

MADRID DECLARATION

We, the participants of **the International Conference on Youth and Leadership -*Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*** - held in the Parliament of Spain, Madrid, November 2005, commit ourselves to advance the sexual and reproductive health rights of all people, according to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Platform for Action of the International Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Millennium Development Goals, and the 2005 World Summit (New York, 2005).

WE SUPPORT

1. The General Secretary of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, when recognising that it is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), specially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, if we do not approach population and reproductive health issues as a whole and intervene simultaneously in both areas. And this means intensifying the efforts to promote women's rights and implement greater investments on education and health, including reproductive health and family planning.
2. The efforts made by governments leaders, international agencies and of the NGOs during the 2005 World Summit (September 2005), when they recognized contraception and family planning, adolescent health services and the elimination of gender based violence, as well as the centrality of the adolescents' rights to health and reproductive and sexual education as vital for the attainment of the MDGs and Human Rights;
3. The necessity of integrating issues related to HIV/AIDS in the design of health policies and strategies in general, and particularly of those referring sexual and reproductive health, as well as in actions aimed at achieving the MDGs and at all levels of the health sector; planning, insurance, allocation and provision of health services.
4. The initiatives of multilateral agencies, governments and NGOs related to raise awareness and information of the current dimension of youth, their issues and needs, and the proposal for specific strategies of work with and for young people on sexual and reproductive health issues.
5. The idea that States and Governments in general should take greater action to attain gender equality and equity as well as youth involvement not only in their representation in government bodies but also at all different decision making levels;
6. The work carried out in gender equality as a transversal issue for attaining the MDGs as well as on the eradication of all types of gender violence and discrimination against women due to sex and age;

7. The work carried out by the UNFPA and IPPF for ensuring commitment to and implementation of the PoA of Cairo, PFA of Beijing and the MDG;
8. The advocacy work for promoting these rights by young decision makers and the European Parliamentary Groups, namely IEPFPD and the Spanish Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, as well as, international organizations, United Nations agencies involved in the work of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the European Union, and the Council of Europe, governments, national parliaments, and NGOs.

WE RECOGNIZE

1. The need for urgent collective action to achieve the national and international commitments of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.
2. The right of all young people to make free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives and the right to information, services, and supplies necessary to enable those choices.
3. That youth participation in decision making is a basic human right taking into account the largest youth population in world's history ever – 3 billion people under 25 years old and 1.06 billion between 19 and 25*. Therefore, the participation of young decision makers in the formulation of policies and legislation aimed at young people is crucial.
4. That the poorest countries hold 85% of the population younger than 25*.
5. That 500 million young people live on less than 2 dollars / day*.
6. That teenagers between 10 and 19, in particular girls, are the priority groups of intervention concerning Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, since sexual discrimination based on gender leads to higher obstacle in access to education, higher risk of sexual abuse, early marriages/pregnancies, exposure to traditional harmful practices, trafficking, HIV infection; and is the reason why 14 million poor teenagers younger than 20 give birth every year, run higher risks of maternal, child mortality and social exclusion*.
7. Almost one fourth of the HIV-positive people are younger than 25, according to the UNAIDS data.
8. That violence and discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, political-religious- cultural grounds, social-economic strata, and family strata are obstructing factors to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.

9. That Young Decision Makers have an important role to play on SRHR issues because they make the difference with their ideas, words, innovation, and social responsibility and because they are a part of the decision system.
10. These rights are intrinsically related with other social justice and human rights issues.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES

- To advocate for policies, programmes and funding that ensure the people's health and rights not only in Spain, but also in the entire global community, particularly in developing and low income countries;
- To promote SRHR as a Human Right as well as Equal Opportunities and Development.
- To support mechanisms that allow the reinforcement of youth participation concerning the promotion of the SRHR and the Millennium Declaration.
- To call upon the appropriate structures and the Ministries of Health and Education to advance with the implementation of health and sexual education programmes in school, therefore promoting and health services centres, promoting effective and necessary continuity.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT:

1. To promote recognition of sexual and reproductive rights as fundamental rights which cannot be infringed in our society.
2. To reinforce the collaboration between Young Decision Makers, Parliaments, NGOs, Governments, international agencies, UN and EU bodies and that they disseminate the outcome of this conference as an example of good practice in advocacy for SRHR and for the MDG;
3. To guarantee and promote the protection of health and the free exercise of sexual and reproductive rights in all spheres of youth participation; including sexual education of adolescents and young people in education and social participation institutions, enhancing the training of teachers on gender equality and information related to individual sexual and reproductive rights;
4. To guarantee the universal right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, by promoting access to information, provision and use of services in an environment of equal opportunities;
5. To promote coherence with internationally accepted standards on sexual and reproductive health resources for young people, paying attention to territorial balance and implementation on the basis of most prevalent issues, including in all cases teenage pregnancy and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases;

6. To promote the inclusion of modern and efficient contraception and family planning methods in the services portfolio, guaranteeing the geographical and monetary accessibility of said services for the young population;
7. To enhance all efforts for achieving gender equality and persist in the efforts and work for the elimination of all forms of sexual abuse and violence within families and elsewhere for gender reasons;
8. To develop integrated programmes that establish a response to the unmet needs of young boys and girls concerning education and sexual and reproductive health and which include the most vulnerable population groups;
9. To take up their commitment as laid out in the PoA of Cairo, PfA of Beijing and the MDG, particularly their commitments concerning sexual and reproductive health in the field of public support to development, namely, a substantial increase the contribution of Spain to the UNFPA and IPPF and reinforcing the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health plans and policies of Spanish cooperation;
10. We applaud increasing funding in area of HIV AIDS, but it should not be detrimental to funding in other areas of SRH.
11. To monitor the implementation of the Ibero-American Convention of Young People's Rights, signed last October 11th in Badajoz, Spain, of which article 23 refers explicitly to the issues of the Young People's Right to Sexual Education;
12. To recognize that equal opportunities, social inclusion and development, in the national and international level cannot be achieved without political and financial investment in Health, Education, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of young people.

WE SIGN THIS DECLARATION to formalise our commitment to the promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Spain and in the world.

Political action needs financial resources. It is the difference between past and future, poverty and development, and life and death. The need for civic and social support is a crucial part of public opinion and of the political decision. This is the reason of our commitment, today the 4th of November 2005.

* UNFPA, State of the World Population Report, 2005.