



Statement by:

International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants
Comite International Catholique des Infermeres et Assistanties Medico-Sociales (CICIAMS)
Oral Presentation – 3 Minute Limit
48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
New York, New York April 13-17, 2015

Secretariat of the Commission, distinguished panel members and guests:

Health is foundational to all human endeavors. Nurses provide 90% of healthcare world-wide and in many disparate and remote areas, nurses are frequently the sole healthcare provider. Global nursing will greatly influence 2015 SDG achievements. Our international organization offers the following statements regarding fertility health, child spacing, individual/family health, cultural competency, subsidiarity, human rights, and sustained development.

Cultural Competency

Health and healing involve the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. Persons regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, and economic status benefit from culturally sensitive care and related accommodations.

Subsidiarity

Involvement of individuals, families, and communities in their own health fosters responsibility and relieves the global community of burden. The family has the greatest motivation to reduce mortality and disease among members due to proximity and relationship among loved ones.

Human Rights

“... all patients have a fundamental right... to consent to or to refuse treatment, and to be informed about relevant risk ...” (WHO n.d.). Especially on the above issues of contraception and abortion. The three elements of informed consent include: patient competency and decision making ability; risk and benefit disclosure; and identification of alternatives. Coercion of young girls, young boys, woman, and men must be forbidden.

Sustained Development

Organizations need to work together to build and to maintain schools of nursing near locations underserved and/or identified as disaster prone to improve and sustain regional resources.

Fertility Health, Child Spacing, and Individual/Family Health

Fertility is an integral part of total self. Understanding the body, fertility and life cycle development from human conception to human adulthood is paramount. It is of concern, that the primary method of fertility suppression is hormonal manipulation via estrogen, which is a Class I carcinogenic, and via progesterone, which are linked to blood clotting that causes stroke and

heart attack in women of childbearing years and cancer. The widely distributed Depo Provera is found to have a 3.3 fold risk of poor prognosis, triple negative breast cancer. However, overlooked are the modern methods of fertility care such as the Creighton Model, that are ninety-five percent effective, natural, easily taught from mother to daughter, and free. Compounding the burden women bear in fertility is that tragically over 43 million pre-born children are aborted yearly. Abortion risks future fertility, breast cancer, and Post-abortion Syndrome.

A closing quote: Mother Theresa, United Nations, October 26, 1985

“... let us make a strong resolution that in our countries,... in our cities, we will not allow a single child to feel unwanted, to feel unloved,... And let us help each other to strengthen, ... that in our countries that terrible law of killing innocents, of destroying life, destroying the presence of God, be removed from our country,... from our people, from our families... as we see God in each other, we will be able to live in peace, and if we live in peace, we will be able to share the joy of loving each other and God will be with us.

We Thank You.

CICIAMS MEMBERS FROM AFRICA, ASIA, CENTRAL AMERICA, EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA, OCEANIA, and SOUTH AMERICA

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Secretariat of the Commission, distinguished panel members and distinguished guest:

Thank you for the opportunity to present an oral statement addressing Population and Development within the context of the 2015 Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG). Health is foundational to achieving and sustaining all human endeavors. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2012) recognizes that nurses provide 90% of healthcare services world-wide. The WHO affirms that in many disparate and remote areas, nurses are frequently the sole healthcare provider. Thus, the delivery of global nursing will greatly influence the 2015 SDG achievements. Of importance is the need to integrate evidenced based best practices which align with valued population and developmental goals. Having demonstrated a long history of serving humanity in all states of health and suffering the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants offer the following statements regarding fertility health, child spacing, individual/family health, cultural sensitivity, subsidiarity, human rights, and sustained development.

Fertility Health, Child Spacing, and Individual/Family Health

A woman's fertility is an integral part of her total self. Each woman should understand the basic functions of her body, including her fertility, so she can care and prepare for her health as well as any and all children she may conceive. A man's fertility is equally valued. Each man should understand his body, including his fertility so he may also care for his health and prepare for any and all children he may father from their conception to adulthood. Tragically, over 30 million of those conceived worldwide are aborted each year. Women who turn to abortion risk their future fertility through uterine tissue damage, have an increased risk for breast cancer, and bear increased suffering due to post traumatic stress in the form of Post-abortion Syndrome among other serious health risks. Presently, the primary method of fertility suppression is hormonal manipulation of the woman's menstrual cycle via estrogen and progesterone therapies. It is now well documented that by introducing either or both of these natural steroids into healthy woman increases their risk of blood clotting up to 8 times depending on the mode of delivery. In 2012, WHO acknowledged estrogen as a Class I carcinogenic. The widely distributed contraception Depo Provera in a 2012 study funded by the National Cancer Institute and the US Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program found a 3.3 fold increased risk of poor prognosis triple-negative breast cancer associated with DMPA. The stark reality is that in an attempt to suppress the occurrence of pregnancy, agents used are causing serious illness and at times death to mothers. There are several modern and highly effective methods of fertility care recognized by the WHO as 95% effective, such as the Creighton Model that are absent of illness risk and easily taught from mother to daughter and virtually free. Women and men deserve the knowledge of true fertility care and its benefits to child spacing and to individual and family health.

Cultural Competency and Subsidiarity

Nursing emphasizes health and healing of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. Nurses play a key role in promoting healthier lifestyles and life-long learning to all persons and populations regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, and economic status. More culturally sensitive tools and accommodations for language, literacy level, religious beliefs, and cultural values are needed to support positive healthcare outcomes.

Furthermore, vital to the success of improved life, health, and education is the imperative of subsidiarity. Involvement of individuals, families, and communities in their own health solutions fosters responsibility and relieves the global community of burden. Secondly, respect and support of the family is a natural and efficient approach to achieve reduced mortality, reduced disease transmission, and better family health. The family has the greatest motivation for success in all these areas because of their proximity and relationship among loved ones. It is only through respect for all life, the family, the community, and subsidiarity that the 2015 SDG will ultimately serve the true needs of all people in our global society.

Human Rights

The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledges "... that all patients have a fundamental right... to consent to or to refuse treatment, and to be informed about relevant risk to them of medical procedures" (WHO n.d.)). CICIAMS members urge that all patients, including those in countries who have poor access to education and resources, be awarded the right to informed consent. In all cases, the three elements of informed consent (patient competency and decision making ability; risk and benefit disclosure; and identification of alternatives) need to be assured and accommodated. In addition, coercion that may affect choices being made by young girls and woman who feel vulnerable and powerless due to the lack of education and resources offered to them regarding fertility, fertility health, and the well-being of the family be forbidden.

Sustained Development

Encouraging and incentivizing women and men to become registered nurses, and current registered nurses to become advanced nurse practitioners is a practical solution. We urge organizations to work together to build and to maintain schools of nursing near locations where nurses and nurse practitioners are understaffed, poorly deployed, and/or are identified as disaster prone areas. Establishing nursing educational programs near areas of need can improve and sustain regional resources.

Please keep our statements regarding fertility health, child spacing, individual and family health, cultural competency, subsidiarity, human rights, and sustainable development focal to the Commission on Population and Development's contributions to the 2015 SDGs.

I would like to end with a beautiful quote from Blessed Mother Theresa who addressed the United Nations on October 26, 1985. Mother Theresa stated, "I have picked up from the streets hungry people, and by giving them to eat, by giving them a bed to sleep, I have removed the suffering, but for the lonely, the shut-ins, the unwanted, its not so easy. And so you and I must come forward, and share the joy of loving, but we cannot give what we don't have. That's why we need to pray. And prayer will give us a clean heart and will allow us to see God in each other. And as we see God in each other, we will be able to live in peace, and if we live in peace, we will be able to share joy of loving with each other and God will be with us' God Bless you, Mother Theresa

CICIAMS MEMBERS FROM AFRICA, ASIA, CENTRAL AMERICA, EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA, OCEANIA, and SOUTH AMERICA Thank you.