



**IPPF Oral Statement**

**Commission on Population and Development**

**Forty-ninth session**

**Agenda Item 4: “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”**

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**Oral Statement**

On behalf of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), I thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the 49th Commission on Population and Development.

We are here today to discuss the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But our discussions this week are about more than just data and evidence; they are about people’s lives.

Since 1994, the ICPD Programme of Action has provided the basis for our global understanding of issues related to population, people-centred development, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and human rights. We must ensure that the 2030 Agenda builds on the last 20 years of progress made through the ICPD Programme of Action. The data that we collect for the 2030 Agenda must be the data we need to realise the ICPD Programme of Action for every person, everywhere.

For each proposed indicator in the 2030 Agenda on “met need for family planning”, there is a woman who, for the first time, is able to plan her future without the fear of having an unplanned pregnancy.

For every data point on early and forced marriage, there is a young girl who has been able to stay in school because she has not been married at 15, or younger.



For each increase in the proportion of women who make their own decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, there is a young woman who understands that she has the right to consent to sex and to protect herself.

The data gathered through the indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda aren't just numbers on a graph. They are the stories of women and girls, of boys and men, whose lives are changing with each data point.

Without good data collection, it will be impossible to know which programmes work and who is being left behind.

Unless governments collect data disaggregated by income, gender, age – including for 10 to 14 year olds - race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, marital status, employment status, educational attainment, health status, and urban and rural in relation to geographic location, and other characteristics, we will never know if girls have the same opportunities as boys in school, or if indigenous women experience worse treatment in hospitals. Detailed data will reveal the detailed stories of individuals' lives.

Some may express concern about the cost of the data collection. Some will argue that it's not necessary to collect data or study it in so many different ways or that certain types of discrimination are not relevant. But without investing in data, without shining a light on to the lives, the stories, of individuals around the world, we will never know if our actions are helping or if we are leaving people behind.