

# The ICPD Puzzle Pieces in the SDGs Puzzle Portrait:



## Reposition Population Policies in the SDGs Mindset: The Only Way Forward, Beyond the Beyond!

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# 1994 ICPD: How It Came About?

## Conference Mania of the early 1990s

- |  |                |      |
|--|----------------|------|
| • UNCED                                    | Rio de Janeiro | 1992 |
| • World Conference on Human Rights         | Vienna         | 1993 |
| • ICPD                                     | Cairo          | 1994 |
| • World Summit for Social Development      | Copenhagen     | 1995 |
| • Fourth World Conference on Women         | Beijing        | 1995 |
| • World Food Summit                        | Rome           | 1996 |
| • Second UN Conference on Human Settlement | Istanbul       | 1996 |

*Conferences ended up with rhetorical declarations/ no operational framework. Accordingly, no follow up or implementation or monitoring could be devised or initiated by either the Secretariat or member states*

# 1974 Bucharest and 1984 Mexico

Bucharest in 1974: Population Explosion/ Curb Growth  
Mexico in 1984: Empower Women to Curb Growth

## ***Pre ICPD Population policies:***

- one agenda item, reducing numbers in developing countries; adopting demographic targets under “sugar-coated” concepts; Women reproducing individuals whose fertility required reduction, Development/ Economic development measured through GDP per capita/Averages, Governments taking bedroom and life-choice decisions for people, Top-down prescriptive

# 1994 ICPD: A Watershed Then!

- ✓ **Issue:** Reproductive Health/ Life Cycle Definition  
Gender Equality/ Reproductive Rights
- ✓ **Aim:** *Broader social development with RH being entry point*  
*Reproductive rights as reference*  
*Population is not about numbers: It is about people*
- ✓ **Gender:** *Women are human beings in their own right*
- ✓ **Paradigm Shift:** Separate reproduction as a social function from sexuality and sexual health as a human characteristic
- ✓ **Population policies redefined:** holistic, inclusive of civil society, Process oriented (not demographic target), Change of indicators of development: HDI / RHR / Youth and Women's Empowerment / *Counterpart: Gov. NGOs, Community groups, influential leaders, etc. From IEC to Advocacy!*

# The MDGs: A Packaged “Half Successful” Attempt to Operationalize Priority Goals of the 1990s Conferences

- ✓ Bureaucratic exercise, imposed on member states;
- ✓ Compact with primarily non controversial 8 goals/18 targets;
- ✓ Delayed monitoring framework with 46 indicators
- ✓ Galvanized policy frameworks and funding mechanisms

**YET:** Left significant margin for thematic agendas to run parallel to the MDGs: humanitarian/conflict, migration/refugees, human rights, gender/population and reproductive rights, environment sustainability, peace and security (added on: target 5b: universal access to RH and decent work 1b);

***In this context, ICPD continued to show relevance to countries, particularly since it carried a clear 20-year agenda, ending in 2014***

***Would this be possible still in the context of SDGs?!***

# The SDGs: A Transformational Change, Both Agenda and Process!

Scope of SDGs (17 Goals – 169 Targets!)

- *Focus on human rights, inclusiveness, equality and the three-pronged sustainability (social, economic and environmental)*
- *Commitment to people's centred development*
- *Means of Implementation (MOIs) of SDGs and Accountability*
- *Universality, accountability and common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR)*

# The 15 ICPD POA Principles All Embodied in The SDGs 1/2

- **Principle 1**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

- **Principle 2**

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. People are the most important and valuable resource of any nation.

- **Principle 3**

The right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.

- **Principle 4**

Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and eliminating all forms of violence against women, are the cornerstones of population and development-related programmes.

- **Principle 5**

Population-related goals and policies are integral parts of cultural, economic and social development, the principal aim of which is to improve the quality of life of all people.

- **Principle 6**

Sustainable development requires that the interrelationships between population, resources and development are fully recognized and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance.

- **Principle 7**

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty.

# The 15 ICPD POA Principles All Embodied in The SDGs 2/2

- **Principle 8**

Everyone has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

- **Principle 9**

The family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. Various forms of the family exist.

- **Principle 10**

Everyone has the right to education. Education should be designed to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- **Principle 11**

The child has the right to an adequate standard of living, health and education and to be free from neglect, exploitation and abuse.

- **Principle 12**

Countries receiving documented migrants should provide proper treatment and adequate social welfare services for them and their families, and should ensure their physical safety and security.

- **Principle 13**

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

- **Principle 14**

States should recognize and support the identity, culture and interests of indigenous people and enable them to participate fully.

- **Principle 15**

Sustained economic growth and social progress require that growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all people.

# Further Integrate ICPD and ICPD Beyond 2014 into The SDGs:

## Two Inevitabilities

# Inevitability of Refocusing Post ICPD and ICPD Beyond 2014 Population Policies in the SDGs Context

THREE primary purposes of any population policy:

- ✓ Works towards a continuously balanced demographic structure by age and sex and steer the effects of its changing dynamics (covering both vertical and lateral vectors of population change); integrating pop and dev components at the national and sub-national levels
- ✓ Works towards ensuring universal access to quality basic social services (SDGs 3,4,5,8, 10, 11) for all at the national and sub-national level, while leaving no one behind;
- ✓ Works towards ensuring equal dividends of human development for all, for current and future generations.

# Inevitability of Enhancing Visibility of Population Components into VNRs

All three purposes of any population policy have to be reflected in any VNR so that the **provisions and principles** of the ICDP POA (including SRH, gender equality, population movements, etc.) even if we don't mention ICPD or ICPD Beyond, may find way to be incorporated into SDGs.

Avoid risk of redundancy of Population Councils through:

- ✓ Redefining mandate, governance, coordination and inter-agency roles of Population Councils as **Population, and Sustainability Councils**, build relevant capacity and assign institutional and stewardship role in VNR;
- ✓ Equipping **Population and Sustainability Councils**, in addition to **policy advocacy role**, with capacity to manage data for purpose of tractability and traceability at the national and sub-national level and for playing a greater role in advocating for time-bound population Key Results Areas (KRAs)

**Thank you**