

Statement By

Dr. Ada Okika  
Chief Operating Officer, World Mission Foundation  
(Crusaders Against HIV/AIDS Network)

45th Session on Commission on Population And Development,  
Economic And Social Council  
April 23-27, 2012

Mr. Chairman

World Mission Foundation and its Crusaders Against HIV/AIDS Networks send their sincere appreciation to you, the Commission, and Bureau for our participation. In our work to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, global health and social issues we are aware of the need to transform policies into action among Africans and its descendants to reflect a commitment to the sexual well-being of adolescents and youths. We also work to inculcate in adolescents and Youths the power to make moral decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Through World Mission Foundation global project on Health, My Sisters' Health Initiative, World Mission Foundation works with her global network in countries of Africa, the Caribbean and USA on social, HIV/AIDS and health care concerns for Adolescents and Youths of Africa and its Descendant

**Mr. Chairman,** Adolescents and Youths is a period of;

- I. human developmental transition between childhood and adulthood involving physical, psychological, physiological, emotional characteristics that are dominant between puberty and maturity.
- II. struggling to move out of childhood to exist as responsible adult while developing personality.
- III. they strive to search for emotional, social and behavioral independence, want to communicate and be with follow peers as well as integrate self-features with self-development.
- IV. They experience confusion, quest for explanations and search for knowledge while working on their sense of personal identity.
- V. they encounter emotional turmoil due to hormonal stress and emotional quest in attaining sexual and physical maturity.
- VI. Adolescents and Youths period therefore is a period of developmental focus on their capabilities, strengths and needs of which reproductive/ sexual, teen pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and sexual violence have the most concerns.

Addressing diverse needs in the area of adolescent reproductive health, ICPD in 1998 gave particular attention to the reproductive health needs of adolescents. The Chapter VII of the Program of Action has a section devoted to adolescents, with the objectives (7.44) of addressing adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, and substantially reducing all adolescent pregnancies. Countries, with the support of the international community, are urged to "protect and promote the rights of adolescents to reproductive health education, information and care..." (7.46), and Governments, in collaboration with NGOs, are urged to "meet with the special needs of adolescents and to establish appropriate programs to respond to those needs." (7.47)

Mr. Chairman,

World Mission Foundation and its work on My Sisters' Health Initiative wish to make the following recommendations;

1. Reproduction has both private and public tendencies yet it is a matter of public health. Education and Awareness programs that will accelerate the utilization of curriculum in all facets of global concerns should include sexuality, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, puberty, gender based reproductive rights, personal development, peer education and Reproductive Health mentorship skills.
2. Education and its awareness programs should be extended to Adolescents and Youths who are out-of school in the community through rural support centers where integrative approach between the community, NGOs and International Agencies should be adopted for use in helping these groups.
3. Accelerate the involvement of all stakeholders to maintain gender responsiveness and social protection tendencies.
4. utilize collective voice to raise awareness on the importance of Adolescent and youth Reproductive rights development approach, Population Protection Initiatives and influence policy discussion in this regards as well as work on the capacity building activities.
5. Commission should extend their individual, corporate and NGOs networks at all levels to promote greater and improved access to use of reproductive protective commodities that will prevent HIV/AIDS and related infections, un wanted pregnancy, abortions and reproductive infections.
6. Commission should remind the world that adolescents and Youths reproductive rights, Sexuality education and Population enhancement is not only a right for Adolescents and Youths but
  - i. a path to global sustainable development
  - ii. a necessary component to achieving the goals of ICPD, MDGs and seven Billion people agenda of the world population
7. comprehensive strategic communication package that would include Adolescents and youth behavioral change, communication strategy relevance to personality development of adolescents and youths should be developed to include gender and cultural sensitives. Special focus should be given to communication empowerment strategies from Adolescents and Youths to their peers.
9. Inculcate into their life developmental skills ethical based approaches that will enable them develop their potentials, identities and mental skills while working with their rights.
10. Recognize the significant need to provide reproductive sexual health services that will address issues of reproductive health commodities, its accessibility and affordability at all levels.

In conclusion World Mission Foundation and its Networks through My Sisters' Health Initiative Project would like to reaffirm her overall global and regional commitments on health, social and HIV/AIDS concerns. World Mission Foundation is vouched to partner with the commission in developing comprehensive approach to successful curriculum model for Adolescents and Youths on Reproductive, Sexual and Population education considered appropriate for Adolescents and youths of African Descents.

Thank You Mr. Chairman.