

NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ON
AGENDA ITEM 7: CONSIDERATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OF
A PROPOSED OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR
THE SIXTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC POPULATION CONFERENCE**

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The United Nations General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, adopted Resolution 65/234 which stressed the need for the effective participation and contribution of relevant actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014, as well as in its preparation.

2. The Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) will be convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), from 16 to 20 September 2013 in Bangkok. The Conference will serve as an intergovernmental platform for the Asia-Pacific preparations for the above-mentioned special session of the General Assembly.

3. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was convened from 8 to 10 May 2013 in Bangkok (hereafter referred to as the "Regional Preparatory Meeting") to facilitate preparations by ESCAP members and associate members for the Sixth APPC.

4. In addition to experts designated by Seats of Governments, representatives from the following 12 civil society and intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre For Women; Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; HelpAge International; International Council on Management of Population Programmes; International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Region; International Planned Parenthood Federation East and South-East and Oceania Region; International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific; Partners in Population and Development; and Youth Lead.

II. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ON SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT

5. The following consolidated statements from civil society organizations (CSOs) were delivered for consideration at the Regional Preparatory Meeting:

Section I: Preambular paragraphs

6. The consolidated statement delivered by representatives from CSOs expressed appreciation of the continued commitment of Governments towards the ICPD Programme of Action. The statement also expressed appreciation to the secretariat for including CSOs in the preparatory process for the Sixth APPC.

7. The consolidated statement further highlighted the considerable progress in recognition of rights at the international, regional and national levels in response to global change and changing contexts within countries and regions. The statement urged member States to consider the following elements in revising the Sixth APPC draft outcome document:

PP3: Include language to recognize and commit towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other treaties that provide international legal framework with accountability measures and mechanisms for promotion, protection and fulfillment of women's human rights, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights, as integral towards achievement of ICPD and the goals beyond 2014.

PP4: Include recognition of the Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration 2012 along with World Programme of Action on Youth.

PP6: Retain as presented in the draft document.

PP10: Include recognition of General Assembly Resolution 65/277 on the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

PP11:

(a) Reaffirm the human rights-based approach as the basis of ICPD beyond 2014 review.

(b) Acknowledge the lack of consistent and uniform progress on Millennium Development Goal 3 and Goal 5, as well as access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and the need to address them through action plans on ICPD beyond 2014.

PP31: Acknowledge the need for meaningful participation of youth as a distinct and different constituency with varying degree of vulnerability in decision-making processes and recognition of their agency in engaging with and/or leading such processes.

PP32: Support the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education for young people.

Section II: Overarching principles and policy directions

8. The consolidated CSO statement underlined the important role of civil society in assisting in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development objectives and activities, as well as in advocacy, global dialogue, and service delivery – especially to those most hard to reach - in fully implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, reducing poverty and improving human lives in Asia and the Pacific.

9. The consolidated statement also suggested the following elements for consideration of member States in reviewing the draft outcome document:

OP1: Replace “renew” with “reaffirm” and include reference to “the key actions for its further implementation”.

OP 2: Replace “reiterate” with “reaffirm”.

OP 7: Insert “based on age, sex, health, and marital status” and specific groups such as “adolescents, unmarried young women and mothers, migrants, indigenous people, those

belonging to ethnic or sexual minorities; as well as key affected populations most affected by HIV and AIDS such as people living with HIV, and particularly men who have sex with men, transgender populations, and injecting drug users as adopted in ESCAP resolution 67/9 in 2011”.

Section III: Priority actions

i) Sexual and reproductive health and rights

10. The consolidated CSO statement congratulated member States for their commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and its review processes, as well as the joint secretariat team for their work in preparing the draft outcome document.

11. The statement commended the alignment of the current draft outcome document section on sexual and reproductive health and rights, to the ICPD Programme of Action Chapter VII and Chapter VIII as well as Chapter IV of the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD adopted by the member states, and noted that the priority actions were in line with the resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).

12. The statement recommended the retention of this subsection in its full form with additional progressive inputs that further protect, promote and fulfill sexual and reproductive health and rights of individuals.

13. The representatives also requested the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health sub-accounts within national health accounts to track financial resource flows for sexual and reproductive health services at the national level.

ii) Gender equality and women’s empowerment

14. The consolidated CSO statement expressed hope that women and girls will not just be regarded as passive beneficiaries of such policies and programmes and that the spirit of this will be reflected throughout the draft outcome document.

15. The representatives highlighted the need to delink the age of consent and marital status in order to address challenges in discouraging child marriage and improving access to essential sexual and reproductive health services by adolescents and youth.

16. The statement also proposed the following for consideration in revising the draft outcome statement:

(a) Mainstream the meaningful involvement and participation of women and girls in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes.

(b) Use gender responsive planning and budgeting to ensure adequate resource allocation.

(c) End child marriage and improve access to essential sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth, regardless of age and marital status.

(d) Hold men and boys accountable for their actions for prevention of violence and promoting gender equality.

(e) Ensure that the rights of widows and older women are protected.

(f) Review punitive laws which penalize and criminalize abortion, in line with the Beijing Platform of Action.

iii) Ageing

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