

Statement on behalf of Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre from Women (ARROW)

We align our statement with the ISSRC written statement, and thank the Chair and the CPD bureau for organizing this dedicated consultation on future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development with CSOs

The ICPD PoA has the strongest mandates for advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, population dynamics and achieving the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development. In this regard, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), is the only intergovernmental body with a mandate to follow-up on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

In light of this our recommendations to the Methods of Work of the Commission are as follows

Uphold Commission on Population and Development (CPD) as a politically relevant space to guide Member States and all stakeholders and influence regional and national priorities on issues of population, SRHR, and Gender.

The Commission should at all time persevere to adopt the resolutions with consensus. Since the recent trends show lack of consensus (2015, 2017, 2018), alternative methods of adoption of the resolution should be actively sought and put in place including voting on selected paragraphs as relevant.

The Commission should actively engage, Member States from respective regions, regional and national CSOs to share national and regional experiences, at the CPD annual sessions

Emerging issues in relation to population and development should also be addressed on an annual basis, in addition to the annual theme.

Actively engage CSOs in the CPD annual sessions and commission work is crucial. This include women, youth, local and feminist organizations, who are instrumental in supporting the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and **further expand this civic space** to include marginalized groups representation.

Thank you

Statement submitted by Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)