

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft Resolution

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

The Commission on Population and Development,

PP1. *Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹ and the key actions for its further implementation.²

PP2. *Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families,

PP3. *Recalling further* the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits including the United Nations Millennium Declaration³, the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁴, the Beijing Platform for Action⁵ and Five-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, the World Programme of Action for Youth⁶, and the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding⁷, the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS of 10 June 2011, and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases of 19 September 2011, as well as the outcome document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

PP4. *Reaffirming* that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

PP5. *Acknowledging* the largest generation of adolescents and youth ever in history and cognizant that different demographic trends and age structures impact directly their lives and have various impacts on development, depending on circumstances in each country, and on the size of investments required to ensure

¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

² See resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-21/5/Rev.1)*; and A/S-21/PV.9.

³ See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁶ See resolutions 50/81 and 62/126.

⁷ See resolution 65/312.

the health and development of current and future generations, and recognizing the evolving capacities, needs, contributions and challenges of adolescents and youth, and that classifications and definitions of age groups vary in accordance with each country's national legislation,

PP6. *Recognizing* that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfill their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the wellbeing and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to promote the interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, inter alia, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

PP7. *Recognizing also* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, including those related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, which would also contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as those on population and development, education and gender equality, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that population dynamics are all-important for development,

PP8. *Recognizing further* that adolescents and youth in all countries are a major resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation, and that further progress for development requires the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

PP9. *Recognizing* that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries, and calling for enhanced cooperation and concerted action to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that education can play in that respect,

PP10. *Reaffirming* our commitment to realizing the right of everyone to education, and emphasizing that education shall be directed to the full development of the human person and his or her dignity and shall strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and *recalling* that commitments made at the international level emphasize inclusive quality learning, including early childhood education, and universal access to complete, free and compulsory primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and training and lifelong learning, as well as equal access to education and successful schooling for girls and women,

PP11. *Addressing* the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including youth migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at local, national, regional and global levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society,

PP12. *Noting* with concern that for millions of people throughout the world, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, still remains a distant goal and that in many cases, especially for children, youth and people living in poverty, the likelihood of achieving this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

PP13. *Reaffirming* the need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of youth development, recognizing the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women and the need to eliminate discrimination against them, and the critical role of boys and young men in ensuring gender equality,

PP14. *Concerned* that early and forced marriage and forced sexual relationships have adverse physical, social and psychological effects on adolescent and young girls and violate their human rights, and that early childbearing and early and forced marriage reduce opportunities for adolescent and young girls to complete their education, develop employable skills and participate in community development,

PP15. *Recognizing* that reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents and rest on the recognition of 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, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence as expressed in human rights documents. Human rights include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence,

PP16. *Recognizing also* that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years account for more than 40 per cent of all new HIV infections among those aged 15 or over because of the social and economic factors and other inequities that increase their vulnerability, including stigma and discrimination, gender-based and sexual violence, gender inequality and violations and lack of accurate information on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and ready access to sexual and reproductive health including HIV services,

PP17. *Deeply concerned* that young women living with HIV would like to space or limit pregnancy but are not using an effective modern method of contraception due to limited access to voluntary family planning services, and that addressing reproductive health and HIV together would better serve the needs of clients and health care providers in a more comprehensive, cost effective and efficient manner,

PP18. *Recognizing* that all forms of violence against adolescents and youth violate their rights and in this regard recognizing the need to take appropriate actions to address the factors that increase the particular vulnerability of adolescents and youth to all forms of violence,

PP19. *Recognizing also* the importance of preventing and addressing youth crime, including drug-related crime, and its impact on youth and the socio-economic development of societies, as well as of protecting young victims, witnesses and their respective families, as well as supporting the rehabilitation, reintegration and inclusion of young offenders in society with a view to their assuming constructive roles,

PP20. *Emphasizing* that the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will contribute to address all factors and root factors that foster demand and make adolescents and youth, especially young women and girls, vulnerable to trafficking, as well as the protection and rehabilitation of victims and will inter alia promote, as appropriate, increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

PP21. *Recognizing* the contributions of adolescents and young migrants to countries of origin and destination, their particular vulnerabilities, circumstances and needs, and their potential to build social, economic and cultural bridges of cooperation and understanding across societies, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the socio-economic circumstances and specific needs of young migrants,

PP22. *Recognizing also* that malaria-related ill health and deaths throughout the world, particularly among children, adolescents and youth, can be substantially reduced with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized about malaria and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where the disease is endemic,

PP23. *Recalling* that the Programme of Action requires for its full implementation adequate and sustained mobilization and availability of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, and that Governments are not expected to meet the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action single-handedly, and expressing concern that funding levels do not meet current needs,

PP24. *Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on adolescents and youth, and of the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes focusing on adolescents and youth, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

OP1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation;

OP2. *Reaffirms also* its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action agreed at the five-year review of the Programme of Action, and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action;

OP3. *Reaffirms further* the sovereign right of each country to implement recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

OP4. *Calls upon* Governments, in formulating and implementing national development plans, budgets and poverty eradication strategies, to prioritize actions to address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty, and sustainable development, keeping in mind that universal reproductive health-care services, commodities and supplies, as well as information, education, skill development, national capacity-building for population and development and transfer of appropriate technology and know-how to developing countries are essential for achieving the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals;

OP5. *Calls upon also* Governments, considering the development situation in each country, to promote both intergenerational equity and solidarity by taking into account the implications of the changing age structures of the population in medium- and long-term development planning and by considering the age-related consequences of social and economic policies and further calls upon Governments and development partners to make youth development a priority across all sectors;

OP6. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to combat all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status and to foster social integration for marginalized groups, such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

OP7. *Urges also* Governments to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age and marital status, including, inter alia, by eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls and women, working more effectively to achieve equality between women and men in all areas of family responsibility, in sexual and reproductive life, in education at all levels, and by protecting the human rights of adolescents and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health;

OP8. *Urges further* Member States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

OP9. *Urges* all States to develop, adopt, and fully implement laws and take other measures, such as policies and educational programmes, as appropriate, to eradicate harmful practices, including, among others, female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage, which are violations of the human rights of women and girls, and to intensify efforts, in cooperation with local women's and youth groups, to raise collective and individual awareness on how such harmful practices violate the human rights of women and girls;

OP10. *Calls upon* the international community to support ways to expand access to and the affordability of key products, such as vector control measures, including indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, environmental management and vaccines, as well as by monitoring surveillance through lab-rapide testing, and artemisinin-based combination therapy for populations at risk of exposure to resistant strains of falciparum malaria in malaria-endemic countries, particularly in Africa, including through additional funds and innovative mechanisms, inter alia, for the financing and scaling up of artemisinin production and procurement, as appropriate, to meet the increased need;

OP11. *Welcomes* the increased funding for malaria interventions and for research and development of preventive and control tools that will target children, adolescents and youth,

OP12. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect all adolescents and youth, including those in situations of armed conflict, natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence and sexual violence, trafficking in persons, and involvement in criminal activities and to provide social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and complaint and reporting mechanisms for the redress of violations of their human rights;

OP13. *Urges also* Member States to take effective measures in conformity with international law to protect adolescents and youth affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;

OP14. *Urges further* Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of adolescents and youth living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

OP15. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially young people, regardless of their migration status, and address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people and address the root causes of youth migration, while avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

OP16. *Calls upon also* Governments to take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and young women, to remove all obstacles to gender equality, to promote the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of youth development, and to encourage boys and young men to participate fully in all actions toward gender equality;

OP17. *Further calls upon* Governments to support and encourage men in their important role as fathers and in helping their children transition successfully to adulthood, including by providing adequate financial support for their children and families; to promote positive male role models and programmes for boys to become gender-sensitive adults; and to enable men to support, promote and respect women's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recognizing the inherent dignity of all human beings;

OP18. Urges Member States to improve and actively support opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work, including through investment in youth employment programmes, youth-adult partnerships, entrepreneurship and other income generation strategies, active labour markets, public-private partnerships, and other measures to facilitate the participation of young people in labour markets, in accordance with States' respective national laws and international obligations and commitments, and to reinforce links between national development strategies and policies on education, training, social integration and mobility, taking into account gender equality and the empowerment of women;

OP19. Urges also Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation; improved employability; skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants; and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society; and in this regard request donors, specialized United National entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance, including technical and funding support, as required;

OP20. Encourages Member States to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in the areas of education, work, income creation and citizen participation, through, *inter alia*, training programmes that result from dialogue between governments, employers and employees of various sectors of the economy, as appropriate;

OP21. Calls upon Member States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand the education of girls and women at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, *inter alia*, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

OP22. Urges Member States to increase efforts to improve the quality of education and to promote universal access to education, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that adolescents and youth can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including by appropriate access to scholarships and other mobility programmes, among others;

OP23. Urges also Governments and the international community to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination; by paying special attention to nutrition including eating disorders and obesity prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, promotion of sexual and reproductive health, and mental health; and by supporting measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries, to

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