

## NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF HEALTH (NEAPACOH) MEETING

SPEKE RESORT HOTEL MUNYONYO  
KAMPALA, UGANDA  
29 – 31 OCTOBER 2019

# OUTCOME DOCUMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

Despite remarkable progress over the past 25 years, the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) remains a distant reality for millions of people across the world, and in particular, in Africa. Universal access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, education and services, as defined in the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, has not been fully achieved. We acknowledge that unless we complete the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action and realize the strong and evidence-based investment case for ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, and for women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality, reaching the ambitious SDG by 2030 and the African Union agenda 2063 will be difficult, if not impossible.

Our world has, in many ways, profoundly changed over the last 25 years, and many new issues are influencing the field of population and development, including climate change, growing inequalities and exclusion within and between countries, migration, the youth bulge and the prospects of demographic dividends, violent extremism, and increasing demographic diversity.

Advancing the ICPD Programme of Action's promise, and its regional commitments expressed in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) and complemented by the Maputo Protocol of the right to universal access to sexual and reproductive health for all, of women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality requires new, innovative and strategic partnerships, including with and between youth, civil society organizations, local communities, the private sector, and through south-south and triangular cooperation among countries.

Cognisant of the above, IPPF submits that members of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) considers the following;

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## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mobilise national parliaments to enact and propose amendments to restrictive legislation to ensure that there is improved access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights services for all.
  - Harmonise national laws to ensure that there are no contradictions or claw back provisions in the national laws, particularly as regards child marriage and FGM, as well as non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive health information and services
  - Strengthen mechanisms to ensure implementation of existing laws and policies, including on HIV and AIDS, SGBV and harmful practices, not only from a medical perspective, but also incorporating social and rights perspectives
  - Ensure that adolescents and youth, especially girls, have access to a comprehensive as well as context and age-responsive SRHR information, education and timely services.
  - Accelerate the expansion of a recommended essential, integrated package of sexual and reproductive health information ensuring that the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations are addressed including survivors of conflict situations and natural disasters.
  - Mobilise support for increased access to family planning information and services, and universal availability of quality, accessible, affordable and safe modern contraceptives.
  - Contribute through existing policy instruments, the reduction of preventable maternal deaths, and maternal morbidities, by, inter alia, integrating a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health interventions, including access to safe abortion to the full extent of the law, measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortions, and for the provision of post-abortion care.
  - Build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, where no one is left behind, where all, irrespective of race, colour, religion, sex, age, disability, language, ethnic origin, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, feel valued and are able to shape their own destiny and contribute to the prosperity of their societies.
  - Monitor and hold the Executive on the implementation of all agreed policy instruments on population and development (Maputo Plan of Action, Maputo Protocol, Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, the African Union Gender Strategy, etc.).
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