


ACCELERATING THE PROMISE



The Report on the
Nairobi Summit on
ICPD25





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FOREWORD

In 2019, all roads led to Nairobi.

Thousands gathered at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise, and what a celebration it was! Hundreds of thousands more around the world marched in solidarity, recommitting to the extraordinary vision of the Programme of Action set forth at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 – a vision of full equality for women and girls, and of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

The world convened in Nairobi around a central belief that good progress is not good enough, and that we must accelerate the promises made in Cairo to girls and women, boys and men, to everyone. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals depends on it.

Strengthening our societies, growing our economies and combating climate change all depend on women and girls taking control over their bodies, their choices and their futures. When every woman and girl lives in full equality, with dignity and respect, we can end poverty and hunger, improve health and human well-being, guarantee quality education, and achieve peace and prosperity for all.

The urgent message from the Nairobi Summit is that the world cannot – and must not – wait another 25 years. UNFPA and the Governments of Kenya and Denmark co-convened the Summit with that sense of urgency in mind. We were pleased to see

the leadership that exists at all levels – from presidents to the grass roots, from refugees to royalty, from youth activists to CEOs – to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Leaders of countries, communities and organizations from 163 United Nations Member States participated with a deep sense of purpose and hope. Together, we fashioned the Nairobi Statement and accompanying Nairobi Commitments, not to negotiate new documents or language, but to uphold existing agreements, address resource gaps, define actionable timelines, and share and learn from each other.

Partners from the private sector, civil society, academia and faith-based organizations brought new ideas and new resources to make rights and choices a reality for all. People with disabilities, indigenous people, people of African descent, and of sexual diversities turned out in their numbers, leading, challenging, inspiring and pushing the agenda forward.

Feminists, who ignited a movement in Cairo, brought their energy and passion to Nairobi. Young people raised their collective voice, declaring their intention to lead the sexual and reproductive health movement into a new era, where every girl can fulfil her dreams.

In the end, the Nairobi Summit was about action, not talk. We committed to making

the next decade one of action and results for women and girls. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights, and it is up to all of us to protect and defend them.

Years from now, let it be said that the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 sparked the accelerated action needed to achieve sexual and reproductive rights and choices for all. Let it be known that we did the work, we delivered on our promises, and we achieved the commitments of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The march continues. Our ultimate destination: full rights and full choices for all people, everywhere.

Natalia Kanem

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and Executive Director of UNFPA,
the United Nations Population Fund*



The Nairobi Summit on
ICPD25

I: The Road to Nairobi

MANY VOICES, ONE STAND FOR RIGHTS AND CHOICES

There is no turning back on sexual and reproductive health and rights and choices for all. The march forward must continue, and it must accelerate, because choosing what happens with one's own body and fertility is a fundamental right.

Twenty-five years ago, at the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, the world promised that every woman and girl would enjoy universal access to sexual and reproductive health. More do so today than ever before. Yet millions of women and girls still die in pregnancy, still cannot get contraceptives, still get married as children, still are mutilated and violated – the list of unfulfilled promises remains very long.

We know we need more action, more commitment, more investment in a far faster pace of change. But how? That's what the Nairobi Summit to mark the 25th anniversary of the ICPD set out to answer. Under the banner of "Accelerating the Promise", it took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 12 to 14 November 2019, co-convened by the Governments of Denmark and Kenya, and UNFPA.

The culmination of a year-long process to re-energize people everywhere, the Summit brought together 8,300 people from 172 countries and territories. They made over 1,250 commitments to action. And with many voices they spoke as one in standing against decades of pushback on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the equality of women and girls.

The Summit was the first large global meeting heralding the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and a lead into the 25th anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. As such, the Summit set a high bar – and pioneered a fresh approach to multilateral action. Since it was an entirely voluntary exercise, Governments and others came because they genuinely wanted to express their commitments to sexual and reproductive health and rights. This approach proved highly successful in persuading a wide variety of institutions and people across the world to stake a claim on a new, brighter future, where promises are kept, not contested.





In the lead-up to the Nairobi Summit, UNFPA launched #IMarchFor, a social media campaign that brought 30,000 people and 15 million followers into a global call for world leaders to deliver on ICPD promises. In a striking video at the Summit opening, girls with artistically painted faces read the 12 global commitments of the Nairobi Statement.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

The Governments of Denmark and Kenya agreed to co-convene the Nairobi Summit with UNFPA. They brought geopolitical balance, tremendous experience in negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and strong political will from their respective Governments to their roles as co-conveners. Denmark also became the major donor to the Summit.

In April 2019, UN Member States at the UN Commission on Population and Development adopted a Political Declaration calling for the “full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This provided a political impetus for Governments and all other relevant partners to come together to commemorate the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action, and celebrate its successes in advancing rights and choices for all.

The process would galvanize political and financial momentum, and build and strengthen partnerships to complete the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action, including as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. Early on, five themes with global relevance emerged as key focus areas. They included universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, financing the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda, demographic diversity, ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in humanitarian and fragile contexts. The preparatory process also pinpointed five other issues to accelerate progress across all of the themes: gender equality, youth leadership, political and community leadership, innovation and data, and partnerships.

THREE OBJECTIVES

Three objectives shaped the process around the Nairobi Summit, aimed at renewing momentum to fully achieve the ICPD and the SDGs by 2030:

1. Obtain political reaffirmation of the ICPD Programme of Action, within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.
2. Build political and financial momentum to fulfil the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action.
3. Reinvigorate and expand the community of people necessary to push forward the ICPD agenda on all fronts.

A COMMITMENT TO COMMITMENTS

The co-convenors were determined that the Summit would galvanize new ways of thinking, new players and new actions. Early on, they defined it as a platform where Governments, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society would make concrete public commitments with a focus on leaving no one behind. Ambitious political, programmatic and financial commitments would showcase leadership, make the case for scaled-up investment, and move the world towards achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

To keep commitments relevant and meaningful, and aligned to the extent possible to shared global aims, an International Steering Committee guided the development of an overarching framework. The process drew on six months of consultations with UN Member States, civil society organizations, youth networks, people living with disabilities, the faith-based community, the private sector, foundations, academics and more. Together, they defined the magnitude of the unfinished business of the ICPD, and pinpointed areas

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