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Value of Advancing ICPD and Interrelated Continental Frameworks
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A quarter of a century after it was established, UNFPA came of age and produced a dynamic, and comprehensive blue print for population and development. This blue print is the International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action ICPD/PoA in 1994. From 1994, and after every five years, the Programme of Action as implemented by member countries is subjected to a review.

The 2014 review saw issues of MDGs implementation assessed and signed off, and the anticipation of the SDGs from 2015. In that review, the AU led Africa to produce what is called the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development. This declaration is fundamentally, a call to action from 2015 to have a more rigorous implementation of the ICPD/PoA by Africa.

Last year, 2018, the ICPD/PoA came up for review. This was ICPD@25 or what is the same thing, AADPD + 5. The overarching goal of the AADPD+5 Review is to assess Member States' implementation of the commitments in the AADPD

over the last five years with a view to advancing advocacy and policy change in order to achieve national development objectives and priorities that are aligned to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The AADPD rests on seven thematic pillars. Each pillar covers several commitments as follows:

- Dignity and Equality (29 Commitments);
- Health (17 Commitments);
- Place and Mobility (19 Commitments);
- Governance (5 Commitments)
- Data and Statistics (7 Commitments);
- Partnership and International Cooperation (4 Commitments).
- Implementation (7 Commitments).

The AADPD has the following key features:

- It reaffirms and consolidates past commitments in the area of population and development; Thus the many such interrelated frameworks and their commitments draw their source directly
- It overlaps in content and timing with other major development agenda, notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063; and
- It was endorsed by African Heads of State and Government at the African Union Summit.

The AADPD is important for the three features or reasons I have just mentioned which necessitate its effective implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Clearly, development is about people, and what affects them and issues about it must be top of your priorities. This is where you come in as legislators with oversight and accountability on the executive. The primary recommendations of ICPD PoA remain not only relevant but also paramount and these are as I mentioned in my remarks:

- (1) Linking the provision of sexuality education to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services;
- (2) Building awareness, acceptance and support for youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education and services;
- (3) Addressing gender inequity in terms of beliefs, attitudes and norms; and
- (4) Targeting the early adolescent period (10-14 years).

As we have stressed in our 2019 state of the world population report, the combined actions of civil society, governments, development institutions and UNFPA over the past 50 years have unlocked opportunities and possibilities for women, men and girls across the world. There is more to be done in achieving the **three zeros**:

- No unmet need for contraception
- No preventable maternal deaths; and
- No violence or harmful practices against women

These are real and form the transformative goals of UNFPA. These as formulated may be achieved, but as society remains dynamic, new issues arise. ICPD perspectives must be advance in tandem. There will also be unfinished business as problems mutate.

UNFPA as custodian of ICPD/POA calls for strong partnerships among government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners, UN, donors and other interest groups for the successful implementation of commitments, outcomes of the regional reviews of the AADPD/ICPD PoA, the Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063. Parliament must be in the fore-front of such a partnership. You have the power to do so. Please just do it.

Thank you for your attention.