



## Programme

September 2-4, 2009

Including Pre-Programme

September 1, 2009

### **Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development**

Invest in Health, Rights and the Future

Berlin, Germany

[www.globalngoforum.org](http://www.globalngoforum.org)



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NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health  
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Invest in Health, Rights and the Future  
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Dear participants in the NGO forum "Global Partners in Action",

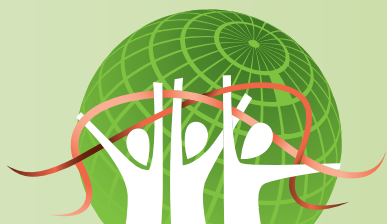
I am pleased that you have accepted the invitation to this conference co-hosted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and wish, on behalf of the German government, to offer you a warm welcome to our capital city Berlin.

15 years after the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo is a good time not just to take stock of what has been achieved so far but also, particularly, to take a joint look ahead and even now to be thinking beyond 2014 and 2015. We must seek answers to new global challenges. Civil society played a central role in the birth of the Cairo Programme of Action and I believe that civil society still has a crucial role to play today as a developer of ideas, an implementing force and an advocate for all stakeholders.

The German government and I personally have always seen the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the achievement of the 5th Millennium Development Goal – universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and lowering maternal mortality – as issues of prime importance. Between 1995 and 2007, more than 1 billion US dollars were provided under bilateral German development cooperation for measures in the field of family planning and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS control. We are pursuing an approach based on universal human rights that rejects any form of discrimination or violence: promoting gender equality and women's empowerment thus become the key to poverty reduction, economic growth and social development. Particularly in these times of economic and financial crisis, it is important that we pay special attention to the rights of women, the health sector and social protection. I call on both the governments in our partner countries and the donor community in equal measure to continue their implementation of our shared commitments.

I wish that we may experience a successful conference with lively and also critical discussions, and I look forward to the new momentum that will be lent to this process.

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul  
German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development



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Dear Partners in ICPD,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development. We, at UNFPA, are delighted to co-host this event with the German Government.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development was a breakthrough in its recognition of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and women's empowerment and gender equality, as central to addressing issues of population and development. The wisdom of

its vision has been confirmed by the incorporation of all of its quantitative goals in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and in other international and regional consensus development strategies, including the Beijing Platform for Action and the Maputo Plan of Action.

This vision was informed and shaped by the active participation and support of civil society organizations. The Programme of Action explicitly called for greater accountability to the true stakeholders, the agents and beneficiaries of development themselves. Civil society organizations took the challenge and have been active contributors to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the ICPD+5 Key Actions through delivering services, monitoring programme implementation, advocating for supportive policies and investments, and improving governance.

This Forum provides a venue where non-governmental organizations and other partners can convene, exchange experiences and discuss strategies that have worked in making a difference. Special emphasis has been placed on involving young people to ensure that the ICPD vision of participatory development is owned by coming generations and made relevant to our rapidly changing world.

On behalf of UNFPA, I would like to thank the members of the Forum Steering Group for their hard work in bringing us to this point. They have labored wisely in the preparation and implementation of their plans and we expect they will also be involved in follow-up actions emerging from the meeting.

We look forward to receiving your recommendations for how to accelerate implementation of the Programme of Action and ensure continuing improvements in the quality of service delivery and supportive environment needed for progress towards the ICPD goals and recommendations. I would like to assure you that UNFPA highly values our partnership and will serve our shared vision in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid  
Executive Director

Dear Participants,

On behalf of all the members of the International Steering Group, the Board of Chairs would like to welcome you to Berlin, and to the NGO Forum. These few days will be an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and experiences, learning and re-energising, so that we leave Berlin, not only with a sense of shared purpose, but with clear strategies to use individually and collectively, so that the critical importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights to individual health and wellbeing, to healthier sustainable families and communities, and to a better world, is fully recognised by governments across the globe. This matters now more than ever!

The International Steering Group has worked to try to ensure this is a conference with a difference. At our first meeting we agreed that the majority of participants would be from the South, with a high percentage of young people. Those born in 1994 are now 15, and young people are the inheritors of the ICPD vision of health, rights and development. We also agreed that involvement of youth would not be tokenistic but that young people would play a full role on the ISG and working groups, and indeed they have done so. Likewise you will see them participate as speakers in every plenary.

We were determined too that the conference would have a meaning beyond 4 September 2009—and so we will all have the opportunity to promote the Berlin Call to Action, and we will also ensure that it is part of other events around the globe over the next year. Likewise, each of us will be able to choose to carry out some of the actions in the Strategic Options paper, adapting them to our country and our organisational context. A draft of both of these has been developed from the ideas included in your applications to attend, and there will be further opportunities to build on this over the next few days.

The beautiful city of Berlin, where we meet is a dramatic reminder that real change is possible, and that dramatic progress can take place even where differences once seemed irreconcilable. This spirit of Berlin is one we can share, as we build cohesion, knowledge and commitment over these few days, and leave knowing that our collective contribution will be much greater than any single organisation or person could achieve alone.

We wish to thank the German government and UNFPA for making this unique event possible, our colleagues on the international steering group for their ongoing contribution from more than 13 countries around the globe, and in particular to thank you for the experience, skills, knowledge and hope that you bring.

The Board of Chairs

Gill Greer

Sivananthi Thanenthiran

Catherina Hinz

Katie Chau





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**Programme at a glance**



Monday, August 31	Tuesday, September 1	Wednesday, September 2	Thursday, September 3	Friday, September 4	Venues at the Conference Center
		8:00 – 20:00 Information and Registration desk open	8:00 – 19:00 Information desk open	9:00 – 13:00 Information Desk open	<b>All Plenary Sessions and Panels</b> Estrel Hall A, B, C
	9:00 – 20:00 Information and Registration desk open	9:00 – 10:30 <b>Introductory Plenary</b> The Cairo Experience: what was it like and why does it matter?	9:00 – 10:30 <b>Panel Session</b> Setting the Scene	8:30 – 9:00 <b>Open Session</b> Final thoughts on the Draft Berlin Call to Action	<b>Conference Secretariat</b> Room Straßburg
	10:30 17:00 <b>Youth Symposium</b> Youth Sexual and Reproductive Rights Symposium	10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break	10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break	9:00 – 11:00 <b>Open Discussions</b> on Strategic Options	<b>Conference Registration and Information Desk</b> Foyer Estrel Hall
		11:00 – 12:30 <b>Regional Meetings</b>	11:00 – 19:00 <b>Workshops:</b> 11:00 – 13:00 <b>Workshop Sessions I</b>	11:00 – 11:45 Coffee Break	<b>Information Bazaar</b> Passage Estrel Hall
				11:45 – 13:00 <b>Closing Session</b> Invest in Health, Rights and the Future: A Berlin Call to Action	<b>Coffee and Lunch Breaks</b> Foyer Estrel Hall
		12:30 – 14:00 Lunch	13:00 – 14:30 Lunch	13:00 Informal Fare-Well Lunch	<b>Ramadan Breakfast and Dinners</b> Sun-Thai Restaurant
17:00 – 21:00 Registration desk open	13:00 – 19:00 Information Bazaar open	14:00 – 15:15 <b>Official Opening</b>	14:30 – 16:30 <b>Workshop Sessions II</b>		<b>Drafting Committee</b> Room Cannes Room Nizza
	15:30 – 16:00 <b>Satellite Sessions I:</b> Advocacy for Resource Mobilisation in Asia and the Pacific	15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break	16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break		<b>Internet Café</b> Big Gallery
	16:00 – 17:00 <b>Donor Panel</b> Achieving the ICPD Goals within the New Development Cooperation Frameworks – The Role of Civil Society	15:45 – 17:45 <b>Opening Interactive Session</b> Tackling the ICPD Messages: Sexy, Boring, or Just Plain Hard?	17:00 – 19:00 <b>Workshop Sessions III</b>		<b>Printing</b> Small Gallery
	18:00 – 19:30 <b>Satellite Sessions II:</b> a. Population Dynamics and Climate Change b. Universal Access to Female Condoms c. Of Gods, Sex and Politics: Gender, Religion and Sexuality	18:15 – 19:30 Guided Bus Tour and Transfer to Reception	19:30 – 21:30 Informal Dinner		<b>Youth Symposium</b> Room Paris
		19:30 – 23:00 Reception with dinner at "Wasserwerk" Berlin hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development			<b>Satellite Sessions I + II</b> Estrel Hall, A + C
		22:00 – 23:30 Busshuttles back to Estrel Hotel			<b>Donor Panel</b> Estrel Hall A
					<b>Regional Meetings</b> Estrel Hall A, B, C
					<b>Workshop Sessions</b> Estrel Hall C + different venues, will be signposted
					<b>Open Discussions on Strategic Options</b> Estrel Hall C and Foyer Estrel Hall



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**Estrel Hotel**



Gastro



Conference



Lift



Toilets

① Estrel Hall A, B, C

② Room Paris

③ Room Lyon

④ Small Gallery

⑤ Room Straßburg

⑥ Automatic Cash Dispenser  
Telephone

⑦ Concierge

⑧ Reception

⑨ Luggage Room

⑩ Room Cannes

⑪ Room Nizza

⑫ Foyer Estrel Hall

⑬ Passage Estrel Hall

⑭ Big Gallery

⑮ Registration and Information desk

⑯ Atrium

⑰ Sun-Thai Restaurant



**Venues at the Conference Center**

**All Plenary Sessions and Panels**  
Estrel Hall A, B, C (1)

**Conference Secretariat**  
Room Straßburg (5)

**Conference Registration and Information Desk**  
Foyer Estrel Hall (15)

**Information Bazaar**  
Passage Estrel Hall (13)

**Coffee and Lunch Breaks**  
Foyer Estrel Hall (12)

**Ramadan Breakfast and Dinners**  
Sun-Thai Restaurant (17)

**Drafting Committee**  
Room Cannes (10)  
Room Nizza (11)

**Internet Café**  
Big Gallery (14)

**Printing**  
Small Gallery (4)

**Youth Symposium**  
Room Paris (2)

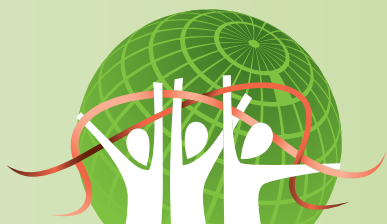
**Satellite Sessions I + II**  
Estrel Hall, A + C (1)

**Donor Panel**  
Estrel Hall A (1)

**Regional Meetings**  
Estrel Hall A, B, C (1)

**Workshop Sessions**  
Estrel Hall C + different venues, will be signposted

**Open Discussions on Strategic Options**  
Estrel Hall C and Foyer Estrel Hall



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## Programme

### Tuesday 1 September 2009

- 9:00 – 20:00 Information and Registration Desk open
- 10:30 – 17:00 **Youth Sexual and Reproductive Rights Symposium**  
Room Paris
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Satellite Sessions I:**  
**Advocacy for Resource Mobilisation in Asia and the Pacific**  
Hosted by: Asia Pacific Alliance (APA),  
Estrel Hall, Section C
- 16:00 – 17:30 **Donor Panel:**  
**Achieving the ICPD Goals within the New Development Cooperation Frameworks –  
The Role of Civil Society**  
Hosted by: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and  
Melinda Gates Foundation  
Estrel Hall, Section A
- 18:00 – 19:30 **Satellite Sessions II:**  
**Population Dynamics and Climate Change**  
Hosted by: German Development Cooperation Theme Group on Sexual and Reproductive  
Health and Rights (SRHR) – BMZ, GTZ, KfW, DSW, Inwent, DED  
Estrel Hall, Section A
- Universal Access to Female Condoms**  
Hosted by: World Population Foundation (WPF)  
Estrel Hall, Section C
- Of Gods, Sex and Politics: Gender, Religion and Sexuality**  
Hosted by: Asian-Pacific Research and Resource Centre for Women (ARROW)  
Estrel Hall, Section C

### Wednesday 2 September 2009

- 9:00 – 20:00 Information and Registration Desk open
- 9:00 – 10:30 **Introductory Plenary on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD):  
Estrel Hall**  
**The Cairo Experience: what was it like and why does it matter?**  
An opportunity, through a lively discussion with experts, who have been involved in the  
ICPD since the beginning and youth participants, to learn about what led to the ICPD and  
the Programme of Action (PoA) and why this agenda remains relevant to health, rights  
and development.
- Panelists: **Adrienne Germain**, President, International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC),  
United States of America  
**Fred Sai**, Reproductive Health Consultant and former Government Advisor,  
Ghana  
**Jacqueline Sharpe**, President, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF),  
Trinidad and Tobago
- Interviewers: **Katie Chau**, Co-Chair Steering Group, Youth Coalition, Canada  
**Moises Russo**, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) –  
Western Hemisphere Region, Chile
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Regional Meetings**  
Estrel Hall
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:15 **Official Opening**  
Estrel Hall
- Keynote Addresses:  
**Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**, Federal Minister, Federal Ministry for  
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany  
**Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
and Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
**Helen Clark**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and  
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Youth Speaker: **Imane Khachani**, Youth Coalition, Morocco
- Chair: **Gill Greer**, Chair Steering Group, Director-General, International Planned  
Parenthood Federation (IPPF), United Kingdom
- 15:15 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**



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15:45 – 17:45

**Opening Interactive Session**

Estrel Hall

**Tackling the ICPD Messages: Sexy, Boring, or Just Plain Hard?**

Panelists will discuss the importance and challenges of incorporating and addressing SRHR issues into national, regional and global policies and initiatives, countering opposition messages and developing effective and cohesive advocacy.

**Panelists:** Emmanuel Etim, Centre for Development Action, Nigeria  
Sergia Galván, Executive Director, Colectiva Mujer y Salud; Co-Founder of Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Mujeres Afrodescendientes, Dominican Republic  
Michelle Goldberg, Journalist and Author, United States of America  
Gita Sen, Professor, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India  
Nono Simelela, Chief Executive Officer, South African National AIDS Council, South Africa (SANAC) (to be confirmed)

**Special Guest:** Nandita Das, Award-Winning Actress and Independent Film-Maker, India

**Moderator:** N.N.

18:15 – 19:30

**Guided Bus Tour and Transfer to Reception**

19:30 – 23:00

**Reception with Dinner at "Wasserwerk" Berlin**

hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

**Thursday 3 September 2009**

8:00 – 19:00

Information Desk open

9:00 – 10:30

**Panel Session: Setting the Scene**

Estrel Hall

**Making Important ICPD Connections and Moving Forward: Linking SRHR to Critical Issues**

In preparation for workshops in the day ahead, this panel will explore how the ICPD PoA is essential to addressing other urgent global issues and longer-term development challenges, such as climate change and the environment, provision of economic and social opportunities, and global health, rights and empowerment more generally.

**Panelists:** Amy Coen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Population Action International, United States of America  
Ana Cristina Gonzalez, Activist and Feminist, Part of the Articulación Feminista Marcosur, Colombia  
Norwell Jermin Hinds, GuyberNet, Guyana  
Pinar Ilkkaracan, Executive Director, Women for Women's Human Rights, Turkey  
Nafis Sadik, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General with additional responsibilities as Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund  
Marilyn Waring, Author and Academic, Board Member, Association for Women's Rights in Development, New Zealand

**Moderator:** Nirvana González Rosa, Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe (RSMLAC), Puerto Rico

10:30 – 11:00

**Coffee Break**

11:00 – 19:00

**Workshops**

**11:00 – 13:00 Workshop Sessions I**

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

**14:30 – 16:30 Workshop Sessions II**

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

**17:00 – 19:00 Workshop Sessions III**

Further information on the sessions and workshop rooms will be circulated separately. The following workshops will be included under the five tracks:

**Track 1: Practices, Strategies and Mechanisms in Implementing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**

**Workshop 1** Role of Civil Society

**Workshop 2** Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), including Family Planning, Access to Information and Services for Young People

**Workshop 3** SRHR and HIV/AIDS and Other Communicable Diseases

**Workshop 4** Maternal Health/Morbidity/Mortality, including Issues of Child Marriage and Child Pregnancy

**Workshop 5** Abortion

**Workshop 6** Strengthening Policymaking, Law Reform, Advocacy and Accountability Mechanisms

**Track 2: Links between SRHR and other Global Health Issues and Partnerships**

**Workshop 7** Inclusion of SRH in Comprehensive Health Care: Health Systems and Marginalized Groups

**Workshop 8** Building Cooperation with Linkages, Engaging Men

**Workshop 9** Young People in Global Health Issues

**Track 3: Gender, Human Rights and SRHR**

**Workshop 10** Human Rights / Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment / Sexual and Reproductive Justice

**Workshop 11** Cultural Diversity and Role of Religion, Tradition, Values and Fundamentalisms

**Workshop 12** Violations and Gender Discrimination

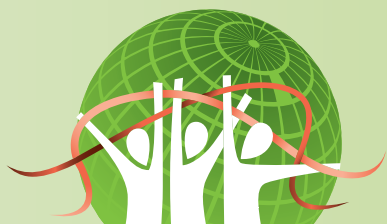
**Workshop 13** Gender-Based Violence, Trafficking, Sexual Rights and Sexual Orientation

**Track 4: SRHR and Development Strategies**

**Workshop 14** Integrating SRHR and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**Workshop 15** Accessing Health and SRH as a Development Strategy, including Poverty Reduction

**Workshop 16** Pleasure, Sexuality and Development



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11:00 – 19:00 **Track 5: Linkages between SRHR, Population, Climate Change and Other Contextual Issues**

**Workshop 17** Climate Change and SRH

**Workshop 18** SRH and the Global Economic Climate

**Workshop 19** Current Challenges to SRHR – Conflict, Migration, Disaster

**Workshop 20** SRHR and Population and Development Interface at National and Global Levels

20:00 – 21:30 **Informal Dinner**

### Friday 4 September 2009

9:00 – 13:00 Information Desk open

8:30 – 9:00 **Open Session: Final Thoughts on the Draft Berlin Call to Action**

Estrel Hall, Section A

Co-Chairs: **Catherina Hinz**, Steering Group Co-Chair, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)  
**Sivananthi Thanenthiran**, Steering Group Co-Chair, Asian-Pacific Research and Resource Centre for Women (ARROW)

9:00 – 11:00 **Open Discussions on Strategic Options**  
Estrel Hall, Section C and Catering Area

Small group discussions will focus on practical actions and top priorities for achieving the ICPD PoA in the next five years and beyond. The outcome of these discussions will inform the NGO Strategic Options agenda to be issued and disseminated widely following the Forum.

**Coffee Break**

11:00 – 11:45 **Closing Session**

11:45 – 13:00 Estrel Hall

**Invest in Health, Rights and the Future: A Berlin Call to Action**

The Global Partners in Action NGO Forum culminates in a Berlin Call to Action for securing the investments needed to realize the ICPD PoA and MDGs by 2015. NGOs will communicate priorities for the future to policymakers and other stakeholders, hear how they see the way forward, and share commitments to prioritizing SRHR.

Speakers: **Anand Grover**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, India  
**Musimbi Kanyoro**, Population Program Director, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Kenya  
**Purnima Mane**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
**Liping Mian**, World AIDS Campaign, China  
**Erich Stather**, State Secretary, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), Germany

Special Guest: **Eva Luise Köhler**, Wife of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany (to be confirmed)

Call to Action Recipients: Members of Parliament from different regions

Chair **Gill Greer**, Chair Steering Group, Director-General, International Planned Parenthood Federation

13:00 **Informal Fare-Well Lunch**

## Fifteen years since Cairo ... five years remaining

The first part of the 1990s saw a series of landmark United Nations inter-governmental conferences on key issues on the development agenda including environment, human rights, social development and women. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the conferences and in their preparatory processes in addition to representatives of governments, inter-governmental bodies and the UN system. Of all the conferences, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, 5–13 September 1994 had the most wide-ranging agenda. In the lead-up to the conference, a series of preparatory meetings took place, together with technical and regional meetings. NGOs played a very important role at the pre-Conference meetings and at the Conference itself and were included in many government delegations. They contributed greatly to the development of the document, which was negotiated at the conference – the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and subsequently adopted by 179 countries.

### 1994 International Conference on Population and Development

The PoA clearly defines the concepts of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights, including universal access to related services and commodities. It also addresses concerns such as universal access to education, with special attention to closing the gender gap in primary and secondary education; universal access to primary health care; reduction in infant, child and maternal morbidity and mortality; and increased life expectancy. It includes recommendations on gender equality and the empowerment of women; the family; sustainable development; the environment, including climate change; and migration. The PoA established a historic global paradigm shift from a population control development approach to one that is both people-centered and rights-based.

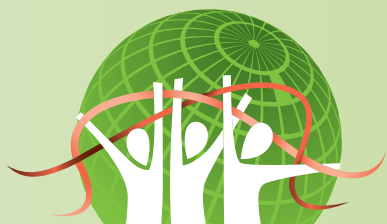
### 1999 ICPD + 5

The first review of progress made in the implementation of the ICPD PoA took place in 1999. In February of that year, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) held an inter-regional 2-day Hague Forum, which was preceded by an NGO Forum. Later in the year the 21st special session of the UN General Assembly was held, at which the **Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Key Actions)** were agreed.

### 2004 ICPD@10

In 2004 the second review took place. By this time the international political climate had changed with new opponents to the Cairo agenda, including the US government under its new President George W Bush. No major inter-governmental meeting was held, although there were regional meetings and technical meetings and a commemorative session of the General Assembly. An NGO Global Roundtable organized by the Countdown 2015 Initiative, under the leadership of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Population Action International and Family Care international, took place in London. In addition a review of in-country progress was carried out with the results being published by UNFPA – Investing in People: National Progress in Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.





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### 2009 ICPD at 15

This year, the third review of the progress made in implementing the ICPD PoA takes place. Again there is no global inter-governmental meeting, with the exception of a commemorative event at the UN General Assembly. Technical meetings and regional meetings will also take place and **Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development – Invest in Health, Rights and the Future** is being held in Berlin 2–4 September, co-hosted by the UNFPA and the Government of Germany. Other NGO events are also taking place in 2009, including the 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) to be held in Beijing, China from 17–20 October 2009, as well as other regional and sub-regional meetings.

### ICPD and the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals

While the focus in the early 1990s had been on major international conferences addressing specific topics and often accompanied by parallel NGO Forums, at the beginning of the 21st century the pattern for promoting sustainable development changed with the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the subsequent introduction of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Regrettably sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights were omitted from the eight MDGs. However, at the World Summit held in 2005, Heads of Government committed themselves to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015. In turn this led to an additional target MDG Target 5B.

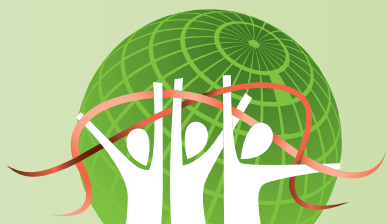
### A unique document for sexual and reproductive health and rights

The ICPD PoA is unique in defining sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Reproductive health as included in para 7.2 is “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system that implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.” Men and women should be informed and have access to “safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods for the regulation of fertility which are not against the law”. Reproductive health care is also “defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being...” These are further enumerated in para 7.6 Sexual health is also included in para 7.2 “the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.” Reproductive rights are included in para 7.3 and are based on “the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so.”

The PoA includes carefully crafted language on which the largest number of United Nations member states gathered in Cairo could reach consensus such as that on the rights of adolescents to information and services and unsafe abortion. Some of the language was ‘moved forward’ in the Key Actions, for example that on HIV/AIDS, for which the magnitude of the problem had not been realized in 1994, and on the training of health professionals for abortion services where it is not against the law. Subsequently both NGOs and governments have concentrated on ensuring that there has been no backtracking on the Cairo Agenda. Both the Programme of Action and the Key Actions include specific goals, in some cases with indicators for their implementation. These form the basis for some of the MDG goals and targets, the most notable being the targets for some of the health-related MDGs, particularly MDG5, namely the reductions in maternal mortality and universal access to reproductive health by 2015. The ICPD PoA is unique insofar as it includes a costing of the resources necessary for its implementation; however, while financial targets have been set, substantial shortfalls in funding, particularly from donor countries, have impeded progress in its achievement.

### Five years to go for both ICPD and the MDGs

2015 will mark both the end of the period for the ICPD PoA and the MDGs. As such now is an appropriate time to renew efforts to achieve their targets and goals in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. In this regard the 2009 session of the Commission on Population and Development was particularly important insofar as it demonstrated on behalf of governments an unprecedented emphasis on human rights, including in regard to sexuality; a new commitment to “comprehensive education on sexuality and gender equality,” access to male and female condoms and reproductive health services for adolescents **without** the usual restrictive language on culture, religion, parental rights, etc; the importance of integrating HIV and SRH, particularly for girls and women; the need for a priority for maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as for reproductive health overall in health systems strengthening; and the first intergovernmental statement recognizing MDG target 5b (universal access to reproductive health). Before the end of the year other initiatives will be in place to assist in moving forward, including a new report by the Guttmacher Institute – **Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health**.



## Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development

Invest in Health, Rights and the Future  
Berlin, Germany | September 2–4, 2009

[www.globalngoforum.org](http://www.globalngoforum.org)



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- Catherina Hinz | Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Co-Chair
- Sivananthi Thanenthiran | Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Co-Chair
  
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