



World YWCA

STATEMENT
AT
49TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
NEW YORK, 11-15 APRIL, 2016

“Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the Post 2015 development agenda”

We the World YWCA recognizes that the 49th UN Commission on Population and Development is crucial as it is the first since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The ICPD Platform for Action as well as the Post 2015 Agenda are opportunities for Governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Private Sector, and women’s, feminist, youth and faith-based organizations to take collective responsibility for gender equality and to uphold the human rights and empowerment of all. The World YWCA therefore welcomes the theme “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the Post 2015 development agenda”.

Many women, young women and girls are deprived of enjoying their human rights. Many experience violence and discrimination, lack access to education and health services, cannot negotiate condom use or make marital decisions. In addition, they are not equally represented in decision-making, so their ideas and voices go largely unheard. Due to gaps in data collection, women, young women and girls, often remain uncounted and the issues affecting their lives, unseen.

In order for no one to be truly left behind, we must encourage data for inclusion and non-discrimination, through age and gender disaggregation of data. We need collection of youth specific data which encompasses youth in all their diversity at the global, regional, national and especially at community level. We must have intentionality in inclusion of young female researchers, statisticians, epidemiologists so that young people are not only beneficiaries but are also providing leadership and technical guidance. We must strengthen our focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, which includes gathering data on adolescents, especially girls between the ages of 10 to 14 years old. Data must be gender sensitive and gender responsive. We recognize the need to continue the efforts to push for civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), as it is apparent that those who are not registered suffer from lack of access to life saving services.

In order to strengthen access to services, targeted programmes, monitoring and evaluation, to support adequate resource allocations, and to hold each other accountable through policies, we must continue to push to confidentially collect, analyse, and disseminate desegregated data. We must uphold a human rights based approach when collecting and sharing data which will allow us to create great strives to empower young women and girls, to ensure non discrimination on any basis, to eliminate violence against women and girls and all harmful cultural and traditional practices, including Child, Early and Forced Marriage, to eliminate HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, and preventable maternal mortality, and to ensure sexual and reproductive rights and universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services such as youth friendly safe spaces and contraception. It is only then that we will be able to effectively measure the progress of not only the ICPD Platform of Action but also the Sustainable Development Goals.

The World YWCA acknowledges that the ICPD Programme of Action and its review conferences enforce Civil Society Organisations’ participation, and as the Methods of Work are discussed, we encourage and call for the strengthened and continued CSO inclusion especially that of young women and girls in all our diversity so that we are heard and meaningfully engaged and included.

Lastly, we would like to emphasize that it is critical that CSOs and Governments, the Private Sectors and other institutions work together to ensure the regular and timely collection and dissemination of quality data that tell the real stories of young women and girls and that reflect our voices, in order for the SDGs and the ICPD PoA to be achieved.