

IPPF Oral Statement to the 42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

On behalf of its 152 community-based Member Associations around the world, IPPF is pleased to address the Commission on the 15th anniversary of the landmark Cairo conference.

There is clear evidence that the ICPD Programme of Action is crucial to the achievement of all of the MDGs, in particular the health MDGs and MDG 3. However, MDG 5 - closest to the spirit of Cairo - is the furthest from realization.

IPPF calls on all Member States to work in genuine partnership with civil society, parliamentarians, their communities and the private sector, to deliver on the promises already made at Cairo and since.

Above all, we call for urgent steps to address maternal mortality and morbidity, recognising that pregnancy –related factors including unsafe abortion are the major cause of death for girls under 19 in the developing world. There is now clear evidence to demonstrate the importance of linkages between HIV and AIDS prevention, VCT and services, family planning, and a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health. We urge that these linkages be expanded in order to halt the epidemic which continues to undermine development, and to ensure the reproductive rights of those people living with HIV and AIDS, and, especially, the rights of young people who increasingly bear the brunt of the epidemic.

Women are the drivers of development. Girls count and women matter. Violence against women in all of its forms continues to rob women of their rightful place.

When women have the means to choose the number and spacing of their children they will generally choose more *for* their children, not more children. The ability to make this decision is vital for individual health and well-being, sustainable families and communities, and a sustainable planet.

The time has come to reinvigorate family planning, to ensure all women have this basic right. To do this we must meet the unmet need of some 200 million women, and the needs of the world's largest ever generation of young people. This will require increased funding for comprehensive sexuality education, youth friendly services and access to a wide range of contraceptive methods including male and female condoms, which prevent unplanned pregnancy and STIs, including HIV and AIDS. To deny young people, men and women the knowledge and the means to protect themselves through the use of condoms not only places their lives in danger but is an unethical deceit.

A comprehensive approach to MDG 5 and the Cairo agenda will also ensure that the needs of the forgotten and marginalised, including refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), and women and girls in conflict situations, are recognised and addressed.

We must invest now in the future. Yet the Cairo agenda and MDG 5 are largely invisible in discussions about health systems strengthening, and economic growth and new aid mechanisms. This needs to be urgently addressed.

Those born in 1994 are now 15, how well will the world meet their needs? This year IPPF's 15+counting campaign will give young people the opportunity to answer this question.

At such a time of global crisis there are many urgent priorities. There is no MDG for young people, but in the visionary spirit of Cairo the highest priority must be investment in young people, their health, their well-being and development, their knowledge and rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights. That investment can transform the world. That investment must be at the very centre and heart of development as we move towards 2015 and beyond.

Only then can we eliminate poverty, only then can the world have a brighter future. *That* is the investment that must be our legacy. History will judge us accordingly. Delegates, we must understand the *urgency of now* and act.