to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in Cairo in Africa, in 1994, and its follow-up beyond 2014,*

*Recalling* the whole of United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/234 on the Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, which extended the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014,

*Taking into account* the need to respond to new and emerging challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment, and to reinforce the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development,

*Further recalling* the outcomes of all relevant African Union declarations and resolutions, decisions of Heads of State and Government, including the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme, the United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, as well as the outcomes of the regional reviews of the International Conference on Population and Development undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, as well as other international and regional instruments relating to human rights and international law, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child, and emphasizing the responsibilities of all countries to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind,

*Also reaffirming* the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Abuja Actions Towards the Elimination of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in Africa by 2030,

*Recognizing* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, including in particular the commitment to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2015, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure sustainable development,

*Further recognizing* the critical interlinkages between population and sustained economic growth and sustainable development and their central importance to addressing the challenges and priorities of the region especially in improving the quality of life of all people, particularly children, adolescents, girls, youth, women, older persons, groups marginalized on the basis of culture or history or indigenous people, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and displaced persons; in eradicating poverty and social inequities; achieving universal primary and secondary education; achieving gender equality and women's empowerment; improving maternal and child health; promoting reproductive health and rights; combating sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS; and eliminating gender-based violence as well as all forms of discrimination,

*Noting* the findings and conclusions of the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014,

*Recognizing* the progress in policy development, programming, the establishment of institutional structures, the mobilization and allocation of required resources in implementation of all areas of the Programme of Action and its contribution towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals,

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*Acknowledging* that considerable gaps still remain in the implementation of the Programme of Action; these gaps must be taken into account in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and in the post-2015 development agenda,

*Reaffirming* the continued relevance and importance of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and the key actions for achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development, peace and security,

*Conscious* of the need for policies, programmes, institutions and partnerships as well as allocations of appropriate resources in order to expeditiously achieve the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 as well as the global development agenda beyond 2015,

*Noting* the principles of the Programme of Action including the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations consistent with national laws and development priorities with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights instruments,

*We declare:*

### **Dignity and equality**

*Recognizing* that despite enormous gains in the realization of human rights in the past 20 years, further efforts need to be exerted to combat poverty and attain fundamental rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, that enable people to fully participate in society and benefit from social, economic and technological advancement,

*Further recognizing* that the realization of human potential depends upon guaranteed rights of bodily integrity, including eradication of female genital mutilation/cutting, freedom from violence and the right to development, health, education, employment, shelter and decent livelihoods, through redressing the maldistribution of wealth and increasing opportunities, ensuring full utilization of human capital to advance socioeconomic benefits,

*Acknowledging* that high fertility rates in most African countries have led to rapid increase of the youth population and that harnessing the benefits of the youth bulge depends on high-level political commitment and provision of sufficient resources towards implementing relevant and appropriate policies and programmes, including enhancing the human capital of young people to ensure adequate capabilities to spur social and economic innovation,

*Recognizing* that our countries are at different stages of the demographic transition, with varying implications for development transformation,

*We hereby commit to:*

1. Develop, strengthen and implement appropriate legislation, national policies and programmes that guarantee and promote human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development in all sectors;
2. Develop, strengthen and implement effective national strategies aimed at eradicating extreme poverty, inclusive growth and economic development, as applicable, that also target disadvantaged groups, especially women, older persons, youth, unemployed persons, people living with HIV and AIDS and persons with disabilities, in both urban and rural areas;
3. Harmonize national legislation with ratified international instruments and accelerate the implementation of the respective national, regional and international commitments on gender



equality and women's empowerment in all sectors and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls;

4. Review, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that have discriminatory impact on women, youth, especially girls, without distinction of any kind, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems comply with international human rights regulations and laws;
5. Increase and enhance the equal participation of women, especially those living in rural areas, in high added value production by increasing their equal access to training and decent work, including, equal pay for equal work, access to social security, paid parental leave, sick and care leave, and other socioeconomic benefits, through the design and implementation of gender-sensitive budgets with full accountability;
6. Enhance male participation and equal and equitable sharing of responsibilities through support programmes that promote gender equality in rights and opportunities;
7. Enact and implement laws and introduce institutional reforms to ensure economic empowerment of women and young people through equal access to ownership and control of economic resources, technology and markets, including land, property and inheritance rights;
8. Increase and enhance women's and youth participation in decision-making and leadership positions at all levels through effective implementation of appropriate policies, programmes and affirmative action;
9. Develop and strengthen the implementation of public, civic and adult education programmes which address issues of gender equity, equality and women's empowerment;
10. Address the needs of all girls, boys and children with disabilities, with regard to their rights to health, nutrition and education at all levels;
11. Address the causes of high school drop-out rates, among boys and girls while creating a conducive environment to enroll those who have never been to school;
12. Create a supportive environment to keep the girl child, including married girls and pregnant girls, in school at all levels of education, and ensure admission or re-entry to school after delivery;
13. Develop and ensure full implementation and enforcement of policies to prevent all forms of child abuse, including school-based violence, violence against girls, sexual violence and harassment and the promotion of safe space programmes for girls;
14. Enact and enforce as a matter of urgency, the legal age of marriage in accordance with article 6 (b) of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
15. Protect the dignity and rights of women and girls by eradicating all harmful practices, including early and/or forced marriages and female genital mutilation/cutting, through adopting and enforcing laws that prohibit such practices and creating awareness around the harmful health consequences;
16. Adopt and implement legislation, policies and measures that prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence within and outside of the family, as well as in conflict and post-conflict situations;
17. Adopt and protect the human rights of all individuals, without distinction of any kind, and guarantee equality before the law and non-discrimination for all people, in accordance with national policies, laws, religious, ethical values and cultural backgrounds;

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18. Promulgate, where absent, and enforce laws to prevent and punish any kind of hate crime without distinction of any kind and take active steps to protect all persons from discrimination, stigmatization and violence, in accordance with national laws and policies;
19. Provide universal access to affordable, quality and comprehensive education and skills development, including retention and completion, in a safe and participatory environment at all levels of education as well as free elementary education to adequately respond to labour market needs;
20. Provide equitable access, retention and completion to comprehensive and quality education for all disadvantaged persons and groups, as well as meeting the learning needs of individuals requiring different pedagogical styles;
21. Provide decent work and appropriate skills for young people through effective policies and programmes that generate employment and sustainable work, consistent with international conventions and regional declarations, to ensure higher social, economic and human development returns from the demographic dividend;
22. Maximize the benefits of the demographic dividend by investing in creating opportunities and a supportive environment for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship for young people to create and access jobs and realize their full potential;
23. Address and improve the welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities and the longevity of people through inclusive social protection policies and programmes;
24. Develop and strengthen family-related programmes that would address challenges facing emerging family structures such as female-headed households, child-headed households and households headed by older persons;
25. Promote a culture of respect, support, active and healthy ageing for older persons to ensure that they receive needed long-term care, equitable access to social services, and protection against violence, abuse and social discrimination;
26. Introduce and strengthen policies that promote lifelong learning and facilitate the integration and participation of older persons in society, and benefit from the accumulated life experience and knowledge in all spheres of life;
27. Eliminate child labour and all forms of child exploitation including trafficking, abuse and neglect, and provide adequate care for the development and welfare of children including the establishment of child protection units at the national and subnational levels;
28. Protect and fulfil the rights of all migrants, including economic migrants, internally displaced persons and forced migrants as a result of humanitarian crisis, natural disasters and conflicts and victims of human trafficking, through policy and programmes that ensure their access to work and basic social services as well as enhancing the capacity of security and law enforcement agencies to protect the rights of such persons;
29. Accelerate the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure non-discrimination and equitable access to basic social services and access to physical environment and structures;

## Health

*Recognizing* that health is a precondition for economic and social development of Africa and aware that sexual and reproductive health and rights are not only essential to the realization of social justice, but are central to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development,

*Further recognizing* that women's health is key for Africa's development and that underinvestment in women's health remains a challenge,

*Noting* the fragility of health systems in many countries and the limited access to comprehensive health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services,

*Concerned* at the 40 per cent increase in sexually transmitted infections apart from HIV and AIDS since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994,

*Acknowledging* the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and the Maputo Plan of Action for its implementation, the African Health Strategy and the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, resulting in reduction in maternal and child mortality and new HIV infections in some countries in the last two decades,

*Noting* the strong link between government commitments and steeper decline in maternal mortality ratio in order to safeguard the lives of women from pregnancy-related complications,

*Noting* that the average contraceptive prevalence rate of modern methods in Africa is the lowest among all regions of the world and unmet need for family planning is the highest and that universal access to family planning opens the opportunity to reap the demographic dividend,

*We hereby commit to:*

30. Strengthen health systems, down to the primary health-care level, towards the provision of equitable and universal access to a comprehensive range of health-care services by ensuring, sustainable health financing and addressing the critical shortage of resources, including human resources for health, and infrastructure;
31. Operationalize the right to the highest attainable standard of health by adopting equity and rights-based planning and resource allocation, facilitating community participation in health decision-making and programming, educating health-care providers and communities on what the right to health means in service provision and ensuring the delivery of health care that is free from stigma, coercion, discrimination, violence and respects human rights, including the rights to confidentiality, privacy and informed consent;
32. Create a supportive environment to eliminate preventable, communicable and non-communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, malaria and heart-related diseases and cancers;
33. Intensify efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with HIV and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission;
34. Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, free from all forms of discrimination by providing an essential package of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including through the primary health-care system for women and men, with particular attention to the needs of adolescents, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous people, especially in the most remote areas;

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35. Enact and enforce laws and policies within the national political and legal framework to respect and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals;
36. Support the integration of sexual and reproductive health services, HIV and AIDS and family planning;
37. Eliminate preventable maternal mortality and neonatal mortality through ensuring that births are attended by skilled health personnel, and that there is universal access to prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and management of pregnancy-related complications and preventable complications arising from unsafe abortion in order to protect the health and safeguard the lives of women, adolescent girls and neonates;
38. Expand access for all women and adolescent girls to timely, humane and compassionate treatment of unsafe abortion complications and, in accordance with national laws and policies, provide access to safe abortion services;
39. Create supportive conditions to eliminate preventable maternal morbidities, especially obstetric fistula;
40. Adopt and implement relevant comprehensive sexuality education programmes, both in and out of school, that are linked to sexual and reproductive health services with the active involvement of parents, community, traditional, religious and opinion leaders and young people themselves;
41. Enact and implement fertility-related policies that promote the rights of individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly, the number and spacing of their births and to have the information and means to do so, taking into account the need for such policies to be based on evidence from research and best practices;
42. Institute measures to prevent unplanned pregnancies through improving access to information, technologies, commodities and services, including emergency contraception, that increase the ability of individuals and couples to make free and informed decisions about the number and timing of births;
43. Take deliberate and concerted actions to provide affordable and accurate rapid diagnostic tests for HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and reproductive tract infections, as well as information, education and treatment to all women and men;
44. Put in place measures that facilitate men and boys to access sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services, promote male participation and equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work, as well as shared decision-making between men and women on sexual and reproductive health;
45. Ensure that all victims/survivors of gender-based violence have immediate and cost-free access to appropriate psychosocial and health services, including 24-hour hotlines, treatment of injuries, post-rape care, emergency contraception and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention;
46. Integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health programmes and services, including in humanitarian situations, as part of a broader, multisectoral and coordinated response, which include maternal and child health, family planning and HIV-related services;

## Place and mobility

*Recognizing* that population dynamics and growth, changing age structure, urbanization, migration and changing household and family structure influence the opportunities for human development and are essential to effective planning for inclusive economic growth and social development, as well as for sustainable development,

*Acknowledging* that urbanization could create opportunities for sustainable development and the reduction of poverty, and that without proper policies these potential advantages could pose conditions that lead to vulnerabilities,

*Recognizing* that while the region has contributed little to global greenhouse gas emissions, high population growth will lead to challenges for environmental sustainability and food security, including through environmental degradation, desertification and water depletion, which undermine the efforts to increase food production and to sustain the livelihood of people,

*Reaffirming* the right of each individual to the highest standard of living,

*We hereby commit to:*

47. Facilitate free movement of people and goods within countries to foster rural-urban interlinkages and regional integration;
48. Adopt selective migration policies, maximize the benefits, minimize the costs and repercussions of international migration and manage irregular migration;
49. Formulate and adopt evidence-based migration policies, particularly those aimed at vulnerable groups, especially women and youth; maximize the benefits and minimize the costs and repercussions of international migration, and to protect the rights of migrants and citizens;
50. Integrate migration issues in national development plans and strategies;
51. Address, as a priority, the living conditions of people in urban and peri-urban areas through systematic city planning and management while ensuring equal access to quality and affordable basic health and social services for all people;
52. Ensure equity in access to services by making them sufficiently and geographically available in both urban and rural areas;
53. Develop innovative plans for urbanization and creation of sustainable cities and incorporate these plans into the national planning frameworks;
54. Promote the social use of space by attending to the land, housing and service needs of the poor and improve the functioning of land markets;
55. Plan ahead and invest in urban and rural areas by anticipating future growth and population needs, as well as conducting coordinated regional approaches that include peri-urban areas;
56. Develop and strengthen plans, programmes and systems for addressing the needs of people living in fragile ecosystems;
57. Promote the sustainable use of space, by promoting urban growth within a systematic concern for environmental values, minimizing the size and impact of the urban blot, favouring energy-saving and well-integrated mass transportation, as well as density and compact cities;
58. The development of both rural and urban areas in order to strengthen their symbiotic relations in terms of markets and remittances;

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59. Reinforce and establish bilateral, regional and global partnerships on migration to progressively reduce barriers on movement while upholding the fundamental human rights of all migrants and make migration an instrument of mutual development for the benefit of migrants and countries;
60. Promote policies that foster the integration and reintegration of migrants and returning migrants;
61. Work towards the regional and international portability of acquired benefits and rights from migration;
62. Ensure that migrants have access to secure and low-cost remittance transfer options;
63. Forecast the consequences of climate change-related migration in vulnerable areas, especially cities and coastal areas;
64. Fund regular national and regional surveys to ensure current migration data for studying migration and development in the region;
65. Recognize the rights of refugees and guarantee their physical and social protection in conformity with international conventions and work towards facilitating their repatriation to their countries of origin;

### Governance

*Recognizing* that responsive governance is based on accountability, participation of all, transparency and rule of law and that strengthened governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels is key to optimal development outcomes, with implications for peace and security,

*Further recognizing* that enabling the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development and that responsive governance and accountable institutions are critical for social and economic inclusion and sustainability,

*Acknowledging* the need to integrate population dynamics into development planning at national and subnational levels in order to comprehensively respond to population and development issues, including population dynamics and its implications for human rights, dignity, quality of life, poverty eradication and sustainable development,

*Further acknowledging* the urgency of actions needed in the areas of health, education, youth development and employment to translate the demographic dividend for economic growth and development transformation of Africa, taking advantage of Africa's demographic window of opportunity beyond 2014,

*We hereby commit to:*

66. Remove barriers to sustainability, inter alia, through increased use of technology, including innovation, sound governance, systematic awareness creation and sensitization of the public, and sustainable consumption behaviour that are beneficial to the environment;
67. Further integrate population dynamics into development planning at the national and subnational levels in order to comprehensively respond to population and development issues, including population dynamics and its implications for human rights, dignity, quality of life, poverty eradication and sustainable development;
68. Create and strengthen relevant institutions with the necessary capacity to ensure effective integration of population dynamics into development planning with a rights-based approach



- as well as efficiency and accountability, including ensuring effective coordination of all relevant social and planning bodies;
69. Implement policies where needed that ensure the inclusive and effective participation of the whole society, inter alia, women, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other marginalized groups in all aspects and levels of governance;
  70. Institute monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to effectively assess performance in order to ensure accountability;

### Data and statistics

*Noting with concern* considerable gaps in the availability and utilization of policy relevant data for planning, monitoring and evaluation, and the lack of timely data on the size, distribution, characteristics and trends of the population of many countries,

*Further noting* that only a few countries in Africa have complete civil registration systems and that the potential of this source of data is yet to be fully exploited,

*Acknowledging* recent concerted efforts towards improving national civil registration and vital statistics systems in many countries,

*We hereby commit to:*

71. Strengthen national statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis and policy studies, as well as the ability to conduct sound monitoring and evaluation programmes, while increasing investment in the collection, analysis and utilization of population-based data, including population and housing censuses, surveys, civil registration, administrative records and other studies, together with social, economic and environmental data;
72. Establish a functional system of civil registration at national, subnational and community levels, using existing traditional and local institutions to ensure the availability of relevant data for planning at all levels;
73. Generate, collect and use quality and timely data from censuses, surveys, vital and civil registration systems, administrative records, studies and research, disaggregated by sex and population groups, for the purposes of planning, monitoring and evaluation;
74. Undertake qualitative and quantitative research and policy studies;
75. Emphasize the importance of collecting data on older persons and persons with disabilities for planning and research, to take into account their specific needs in implementing policies and programmes;
76. Conduct regular national censuses according to international standards, in order to generate timely, quality data as an essential component of national and regional development frameworks;
77. Undertake periodic assessment of national civil registration systems and vital statistics and prepare a plan for needed improvements where necessary;

### International cooperation and partnership

*Recognizing* that with the deepening of globalization, the issues of population and development have become increasingly intertwined with global economic, social and environmental concerns and that addressing such issues require a multi-stakeholder and international approach,

## Chapter 5: Addis Ababa Declaration

*Further recognizing* that the rapid expansion in the number of people with enough resources is leading to higher consumption profiles and will increase unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, which will require innovation and change measures, including through market incentives to promote innovation for a green economy,

*Acknowledge* the contribution of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Population Fund, the African Development Bank and other development partners in support of the region's priorities, including for the implementation and review of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014,

*We hereby commit to:*

78. Promote strengthened partnerships with local, national and international civil society organizations in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes and policies, and encourage the promotion of activities directed at increasing the participation and building the capacity of these organizations;
79. Recognize the role of civil society organizations including non-governmental organizations and youth in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies and programmes, including for achieving the goals of sexual and reproductive health and rights;
80. Promote strengthened partnerships with the private sector in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes and policies, in particular in the areas of service delivery and commodity production, security and distribution;
81. Promote international cooperation efforts, including the development of joint programmes and initiatives, the strengthening of policy dialogue and coordination, the transfer of knowledge and technology, and the allocation and mobilization of financial and technical resources for international cooperation in the area of population and development.

### Implementation

The Conference reflects high political commitment on the part of the 53 African countries present at the Conference to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the continent; the achievements and significant progress made need to be sustained, and in order to do so as a region and achieve the goals and objectives of the Addis Ababa Declaration, *we commit to:*

82. Mainstream the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014 into the workplans of the bodies of the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
83. Also mainstream the inclusion of the Addis Ababa Declaration in the post-2015 development agenda;
84. Monitor regularly the achievement of the goals of the Declaration in the context of reporting on the post-2015 development agenda;
85. Conduct sound monitoring and evaluation of this Declaration based on reliable population data, projections and consideration of future scenarios;
86. Enhance coordination and cooperation among government departments dealing with population and development matters for harmonizing population and policy within sectoral

- policies on education, youth and health and the need to build capacity and provide funding to national and regional population programmes;
87. Periodically review the outcomes of the African regional conferences on International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;
  88. In doing so, we take into account the concerns of all strata of the continent's stakeholders — including the public sector; the private sector; civil society, including non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, youth, women, trade unions and academia; Members of Parliament; and regional and subregional development institutions.

## Member States of the United Nations regional commissions

### *Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)*

Albania	Hungary	Russian Federation
Andorra	Iceland	San Marino
Armenia	Ireland	Serbia
Austria	Israel	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	Italy	Slovenia
Belarus	Kazakhstan	Spain
Belgium	Kyrgyzstan	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Latvia	Switzerland
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Bhutan	Mongolia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Brunei Darussalam	Myanmar	United States of America
Cambodia	Nauru	Uzbekistan
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France	New Zealand	<b>Associate Members</b>
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Indonesia	Papua New Guinea	French Polynesia
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Japan	Russian Federation	China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Kazakhstan	Samoa	China, Macao Special Administrative Region
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Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Solomon Islands	Niue
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Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	
	Thailand	

## Annex

### *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*

Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Argentina	Honduras	United States of America
Bahamas	Italy	Uruguay
Barbados	Jamaica	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Belize	Japan	<b>Associate Members</b>
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mexico	Anguilla
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Canada	Nicaragua	Bermuda
Chile	Panama	British Virgin Islands
Colombia	Paraguay	Cayman Islands
Costa Rica	Peru	Curaçao
Cuba	Portugal	Guadeloupe
Dominica	Republic of Korea	Martinique
Dominican Republic	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Montserrat
Ecuador	Saint Lucia	Puerto Rico
El Salvador	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Turks and Caicos Islands
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Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago	
Guatemala		
Guyana		

### *Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)*

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Botswana	Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Somalia
Burundi	Lesotho	South Africa
Cabo Verde	Liberia	South Sudan
Cameroon	Libya	Sudan
Central African Republic	Madagascar	Swaziland
Chad	Malawi	United Republic of Tanzania
Comoros	Mali	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Congo	Mauritania	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Tunisia
Djibouti	Mozambique	Uganda
Egypt	Morocco	Zambia
Eritrea	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Niger	
Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria	
Gabon	Rwanda	

### *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)*

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Egypt	Morocco	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Oman	Tunisia
Jordan	Qatar	United Arab Emirates
Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Lebanon	State of Palestine	



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