

New Zealand Family Planning

Oral Statement for the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 7-11 April 2014 in New York, USA

by the Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA) is a network that brings together NGOs, donors and other stakeholders to ensure everyone's right to health is fully achieved through the promotion and inclusion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

APA wishes to commend the progress made towards the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA), and the extension beyond 2014. We wish to highlight the strong role that Civil Society plays in its implementation. This 47th CPD is a vital opportunity to move the Cairo agenda forward.

Asia and the Pacific is a highly diverse region with varying levels of development. Given this, we wish to strongly commend the leadership shown by our governments in their adoption of the 'Asian and Pacific Declaration on Population and Development' last September. We encourage member states to show the same fortitude and foresight over the next two days and urge that our priorities be reflected in the final outcome.

Issues identified as priorities in the Asia Pacific Declaration include gender equality and women's empowerment, and the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable and underserved groups as well as adolescents and young people. In particular, APA would like to highlight the need for comprehensive sexuality education, youth friendly services, and access to safe and legal abortion.

Three quarters of the world's poor live in countries classified as middle-income, and in our region, large numbers of people are being 'left behind' and lack fulfillment of SRHR. As economies grow and international donors withdraw, inequality between and within countries also grows. We urge international donors to fulfill the target of 0.7% of Gross National Product for Official Development Assistance and ensure a human rights-based approach.

We also underscore the need for a quality, comprehensive and integrated approach to SRHR – with full access to services, education and information, and including male involvement. We further emphasize the need to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination based on age, sex, occupation, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, migrant or HIV status, sexual orientation and gender identity, or other. This necessitates the repeal and reform of any discriminatory laws, policies, practices and institutions. Gender based violence and sexual violence must be eliminated.

Finally, it is critical to guarantee strong linkages between ICPD beyond 2014 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We urge Member States to be bold now and show leadership in addressing the unfinished agenda, and in particular the new priority issues.