



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY  
NIYI OJUOLAPE, UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE IN GHANA  
AT THE ICPD YOUTH CONSULTATIONS ON  
THE ROAD TO NAIROBI AT  
THE ORANGE LOFT, UNFPA GHANA OFFICE ON  
FRIDAY, 04 OCTOBER, 2019**

**Protocol:**

- **Representatives and Young People from NDPC**
- **Young People present**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, you are all welcome to the Orange Loft of UNFPA Ghana. I would like to thank you all for honouring our invitation to join these Youth Consultations on the ICPD commitments, on the Road to the Nairobi Summit next month, (Nov. 12 to 14, 2019) in Nairobi, Kenya.

If you are here today, you must be aware that this year in UNFPA has been characterized with tripartite celebrations: we celebrated the 95th birthday of Prof Frederick Sai of blessed memory, a champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and the chairperson for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). This conference was what birthed the Programme of Action that has served as a blueprint for UNFPA worldwide: the ICPD PoA. This document is 25 years old this year.



To add to this, UNFPA has been ensuring rights and choices for all, 50 years down the line since its formation in 1969.

In 2015, over a hundred countries signed on to 17 Sustainable Development Goals whose tenets are relevant to the principles spelt out by the ICPD Programme of Action. These goals call on nations to end extreme hunger, poverty and gender inequality, and to remove barriers to quality education and access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, through strategic partnerships and alliances. Indeed the world has made strides in achieving these goals, yet there still remains the unfinished business of ensuring that the most marginalised- notably women and girls- are able to realise their full potential so that a demographic dividend can be reaped.

In all these, the key role young people have to play for these principles and goals to be fully realized, is increasing apparent with the large proportions of young people that we have today. The unfinished business will remain unfinished without strategic engagement and inclusion of young people to build their potential for leadership and initiative. This is why today is important, and I'm once again grateful to everyone for joining us today.

As you deliberate on issues affecting you and what commitments you are willing to make, remember that it would take you to ensure that these commitments are fulfilled.



I also urge you to please use this opportunity to join the **'I March Campaign'** as part of the preparations towards the Nairobi Summit.

I wish all very fruitful discussions. Thank you.