

ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

30th September, 2013

Ulaanbaatar

We, Parliamentarians and Government Representatives, meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 30th of September, 2013, at the National High Level Meeting on Population and Development: Commitment Beyond 2014, issue the following declaration:

Recalling the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994, and its annexes, and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD adopted in 1999 and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews,

Also recalling the outcome document of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013,

Further recalling the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The Future We Want", in which the Heads of State, Government and high-level representatives reaffirmed the Rio principles, including common, but differentiated responsibilities, and a commitment to promoting a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities,

We reaffirm our commitment to continue work for achieving the aims and goals of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We urge our Government to develop long-term strategies to address population and development issues and integrate them into socio-economic and political systems.

We must make, and encourage, greater effort to link population and development, and to increase access and improve the quality of reproductive health services for all people, particularly adolescents, in addition to enhancing and promoting efforts to abolish gender-based discrimination and violence.

We acknowledge that development and implementation of the national comprehensive policy on population development (2014-2024) will integrate population dynamics into the socio-economic development of Mongolia, promoting the equitable development of families with a strong focus on supporting young people's development. We commend the national comprehensive policy on population development, which aims to improve the quality of life for all age groups. We laud the policy for addressing the importance of supporting young people's employment during the current demographic window of opportunity, while also addressing the growing elderly population.

We recognize that health is one of the crucial issues for sustainable development and commit to working with all partners to improve justice, economic efficiency and environmental protection, as key foundations for improving public health²².

We commit to improving the quality of comprehensive sexual education, in addition to enhancing access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health services, particularly maternal, child and youth-friendly health services, with clearly identifiable targets and budget allocations.

We commit to protecting and strengthening the reproductive rights of all people, while also increasing the accessibility of reproductive health and family planning services in urban and rural areas. Priority attention will be paid

²² http://mne.mn/v3/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Rio-Outcome_mon_PDF.pdf

to enhancing the rights of women, children, youth, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, mobile populations and ethnic minorities and elderly people. We recognize that male involvement is essential in recognizing this objective.

We will encourage all partners in development, at all levels, to act immediately, in a coordinated and concerted effort, to prevent the further spread of STIs/HIV, while giving special attention to adolescents and young people.

We commit to increase access to human rights-based family planning services by ensuring access to contraceptive services with comprehensive information about, and voluntary access to and choice of, the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable and modern methods of contraception, so that individuals are able to voluntarily exercise free, responsible and informed reproductive choice, regardless of sex, age, marital status and other characteristics.

We commit to improve the relevance and quality of life skills-based sexual and reproductive health education at all levels of the education system to promote healthy sexual behavior and reduce unmet needs for family planning and STIs.

We support implementation of the Gender equality Law and its incorporation into national development policies in a timely manner. Throughout this process, we will ensure women's comprehensive and effective participation at all levels of policy development and law implementation. We will pay particular attention to women's sustainable economic empowerment and ensuring their rights to property.

We are concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different manifestations, and commit to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health services and programmes.

We commit to focusing on social, economic and structural determinants of inequality and inequity and ensure these determinants are addressed in laws, policies and programmes. We will strive to decrease the vulnerabilities of marginalized and vulnerable groups in accordance with the United Nation's recommendations on social protection floor.

We recognize that civil society organizations have an important responsibility for accelerated achievement of ICPD goals and promoting an inclusive post-2015 development agenda, as key groups for accountability monitoring and by being a bridge between people and decision makers.

We recognize the importance of enhancing the capacity of national institutions related to population and development to better incorporate population dynamics into broader development objectives.

We recognize the need for effective and equitable policy and program-based financing for development, and an unwavering commitment to prioritizing the development priorities of this declaration.

We commit to improving inter-sectoral cooperation to address population and development issues reflected in the DECLARATION.

We recognize that Government, international organizations and civil society organizations must cooperate for resource mobilization and effective action to successfully address population and development issues.

Finally, we, Members of Parliament and Government, resolve to ensure the participation, inclusion, human rights and aspirations of the people we represent – especially young people and the most marginalized, is reflected in all of our laws, policies and programmes.

High Level Meeting Participants