



STATEMENT BY
NIYI OJUOLAPE, UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE IN GHANA
AT THE CSOs CONSULTATION ON
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT ON
WED, 25 SEPT., 2019 AT NDPC, ACCRA

Protocol:

- **Director General of NDPC**
- **Representatives of CSOs**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Twenty-five years ago, in 1994, 179 countries adopted a landmark Programme of Action during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt. It has been regarded as one of the most significant global conferences ever held, particularly because it transformed the way in which countries started to address population, poverty reduction and sustainable development issues – putting the needs and aspirations of individual human beings at the center of sustainable development.

The progress achieved over the last 25 years in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights has been remarkable. However, there are still millions of women and girls who have not benefited and are still



disadvantaged. In addition, the ICPD agenda for sexual and reproductive health and rights for all is now challenged as never before.

At the same time, the landmark agenda garners staunch support, including at the highest political levels, due in part to its important contribution to accelerating the SDGs within the framework of Agenda 2030.

Soon, under the leadership of UNFPA, as the global custodian of the ICPD and the UN agency responsible for ensuring the rights and choices of all, governments and in collaboration with the Governments of Kenya and Denmark will gather in Nairobi, Kenya to review the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the PoA and make realistic commitments to accelerate its progress.

We will leverage this momentum to:

- Mobilize political and financial support;
- Further galvanize partnerships and search for new solutions; and
- Secure a consensus package on how to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

UNFPA has been collaborating with NDPC and all the key stakeholders who are members of the technical working group. The Technical Working Group (TWG) developed a roadmap on Ghana's processes of securing the



commitments. So far, consultations and commitments have been received from:

- i. Family Planning (Commitments have been received using the HQ approved template)
- ii. Gender stakeholders (Commitments received as part of the Gender Summit outcomes)
- iii. Parliament of Ghana (Commitments received as part of their declarations)

And today we are having this consultation with you the CSOs. We know how vibrant you are with issues relating to the welfare of women, girls and boys hence we are relying on you to brainstorm and provide commitments that will enable Ghana to accelerate progress of the ICPD POA and also the SDGs come 2030.

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

Thank you.