

ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together (ECOSOC)

UN CPD55 Oral Statement

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Action by Churches Together (ACT Alliance) is a coalition of more than 135 churches and church-related organizations working together in over 120 countries to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalized people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, race or nationality.

Gender justice, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, is a priority for the ACT Alliance's advocacy and programmatic work. As a faith motivated and rights-based alliance, we believe that all people are rights-holders and have a strong track record of transformative rights-based gender action in national, regional and global spaces.

We affirm, as committed to at the Nairobi Summit, the integrated, holistic mandate of the International Conference on Population and Development agenda and the outcomes of its reviews, including the regional outcomes. We call for its full implementation and for a joint resolution at the 55th Commission on Population and Development.

Civil society is central to demanding accountability efforts for the implementation of policies and improved service delivery on the comprehensive access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights information and services. Faith based actors are an integral part of civil society and are often a major health provider, integral to the implementation of the ICPD program.

So, our recommendations to Member States are as follows:

1. To fully implement the Programme of the International Conference on Population and Development and its reviews. Develop national implementation plans to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. To agree to comprehensive structural solutions for women's socio-economic justice and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, including gender-responsive universal social protection systems, and changing discriminatory laws and social norms.
3. To not regress on previously agreed language on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights (RR) for all.
4. To address the increased gaps between Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights policy frameworks and the constrained socio-economic lived realities where these frameworks are implemented, including tackling illicit financial flows.
5. To include in the resolution references to the fulfilment of the human rights for all.

Thank you.