

WYA oral statement for CPD

Thank you, Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I am speaking on behalf of the World Youth Alliance, a global coalition of young people promoting the dignity of the human person in policy, education and culture with over 120,000 members around the world. As the world moves forward with the post-²⁰¹⁵2015 development agenda, a person-centered approach, the understanding of who the human person is and his dignity, is a critical condition in its conception as much as it is in its delivery and measure of impact. Only with the comprehension of human dignity as universal, intrinsic, and inalienable can there be authentic development, as it propounds inclusivity, making all persons count, equally and without exceptions.

The Commission on Population and Development calls for strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda, which involves efficiency in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data. However, it is important to note that while the strategic data collection and research are constructive in its implementation, what matters more than the statistical results is the people the data represents. The Commission on Population and Development must consider the multiple aspects of each individual as critical foundations to meet the needs and welfare of each person. We must evaluate the impact of the Sustainable Development Agenda in terms of how best it protects and nurtures the dignity of each human person. Therefore, we young people from all over the world believe that a strong demographic evidence base has human dignity at its foundation. We ask you to examine the foundations of the indicators related to the following goals.

First, indicators under goal 3.1 related to maternal mortality should be focused on natural causes rather than on elective procedures such as abortion. Most maternal deaths can be prevented by the implementation of health care infrastructure and the provision of health care and supplies which allow women to go through pregnancy and childbirth safely. Second, goal 3.7 on sexual and reproductive health should be assessed with a dignity-based and person-centered approach and therefore quantify the number of students who really understand about their health and bodies, rather

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than simply counting those who have completed a class or program or accessed a particular commodity. We would like also to emphasize the need to gather data on the number of women who understand their bodies and health and are therefore able to make free and informed decisions on the basis of their reproductive health, which is much clearer to quantify than the number of those who make their own sexual and reproductive decisions. Finally, as human dignity should be respected and nurtured for the good of all and in order to rightly achieve equality in 2030, nothing under goal 5.6 should be considered as authorization to promote any controversial policies, including those recognized in ICPD as within the sphere of national law. By recognizing the inherent value of each person, we can make sure that it is not only the numbers that count, but each and every member of the human family.

The recognition that each and every individual has innate dignity must generate respect and a sincere effort to promote and uplift each other's freedom, wellbeing, and rights. A proper understanding of the dignity of persons, and implementing policies founded in human dignity that meet the real needs of people, is the best way to leave no one behind, the best way to show that everyone counts. This is why WYA is investing in the development and implementation of our Human Dignity Curriculum, which educates young people and helps them make good and healthy decisions based on knowledge of themselves and on their own dignity and value. These young people can then be drivers of development that is person-centered because they understand the dignity each person has.

As part of the youth and the aspiring leaders of tomorrow, it is our responsibility to protect, uphold, and live the true value of the human person, especially now wherein the world has lost sight of what is essential. Therefore we remind you that keeping human beings at the center of development requires respecting human dignity, including in the data that we gather under the goals of the post-2015 agenda. Thank you.