

Honourable Chairman,

On behalf of young people representing all regions across the world, I value the opportunity to represent today numbers of youth activists operating at national, regional and global levels, to ensure that when it comes to the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, youth voices are heard.

As repeatedly affirmed by Member States, UN officials, and civil society members alike, the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action was a groundbreaking achievement, particularly in its positioning of human rights at the centre of sustainable development, and its explicit recognition of young people as rights holders. Yet 20 years on, not only is the full realization of young people's sexual and reproductive rights far from being attained, there is a deeply concerning lack of political will to meaningfully address young people's issues. Make no mistake: there can be no sustainable or inclusive development unless human rights are recognized, of which the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents and young people are an indivisible part.

As such, we urge Member States to not only uphold but advance past commitments by undertaking the following actions, namely:

- Recognizing and fulfilling the sexual and reproductive rights of all adolescents and youth, without any kind of discrimination, and including those in vulnerable situations, such as young people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, young people living with disabilities, young migrants, and HIV affected young women and girls, among others;
- Ensuring young people's universal access to integrated sexual and reproductive health information and services, including access to comprehensive sexuality education, a full range of voluntary and high quality contraceptive methods, and safe and legal abortion services;
- Ending all forms of violence against women and girls and addressing the root causes of gender inequalities, including social and cultural norms that permit and promote such violence and discrimination;
- Eliminating socio-cultural barriers and harmful practices that reinforce gender stereotypes and stigmatize young women and girls, preventing them from making free and informed decisions about their sexuality and their own bodies;
- Ensuring the meaningful leadership and participation of adolescents and young people, particularly of those who are in vulnerable situations, in the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes that affect their lives;
- Recognizing the importance of implementing programs to ensure access to decent work for young people, in order to eliminate poverty and reduce inequalities; and
- Committing to a Post-2015 Development Agenda that incorporates the ICPD 20 year review process, including regional and thematic outcomes that recognize young people's SRHR, especially the Bali Global Youth Declaration.

When states fail to recognize young people's sexual and reproductive rights, they perpetuate social marginalization and exclusion, thereby impeding any form of inclusive and sustainable



development. That young people's sexual and reproductive rights have been considered "controversial" in the past is an unjustifiable excuse to continue the denial of their needs and rights. Not only do we as young people make up almost half of the world's population, we are rights holders in and of ourselves.

If we are to establish the grounds for truly equitable and transformative change in the lives of young people and their communities, we must go beyond past commitments and ensure that young peoples' voices, needs, and rights are at the heart of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Thank you.

This statement was delivered on behalf of the undersigned endorsing organizations:

Advocates for Youth
AfriYan
Africa Young Positives Network
Alianza de Juventudes Rumbo a Cairo +20
ASEAN Youth Movement/Forum
Asian Pacific Resource & Research Center for Women (ARROW)
Astra Youth
Belize Youth Empowerment for Change
Bishkek Feminist Collective SQ, Kyrgyzstan
Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP)
CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality
CIVICUS
Fortress of Hope, Kenya
Global Youth Action Network
Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)
GOBelize Alumni Association
GOJoven Honduras
Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
GNP+
Health Education and Research Association (HERA), Macedonia
incorruptibles Colombia
Independent Young People Alliance (ARI), Indonesia
Instituto Cultural Steve Biko, Brazil
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)
Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network
Kyrgyz Indigo, Kyrgyzstan
Labrys, Kyrgyzstan
Network for Adolescent and Youth of Africa
NGOs Coalition Against FGM
Parche Juventudes Rumbo Cairo +20
Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)
Reproductive Health Alliance in Kyrgyzstan
South Asia Regional Youth Network



TakingITGlobal
UNFPA – Youth Advisory Group, Suriname
World Assembly of Youth (WAY)
Women For A Change (WFAC), Cameroon
Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
Women Health Foundation, Indonesia
World Young Women’s Christian Association (WYWCA)
YouAct: European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR)
Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for All
Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER)
Youth Sexual Awareness for Europe (YSAFE)

