



ICPD at 15: People First
Accelerating Implementation of the Cairo Consensus
on Population and Development
An Update: December 2009

In 1994 in Cairo, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), industrialized and developing countries forged an inspiring and farsighted Plan of Action (PoA) that integrated a wide range of population, development and human rights issues into a blueprint for 20 years of action.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the ICPD and reminds us of the five years remaining to fulfill the commitments made at Cairo. UNFPA believes the ICPD at 15 is an opportunity to celebrate what has been accomplished, and at the same time to highlight the urgency for action. Given today's financial crisis and the risk of reduced funding for the implementation of ICPD, we should remind ourselves of the high costs of not implementing Cairo, and redouble our support and efforts to accelerate the implementation of the PoA that promotes prevention and cost-effective interventions. ICPD at 15 is therefore very timely. Let's renew our commitments to the Cairo consensus. Let's acknowledge gaps and challenges, consolidate lessons learned over the last 15 years, and come up with priorities to focus on and practical recommendations for accelerating progress in the next five years.

A Plan for People: The Cairo Consensus placed individual human beings at the very heart of the development process. It argued that if needs for family planning and reproductive health care are met, along with other basic health and education services, then development and population stabilization will occur naturally, without coercion or control. And it made commitments for meeting those needs, so that individuals would have genuine choices about the spacing, timing and number of their children. The plan also acknowledged the central role of women and young people in the development process.

The programme was also firmly grounded in the affirmation of the human rights of all people and the need to empower women and to involve men. Cairo was one of the first international forums to acknowledge the fundamental role of women in development processes and to clarify the concept of reproductive rights. The PoA emphasized the centrality of reproductive health — which it defined as 'complete physical, mental and social well-being' in all areas related to the reproductive systems and processes. The often-overlooked importance of this was recognized by the addition, in 2007, following directions of the 2005 World Summit, of universal access to reproductive health as one of the MDG targets. The implementation of the ICPD PoA substantially contributes to the achievement of the MDGs.

ICPD: Strategic underpinning for the Millennium Development Goals: The Cairo Consensus is fully aligned with and provided much of the groundwork for the MDG. While the two sets of commitments are mutually reinforcing and overlapping, the Cairo Consensus set forth a broad and comprehensive vision of development and its requirements that included many elements not covered in the eight MDGs. For instance, the Programme of Action agreed to at Cairo addressed the complex interrelationships between population, economic growth and sustainable development, as well as population distribution, climate change, urbanization, migration, data collection and analysis.

ICPD at 15, because so many people are counting on us: Throughout the year, stocktaking of progress and challenges will be taking place, primarily at the regional and national levels, and various aspects of the ICPD will be addressed at various forums and events, by different partners and constituencies, throughout 2009 and beyond. ICPD at 15 is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitments and redouble efforts to implement the ICPD PoA; an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the linkages between ICPD and the MDGs, and of the essential contribution the ICPD has in achieving the MDGs; an opportunity to reflect on emerging issues and their relationship and impact on population issues.

Several events to mark ICPD at 15 have already taken place:

- The **International Forum on “ICPD at 15: Progress and Prospects”**, organized by Partners in Population and Development, in collaboration with UNFPA and the Government of the Republic of Uganda, in Kampala, November last year. The Kampala Declaration was adopted and is available on UNFPA website;

- The **Meeting on International Migration and its Implications for Development and Population Change in the EECA Region**, in Vienna in December last year. The full meeting report is available on UNFPA website;

- The **Expert Group Meeting on Assessing Progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty Adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference**, organized by ESCAP in collaboration with UNFPA, in February this year. The Meeting adopted recommendations; these are available on ESCAP and UNFPA websites.

- The **42nd session of the Commission on Population and Development on “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”**. The CPD adopted a resolution, available on the CPD and on UNFPA websites.

- The **Regional Meeting of National Population Commissions** organized by the League of Arab States, in collaboration with ESCWA, the Government of Qatar and UNFPA. The Doha 2009 Declaration is available on the UNFPA website.

- The **Expert Group Meeting on Population Dynamics and Climate Change** – with IIED, and in collaboration with the UN Population Division, DESA, and with UN-Habitat took place in London in June. The presentations and papers are available on the UNFPA website.

- The **Expert Group Meeting on “Reducing Inequities: Ensuring Universal Access to Family Planning”** Organized by UNFPA, was held in NY in early July. The recommendations are available on the UNFPA Website.

- The **15th Annual Consultation of the Eastern European & Central Asian Alliance** took place in Frankfurt, Germany, 24-26 July 2009; Organized by, Global Population Education (GPE). The summary and declaration are available on the UNFPA website.

- The **ICPD Caribbean Sub-Regional Seminar** took place in Antigua and Barbuda late August 2009; organized by ECLAC and UNFPA. The reports, presentations and outcome of the meeting is posted on the UNFPA website.

- The **Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development – Invest in Health, Rights and the Future** took place in Berlin, Germany from 2-4 September 2009; it was co-hosted by UNFPA and the Government of Germany. The outcome of this meeting, “The Berlin Call to Action” is available on the UNFPA website.

- The **Asia and Pacific High Level Regional Forum on ICPD at 15** took place in Bangkok on 16-17 September 2009; It was organized by ESCAP, UNFPA and held at UNCC. The Declaration and other related documentation are posted on the intranet.

- The **XXVI IUSSP International Population Conference** took place in Marrakech, 27 September – 2 October 2009; UNFPA organized a Panel discussion on “After Cairo: Issues and Challenges for a Next United Nations Conference on Population and Development” as well as 2 side events on (i) The 2010 Round of Census: Challenges and Innovations, and (ii) New Challenges for Capacity-building in Population and Development. For Information on this meeting, please visit the UNFPA website.

- The **Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Seminar** took place in Santiago de Chile on 7-8 October 2009; it was organized by ECLAC and UNFPA. The outcome is posted on the UNFPA website.

- The **5th Asia and the Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health: Working for Universal Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights: Building on the ICPD PoA and the MDGs.** Took place in Beijing on 17-20 October 2009, The Conference (18-20 October) is preceded by a Youth Forum (17 October). It was organized in collaboration with China FPA, IPPF, IPPF East & South East Asia and Oceania Region, and China Population Association, and co-sponsored by UNFPA, Partners in Population and Development and National Population and Family Planning Commission of China. The Beijing Call to Action is available on the UNFPA website.

- The **7th Session of the African Population Commission and Joint AU/ECA/UNFPA conference on the 15th year review of ICPD at 15 – Expert Group Meeting followed by Ministerial Meeting** took place in Addis on 19-23 October 2009. The outcome is available on the UNFPA website.

- The **High level meeting on maternal health – MDG 5; Organized by UNFPA and the government of the Netherlands** took place in Addis on the 26th of October 2009. The outcome is available on the UNFPA website.

- **4th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD (IPCI-ICPD)** was held in Addis Ababa on 27-28 October 2009. It was organized by UNFPA and the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG), Parliamentary for Global Action (PGA) and the Parliament of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The outcome are available on the UNFPA website.

- The **High Level meeting on Maternal Health and Universal Access to Reproductive Health** was held in Istanbul, Turkey in 11 November 2009. It was convened by UNFPA, in partnership with the UNECE, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), the IPPF, and Turkey's State Planning Organization (SPO). The outcome of this meeting will soon be posted on the UNFPA website.

- The **ICPD at 15 Regional Forum for Eastern Europe and Central Asia** took place in Istanbul, Turkey on 12-13 November 2009. It was convened by UNFPA, in partnership with the UNECE, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), the IPPF, and Turkey's State Planning Organization (SPO). The outcome of this meeting will soon be posted on the UNFPA website.

- The **International Conference on Family Planning: Research and Best Practices**, was held in Kampala, Uganda 15-18 November 2009. It was organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School for Public Health and Makerere University's School of Public Health, along with other international partners. For information on this meeting, please visit the UNFPA website.

- The **ICPD at 15 Symposium in the Pacific** took place in Suva, Fiji on 23-25 November 2009. The meeting was organized by UNFPA and the University of the South Pacific. The outcome and presentation slides of this meeting will soon be posted on the UNFPA website.

Attached is a list of events where progress in implementing the Cairo Consensus and the way forward will be discussed.

The attached list is updated regularly, and relevant documentation and hyper-links (background papers, declaration, recommendations, etc.) posted on <http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/15/index.cfm>.