

**Stichting Rutgers WPF:
Joint Oral Statement by 69 African CSOs to CPD48**

Commission on Population and Development

Forty-eight' session

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Speaking on behalf of 69 organizations from 12 different African countries working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, I have the following messages and demands:

Since the ICPD Global Review, and particularly the outcome of the African ICPD Regional Conference: the 'Addis Declaration', we even more realize that much work is needed to secure sexual and reproductive health and rights of all globally, and particularly in our countries.

As we discuss the integration of population issues in sustainable development and in the Post-2015 development agenda, it remains of utmost importance for sub-Sahara Africa that the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people and adolescents are at the center of the debate. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are indivisible, inalienable human rights. However, these rights are currently far from being fully addressed, particularly when looking at young people and adolescents.

In many of our countries, children are giving birth to children. For instance, the teenage pregnancy rate in Uganda is 25%, meaning that one in four girls under 19 has a baby or is pregnant. With 57% of the country's population being under 18 years, Uganda has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the world!

We therefore recommend our Governments to ensure that all young people and adolescents have access to comprehensive sexuality education, to enable their informed choices. Moreover, urgent action is needed to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services that are youth-friendly. Such services have to include modern contraceptives; legal and safe abortion services; STI prevention, counselling and treatment; and maternal health services. Furthermore, legal and policy reforms are required to end harmful practices such early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Young people and adolescents, particularly girls, need to be empowered and meaningfully engaged in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Finally, positive involvement of men, male adolescents and boys is key to challenge the root causes of gender inequality and poor SRHR.

We call upon our governments and the African region to follow up on the commitments made in the Addis Declaration. Integrating population issues in the Post-2015

development agenda needs to be driven from a human rights perspective, based on the principles of the ICPD, as only then we can see the rights, including the sexual and reproductive rights of young people, respected, protected and fulfilled. Only then we can see the transformational change the Post-2015 development agenda envisions.

Endorsed by:

Planned Parenthood Association Ghana (PPAG) - Ghana
Curious Minds – Ghana
HFFG – Ghana
Youth Advocates - Ghana
Local Development Agency on Reproductive and Maternal Health (LODARMAH) – Ghana
Global Media Foundation, Sunyani – Ghana
African Woman and Child Feature Service - Kenya
CSA - Kenya
Network for Adolescent and Youth of Africa– Kenya
Kenya Association for Maternal & Neonatal Health (KAMANEH) Kenya
Maseno University- Kenya
GLUK – Kenya
KMET – Kenya
FHOK – Kenya
SAIPEH – Kenya
SRHR Alliance Kenya - Kenya
Fortress of Hope Africa – Kenya
Youth Changers – Kenya
AMPATH – Kenya
NEPHAK – Kenya
Africa Alive – Kenya
Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH) – Kenya
Shika-Adabu Bamako Community Initiative - Kenya
Women for a Change – Cameroon
Mother of Hope – Cameroon
Global Welfare Association (GLOWA) Bamenda – Cameroon
YECE – Malawi
L'Association Tunisienne de la Santé de la Reproduction – Tunisia
Rutgers WPF Uganda – Uganda
Restless Development – Uganda
FLEP – Uganda
Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy – Uganda
Foundation People for Peace and Defense of Human Rights/ Foundation PPDR - Uganda
Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations – Uganda
Positive Men's Union (POMU) – Uganda
Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS) – Uganda
Public Health Ambassadors Uganda (PHAU) – Uganda
Empowered at Dusk Women's Association – Uganda
Support for Integrated Health Care Initiative (SIHCI) – Uganda
Centre for Youth Driven Development Initiatives (CFYDDI) – Uganda
Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA) - Uganda
TAYA – Ethiopia
Christian Action for Maternal and Child Health, Nigeria
Christian Fellowship and Care Foundation, Nigeria
Akiode Foundation - Nigeria
Her Voice, Africa - Nigeria
Civil Society for Family Planning in Nigeria

Balanced Stewardship Development Association (BALSDA) – Nigeria
Generation Initiative For Women and Youth Network (GIWYN) – Nigeria
Initiative for Environment, Health & Social Development (IEHSD) – Nigeria
Rural Women and Youth Development Initiative – Nigeria
Naija GirlChild Development Initiative – Nigeria
Restless Development – Tanzania
Tanzania Rural Empowerment Organization (TAREO) – Tanzania
Reseau Jeunesse, Population et Développement du Sénégal (RESOPOPDEV) – Senegal
Reseau Siggil Jiggen (RSJ) - Senegal
Association Sénégalaise pour le Bien – Etre Familial (ASBEF) - Senegal
African Youth and Adolescent for Population and Development (AfriYAN west and Central) - Senegal
AfriYAN Girls - Senegal
Réseau des Clubs Pop Dev du Sénégal – Senegal
Coalition des OSC pour le repositionnement de la Planification Familiale (COSCPF/Sénégal) - Senegal
Espace de Concertation et d’Orientation de Pikine Nord – Senegal
ONG Carbone Guinée. Point Focal Societe civile pour Sanitation and Water for All-SWA – Guinea
Ipas - Sierra Leone
Marie Stopes International – Africa
Eastern African Regional Youth Network (EARYN) – Kenya and 5 other African countries
Ipas Africa Alliance
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights - Africa (WGNRR Africa)
DSW – Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia