

Dhaka Declaration: Annex on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

In 1994, governments around the world adopted the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), which provided a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to population and development, based on the principles of human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development.

We note that while some progress has been made by our countries towards the achievement of the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development, major challenges remain to put concrete measures in place to fully implement the agenda. Within the framework of universal access to health care, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and population dynamics, must be systematically integrated into national and international development strategies, policies and laws. ..

The Asia Pacific region is home to two-thirds of the world's poor, 60.4% of all women, and 62.6% of young people. The region contributes to 42% of maternal deaths. 140 million women in the age group 15–49 years are in need of modern contraception. Adolescents account for 12% of all births in South, Central and Southeast Asia. Although there has been progress in providing sexuality education this is generally not comprehensive. Marginalised groups, including migrants, people with disabilities, indigenous women, and socially excluded groups have particular difficulty in accessing SRH services.

Within the context of universal access to health, we reaffirm our commitment to the ICPD PoA, including sexual and reproductive health and rights for women, men, girls and boys, recognizing that to ensure full implementation, poverty, gender equality and socio-economic inequities must be addressed, thus contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment.

We Parliamentarians and CSOs, reaffirm the principles of the ICPD PoA, and commit to:

- Protect and promote of sexual and reproductive rights as human rights, and to fully integrate them into SRH policies and programmes at national, regional and global levels.
- Within the context of universal access to health, ensure inclusion of quality, comprehensive, integrated sexual and reproductive health information and services across the life cycle, with special attention given to the needs of adolescents and young people through sexuality education and life skills, and youth-friendly SRH services, and to address the unmet needs of marginalized and socially excluded groups.
- Ensure adequate resource and financial allocations are available, and remove geographical and organizational barriers to access of SRH services; address social, cultural, religious and gender barriers to uptake of SRH services, by working with progressive community leaders and other influential stakeholders.
- Advocate for progressive legislation around SRH issues, upholding the highest attainable human rights standards in line with CEDAW and other human rights treaties, conventions and covenants, monitor their implementation and thus hold governments accountable.

- Advocate for comprehensive SRHR monitoring framework sensitive to inequities and inclusive of accountability mechanisms, and commit to collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, and related variables.