

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CANNOT WAIT: ALL RIGHTS, ALL PEOPLE, ACTING NOW

2023 Report of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up



ICPD25
International Conference on
Population and Development

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Acknowledgements

The Co-Chairs of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 extend their deepest appreciation to all Commissioners in the release of this third and final report by the Commission and for their commendable commitment and contributions over the past three years. With the Commission's work as per its three-year term and mandate coming to an end, while we have the ICPD30 review process firmly on the horizon culminating in its global review next year in 2024, we wish to commend the Commissioners for their partnership in the continuous advocacy for the implementation of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 commitments and the call to action and recommendations from our 2021 report *No Exceptions, No Exclusions: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice for All*, our 2022 report *Sexual and Reproductive Justice as the Vehicle for Delivering the Nairobi Summit Commitments*, and our 2023 final report.

We sincerely thank the Commission's Secretariat, under the leadership of Ms. Saskia Schellekens, Global Coordinator, ICPD25 Follow-up, for the outstanding support and guidance received over the past three years, including in preparation again of this final report. Also much gratitude to the author of our 2023 report, Ms. Gretchen Luchsinger, who prepared the text with the inputs of the Commissioners and in close coordination with the Secretariat. We extend appreciation as well to Avenir Health again engaging with the Commission in updating the scorecard of the Global Commitments Monitoring Framework to track progress against key indicators for the global Nairobi commitments, and the associated Country Profiles.

We are thrilled that the Commission's report will be accompanied by a youth friendly version prepared by and for young people, on their terms and in their words. We are grateful to the youth-led organizations CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality and the Major Group for Children and Youth in supporting the development of these and other materials, including a guide for youth engagement in ICPD-related processes, as well as regional and global youth consultations to empower young people to keep the momentum on the accountability for the implementation of the ICPD25 commitments as we move into the ICPD30 process.

We hope that this final report will complement the efforts of so many others, especially those close to the ground, as we collectively seek to continue to leverage the momentum of the Nairobi Summit ensuring that every action contributes to making the ICPD Programme of Action a reality in people's lives all over the world.

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A word from the chairpersons

It has been our privilege and pleasure to lead the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up. Over the past three years, the Commission has given global visibility to an agenda for sexual and reproductive justice. We believe this is the vehicle with which we will finally realize the landmark standards set at the 1994 Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and reconfirmed at the Nairobi Summit that marked its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The word “justice” is an important one. It recognizes that sexual and reproductive health and rights cannot wait another moment, much less years or even decades. Too many people have been left behind in every part of the world, caught in multiple traps of discrimination, deprived of bodily autonomy and their right to make choices about their lives. These injustices must be redressed, in their totality. Only then can all people thrive as part of stable, developed and fair societies.

This final report of the Commission, the third in a series, provides a quick and accessible summary of thinking and findings from its work. The report demonstrates the power of sexual and reproductive justice as a framework to link issues, people’s movements and monitoring to keep progress on track.

Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete

Co-Chair & Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

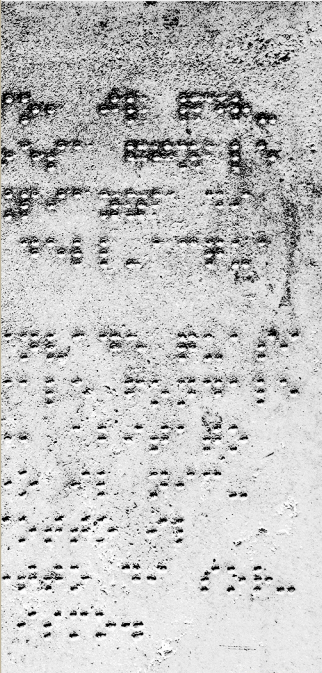
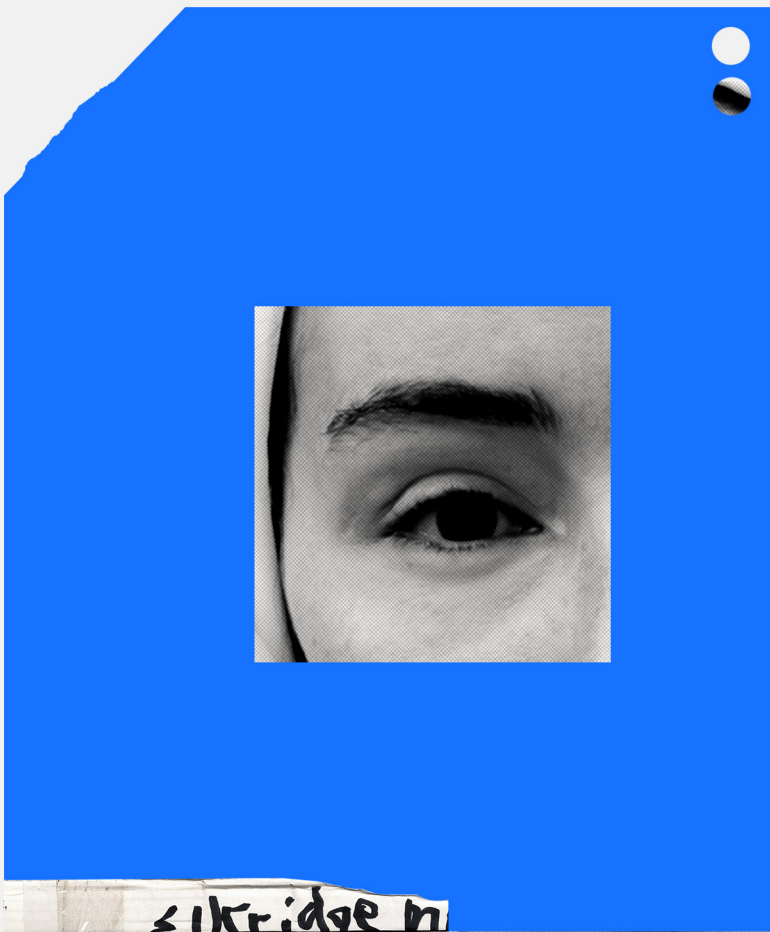
At the same time, the report urges action. In 2019, the Nairobi Summit made a series of commitments to complete the ICPD agenda; progress, however, is lagging. It is true that the Commission’s tenure was marked by multiple crises that set the entire world off track. Yet as we look towards the thirtieth anniversary of the ICPD in 2024, we must remain ever vigilant against backtracking – and insistent on much faster advances.

The Commission convened experts from government, activism, philanthropy, research and more. Our exchanges have been rich, full of diverse perspectives, always infused by our shared commitment to humanity. The issues are complex, but constructive openness and a willingness to listen and engage led to strong consensus and a powerful endorsement of the Commission’s reports. We are grateful to all Commission members for sharing their ideas and their passion.

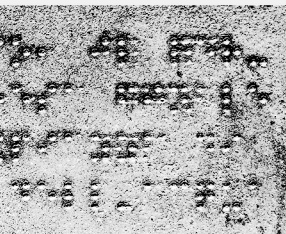
The cry for justice, once heard, cannot be ignored. Countries and activist movements around the world are calling for justice, for all people, across all issues. They are an inspiration, rising up for change. We believe they are also harbingers of a better future, one envisioned by the ICPD, and despite the challenges, always within reach.

Michaëlle Jean

Co-Chair & Former Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada; and former Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie



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Accelerating the promise

In late 2019, the *Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise* drew 8,300 people from 170 countries and territories. They made over 1,300 commitments to realize the landmark Programme of Action agreed to at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The Summit's Nairobi Statement offered 12 overarching global commitments to complete an unfinished ICPD agenda.

Since then, the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up, an independent advisory body of accomplished experts from around the world, has monitored progress on the 12 commitments. In two follow-up reports, the Commission detailed updates and recommendations based on the findings of a global monitoring framework (Annex A).

This work, which took place amid significant pressures from the COVID-19 pandemic, mounting political and social polarization and backtracking on sexual and reproductive rights, led to the Commission's urgent call for sexual and reproductive justice. The Commission has emphasized that no country has yet achieved this – and that every country must do so. Only then will the world realize all Nairobi commitments, the entire ICPD agenda, and, ultimately, the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further, everyone must be involved in upholding and claiming sexual and

reproductive justice, including governments, parliaments, private firms, philanthropies, civil society, youth and individuals from all walks of life.

In this final brief summary of its two reports, the Commission strongly reiterates its call for sexual and reproductive justice. While gains have been made, sexual and reproductive health continues to reflect deep-seated patterns of discrimination. Unjust laws, insufficient investments and health-care practices that do not comply with human rights are elements of continued violence and abuse against women and girls, minorities, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. Deeply unfair gaps in wealth, political voice and a spectrum of human rights compound these disparities.

The Commission believes that sexual and reproductive justice is integral to the global quest for societies that are fully developed, fair and inclusive. It should be a central focus as the world moves to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the ICPD in 2024. Taking a justice perspective can and must transform sexual and reproductive health and rights into a source of empowerment and autonomy in all human lives, without exception.

Progress and setbacks

in a polarized world

Human well-being in today's world has advanced as never before. People are living longer, healthier lives. There is greater commitment to and accountability for progress across all regions of the world. Based on the latest calculation of its global monitoring framework scorecard, the Commission notes improvements on maternal health in Northern Africa and Western Asia (global commitment 3), and advances on youth engagement and empowerment in Europe and Northern America, Oceania, and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (global commitment 11).

Nonetheless, billions of people continue to be left behind. The human rights inherent to every person are far from realized. The pandemic and its after-effects have generated widening inequalities and want. Despite decades of progress, poverty rates are rising. Crisis has displaced hundreds of millions of people. New threats have resulted from polarization and disagreement around how to recover and move forward.

For some actors, the current moment has become an opportunity to exploit divisions. The Commission remains highly concerned by mounting evidence that, in every part of the globe, regressive forces are not just preventing progress for humanity but rolling it back altogether. Half the world's democracies are in decline.¹ Measures of human development have retreated for two years in a row for the first time in decades.² As the

Commission stressed in its second report, worsening authoritarianism, nationalism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia and antifeminism are reversing the drive for better health, and for gender, racial and other forms of equality and justice.

The Commission notes with particular concern that no significant change has occurred in the past three years on the full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD Programme of Action (global commitment 1). Limited progress has been made in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies (global commitment 9), including in ensuring more diverse and representative public institutions and parliaments that can drive more inclusive policies on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Investing in youth employment and education to realize a demographic dividend (global commitment 8) is far off track. The Commission is alarmed by persistently high rates of child marriage, especially among girls, as well as continued high numbers of births to mothers under age 18. Little progress has been made in strengthening the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian contexts (global commitment 12).

In short, across the commitments, progress must accelerate. The ambitions are in place; dramatically scaled-up action needs to follow.

National policymaking has integrated Nairobi commitments

UNFPA tracks progress on the commitments made by developing countries at the Nairobi Summit. Since the Summit, 98 countries have created action plans and strategies to implement national Nairobi commitments, integrated commitments into national or sector policies, and/or developed systems to monitor progress.

The countries include:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Albania | Congo | Georgia | Paraguay |
| Angola | Cook Islands | Ghana | Peru |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Costa Rica | Guinea | Philippines |
| Argentina | Côte d'Ivoire | Guinea-Bissau | Republic of Moldova |
| Bangladesh | Cuba | Haiti | Rwanda |
| Benin | Democratic Republic of the Congo | India | Samoa |
| Bhutan | Djibouti | Indonesia | Sao Tome and Principe |
| Bolivia | Dominican Republic | Iraq | Senegal |
| Brazil | Ecuador | Jordan | Sierra Leone |
| Burkina Faso | Egypt | Kazakhstan | Solomon Islands |
| Burundi | Equatorial Guinea | Kenya | Somalia |
| Cambodia | Federated States of Micronesia | Kiribati | South Africa |
| Cameroon | Fiji | Kyrgyzstan | South Sudan |
| Central African Republic | Gabon | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Sri Lanka |
| Chad | The Gambia | Lebanon | State of Palestine |
| Colombia | | Lesotho | Sudan |
| Comoros | | Madagascar | Suriname |
| | | Malawi | Syrian Arab Republic |
| | | Malaysia | Tajikistan |
| | | Mali | Thailand |
| | | Marshall Islands | Togo |
| | | Mauritania | Tonga |
| | | Mexico | Tunisia |
| | | Morocco | Türkiye |
| | | Mozambique | Turkmenistan |
| | | Myanmar | Uganda |
| | | Nepal | United Republic of Tanzania |
| | | Nicaragua | Uzbekistan |
| | | Niger | Vanuatu |
| | | Nigeria | Viet Nam |
| | | North Macedonia | Yemen |
| | | Pakistan | Zambia |
| | | Panama | Zimbabwe |



Some countries have seen rights reversals

Backlash against sexual and reproductive rights has erupted in some places since the 2019 Nairobi Summit. Examples include the following:

Afghanistan: The return of the Taliban has devastated the lives of women and girls. They have lost education and jobs, health care and protections from gender-based violence, among many other consequences.

Uganda: Crackdowns against LGBTQ groups were given new impetus and severity through a law that “foresees the application of the death penalty and long prison sentences for consensual acts between adults. This law raises the risk of worsening the violence and persecution already faced by lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Uganda.”³ In total, 70 countries still criminalize private, consensual same sex relations; 12 impose the death penalty.⁴

United States of America: The rollback of constitutional protections for abortion became a major blow to bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights, especially for poorer women, women of colour, and pregnant women and people in marginalized communities with already limited choices in seeking care.



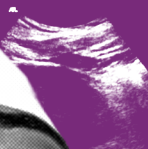


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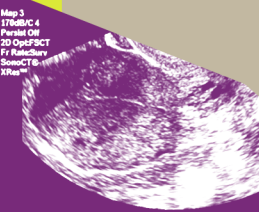
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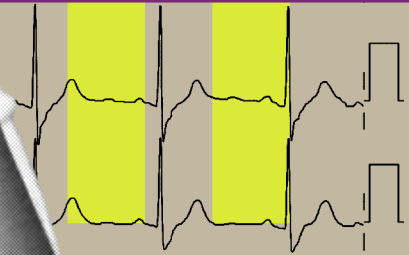
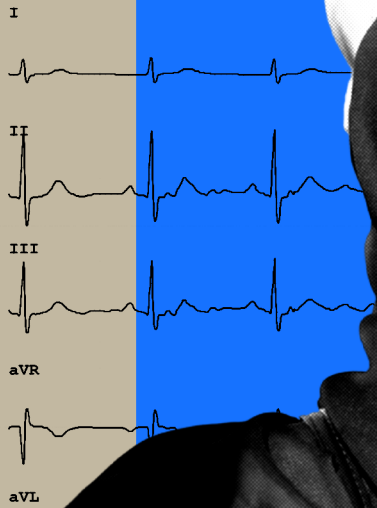


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LEFT OVARY



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Why sexual and reproductive justice?

Why now?

Justice is a unifying call – for dignity, for rights and well-being, for redress in cases of harm. No development takes place without justice. A polarized world both indicates and exacerbates injustice.

Justice demands taking deliberate actions to make good on commitments to development and human rights. It requires redressing the unequal distribution of power and the unfair distribution of resources. It depends on listening to what people define as their needs and choices – and then guaranteeing their right to make their own decisions.

The Commission underscores that a framework of sexual and reproductive justice should be universally applied, by all countries and for all communities and people. This requires acting on all barriers to sexual and reproductive rights, whether social, legal, environmental, economic or political. It demands a specific focus on removing multiple, interconnected forms of discrimination that compound each other. These may be linked to socioeconomic status, disabilities, gender identity and race, among other factors. They drive vast differences in the realization of rights, choices and bodily autonomy.

Many types of oppression have long histories. They are baked into the structures of societies and economies. This means that individuals cannot fully surmount them acting on their own – nor should they be expected to do so. States bear the primary duty to take measures required to realize human rights and sexual and reproductive justice. At the same time, private sector businesses, large and small, wherever they operate, have a responsibility to respect human rights.⁵ Civil society organizations are fundamental in protecting and claiming rights. They must be safeguarded against harassment and abuse and able to freely perform their role.⁶

As a starting point for achieving sexual and reproductive justice, the Commission notes the imperative for clearer, more robust evidence to define disparities among various populations and how these intersect. This must be the basis for accelerating actions that deliver not just some rights but all of them, and not just for some people but for everyone.

Where the call to justice is being heard

The Commission appreciates the growing number of countries applying the principles of sexual and reproductive justice for all.

Since 2015, the Government of **South Africa** has integrated principles of reproductive justice in its population policy and engaged with civil society and academia to explore links with governance, service delivery, migration and mobility, culture and tradition, and inequality and demography. Starting in 2022, a series of seminars drew together over 1,000 national, provincial and district actors to define priority, science-based interventions for groups facing intersectional discrimination. This deepened awareness of how to apply sexual and reproductive justice principles, including by showcasing innovations in practices, research and policy. It marked a step towards formulating a national

sexual and reproductive justice strategy, expected to be presented for Cabinet endorsement.⁷

Collective advocacy in the **Republic of Korea** framed abortion as a social justice issue, leading to its decriminalization. In **Ireland**, abortion rights activists highlighted maternal mortality, economic oppression and reproductive justice to successfully make the case for repealing an abortion ban. In **Argentina**, feminists have linked activism for abortion – finally legalized in 2020 – to struggles to stop domestic violence, end gender pay gaps, and prevent the murders of female environmental and indigenous activists. **Mexico's** Supreme Court struck down the criminalization of abortion after describing it as an “act of gender-based violence and discrimination.

The cost of injustice is unrelenting

Safe motherhood is a human right, yet a woman still dies every two minutes from mostly preventable causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth, amounting to over 280,000

deaths every year. Following decades of progress in reducing maternal mortality, rates are now stagnating or reversing around the world.⁸



Demonstrating how multiple forms of discrimination intersect and amplify each other, the situation is worst in regions still contending with the aftermath of colonialism and continued racism: 86 per cent of global maternal deaths, for example,

occur in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.⁹ Compared to women in Europe and North America, sub-Saharan African women are around 130 times more likely to die from complications during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.¹⁰

Disparities in the response to crises

The Commission is concerned with recent evidence of continued disparities in the response to crises that trace the lines of geography, gender and race, and result in injustice. In 2023, a report by the Norwegian Refugee Council found that people in Ukraine had received four times more funding than people in the world's 10 most neglected displacement crises, seven of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. Burkina Faso is the worst case, with 2 million displaced people and 800,000 people without access to health-care, education and other essential services. Africa as a whole faced a 7 per cent drop in international aid in 2022.¹¹

Another example of gaps: while humanitarian operations have begun paying increased attention to the higher risks of gender-based violence among displaced women and girls, programming remains chronically underfunded. Of the funding requested

by the United Nations humanitarian system to address gender-based violence in 2022, only 20.1 per cent was received. That same year, 94 per cent of United Nations humanitarian clusters reported that the risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, trafficking and harmful practices, was severe or extreme.¹²

In Sudan, even before conflict broke out in 2023, 3 million women and girls were at risk of gender-based violence. War has pushed that figure to 4.2 million, with women reporting cases of horrific violence driven by the conflict, including mass rapes. Attacks on health-care facilities prevent survivors and other women from getting emergency, life-saving care.¹³ The cost of the humanitarian response plan is nearly \$2.6 billion. While donors have come forward to support it, over 80 per cent of the plan remains unfunded.¹⁴

A framework for unity

Realizing sexual and reproductive justice requires simultaneously tackling multiple forms of discrimination and barriers to rights. This approach reduces the “silo-ing” of issues that in reality are closely interconnected. It can expedite progress across the Nairobi commitments, the ICPD agenda and the SDGs.

The Commission continues to emphasize that universal health coverage is a core ambition of the SDGs, and that this includes all components of sexual and reproductive health care. These are essential services that must be affordable, high quality, responsive to diverse needs and fully available in humanitarian crises. Scaled-up investment in midwifery remains crucial to improve service quality and reach, including to marginalized groups.

The Commission also underscores that sexual and reproductive justice depends on more than health-care service delivery. Among many other determinants, it requires fulfilling the right to education, including comprehensive sexuality education; guaranteeing fair and equal pay; realizing universal social protection and childcare; ending the plague of gender-based violence; sustaining a healthy environment;

removing all forms of discrimination against people with disabilities; redressing racial discrimination; and ensuring that women and girls no longer carry most of the burden of unpaid care work. Public policymaking, investment choices and data collection must begin to make such links.

The need for sexual and reproductive justice among youth and adolescents is particularly acute, even more so for those who are poor, female, have disabilities and/or are marginalized by race or ethnicity. Their generation is falling behind on many fronts. Losses to health, education and employment during the pandemic have been compounded by political polarization and the erosion of legal rights. Risks of intergenerational injustice are rising as the climate outlook worsens.

The Nairobi commitments put a central focus on sexual and reproductive justice for youth and adolescents, an emphasis that the Commission continues to endorse. In line with the call of young delegates at the Summit for “nothing about us, without us,” the Commission reiterates its appeal for the active participation of youth, in all their diversity, in making all decisions to meet their needs and uphold their rights.

Mixed commitments

Numerous country-level Nairobi commitments pay attention to marginalized and vulnerable populations, an important step towards sexual and reproductive justice. Most often, they refer to people with disabilities, refugees, migrants and older persons. They also indicate the persistence of some patterns of exclusion, however, paying less attention to indigenous peoples, people of African descent and ethnic minorities.

Rights are interdependent and indivisible

In General Comment No. 2 on the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights stated that the civil and political rights elements of sexual and reproductive rights cannot be set apart from the socioeconomic elements. Further, in fulfilling rights guaranteed to women, States must remove barriers in law and policy as well as cultural, social and economic obstacles.

A framework for mobilization

The Commission situates its call for sexual and reproductive justice at the centre of diverse movements for social justice and human rights. At a moment when countervailing forces are strong and multiplying, linking movements for justice is critical. Together, they can have tremendous power in driving transformative changes that last over time.

Sexual and reproductive justice offers many openings for solidarity, from the grass roots to the global level. This has been the case since the concept first emerged, shaped by Black feminist scholars in the United States. They drew connections among movements to claim reproductive rights and to end poverty, racism and environmental degradation.

Indigenous women have mobilized behind ending the destruction of environmental resources as a threat to culture and identity, and to their choices to bear children. Feminist economists have steered movements for economies aligned with gender equality and the fair distribution of resources. Among other elements, they have called for expanded investments and services to close wide gaps in unpaid care work, which can diminish child-bearing, employment and other choices for women, especially the most marginalized.

Young leaders in the climate justice movement have pointed to how the world's poorest communities, often marginalized by race or ethnicity, bear the brunt of climate change even as they have contributed little to its progression. Such communities have the fewest resources to adapt to climate fallout, an injustice that will compound as impacts worsen. Bringing together movements for climate and sexual and reproductive justice is a path for such communities to simultaneously realize multiple rights, make development gains and become more resilient to crises.

A sexual and reproductive justice framework is particularly crucial in humanitarian crises, as the Commission's two previous reports have stressed. People caught in crises face multiple injustices and deficits in sexual and reproductive rights that can result in immediate and lifelong consequences.

Despite some efforts to close gaps, humanitarian action falls short on resources and services to fulfil sexual and reproductive rights. Funding tends to concentrate on select services, such as HIV-related care. Most efforts are geared towards heterosexual, cis-gendered women of reproductive age.¹⁵ Such exclusionary patterns result in lost opportunities to restore development and build justice into relief and recovery.

A sexual and reproductive justice framework can help link humanitarian, development and peace actors to coordinate resources and make responses more inclusive and comprehensive, reaching all groups and responding to multiple needs, from health care to livelihoods. All actors can do more to partner with crisis-affected communities and

encourage the leadership of marginalized groups in defining needed support. Assistance in designing transitional justice strategies can prioritize removing barriers to sexual and reproductive rights, and disrupting discriminatory gender, racial and other harmful norms.

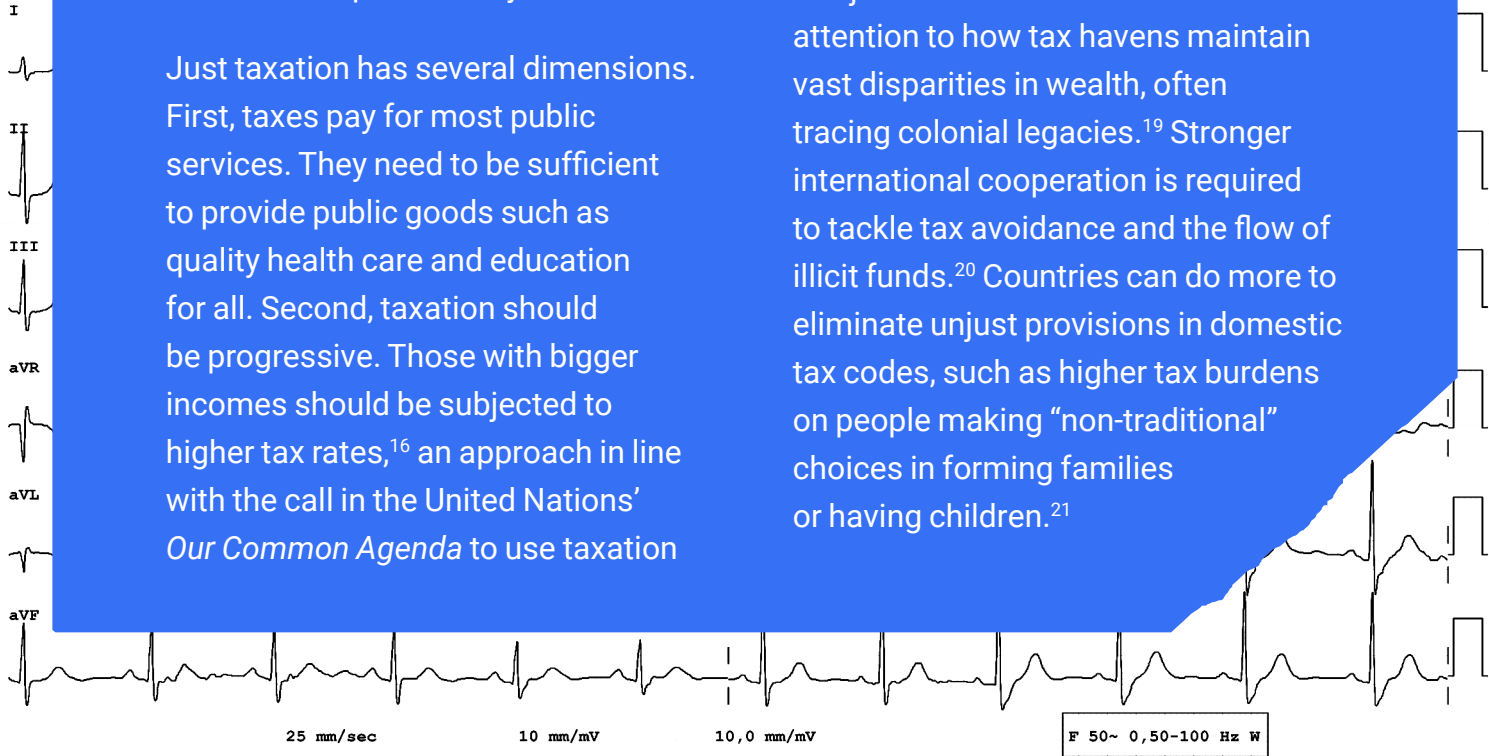
Tax justice to redress disparities

Many forms of injustice stem from the unfair distribution of resources. Equitable tax policy is one way to reset the balance – which is why movements for tax justice have emerged. They offer scope for advocacy alliances with other justice movements, including sexual and reproductive justice.

Just taxation has several dimensions. First, taxes pay for most public services. They need to be sufficient to provide public goods such as quality health care and education for all. Second, taxation should be progressive. Those with bigger incomes should be subjected to higher tax rates,¹⁶ an approach in line with the call in the United Nations' *Our Common Agenda* to use taxation

to “reduce extreme inequalities in wealth.”¹⁷ Third, tax systems should be free of discriminatory biases that arise, for instance, from charging taxes on products that only women use, such as for menstruation.¹⁸

Tax justice movements have drawn attention to how tax havens maintain vast disparities in wealth, often tracing colonial legacies.¹⁹ Stronger international cooperation is required to tackle tax avoidance and the flow of illicit funds.²⁰ Countries can do more to eliminate unjust provisions in domestic tax codes, such as higher tax burdens on people making “non-traditional” choices in forming families or having children.²¹



A framework for keeping ambition on track

The Nairobi Summit embodied global solidarity and high aspiration. It drew together many allies dedicated to sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice. They came from governments and businesses, philanthropies and social justice movements, indigenous communities and organizations of people with disabilities, the arts and sports. They made commitments that created a rigorous architecture of accountability for dismantling injustices and realizing ICPD promises.

Because the Summit's global commitments articulate many goal posts of sexual and reproductive justice, the Commission translated these into a global monitoring framework. Annual findings are featured in each of its three reports. In this, its final report, the Commission encourages other stakeholders to continue to use the framework, which will be available as an online dashboard,²² to keep the commitments on track and to do so with a sense of the greatest urgency given intensifying rollbacks in rights.

The Commission also appreciates and encourages continued progress in bringing elements of sexual and reproductive justice into the Universal Periodic Review of human rights commitments, the Voluntary National Reviews conducted to assess the Sustainable Development Goals, and a variety of regional and national processes for oversight and accountability. These avenues link different components of justice and remain vitally important moving forward.



The growing role of the Universal Periodic Review

Accountability for follow-up on the Nairobi Summit commitments has grown through the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review. In total, from the thirty-fifth through the forty-third sessions of the Universal Periodic Review, spanning 2020 to 2023, it made commitment-related recommendations to 87 countries.

In 2023, the forty-second session reviewed 10 countries; 44 per cent of 2,751 recommendations referred to the Nairobi Summit commitments. For instance, Malaysia recommended that Ghana improve access to sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. Panama called on Peru to accelerate action on its commitment to reduce adolescent pregnancies. South Africa suggested that Japan apply a human rights-based approach to pressing population issues such as rapid ageing.

Extensive references to the commitments underscore the relevance of sexual and reproductive justice to realizing a spectrum of human rights. The recommendations expand options to bring the commitments into national implementation, monitoring and reporting processes related to the Universal Periodic Review, and help ensure sustained scrutiny of progress as countries continue to report back on their advances every four years.

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History



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YOUR CURRENT CYCLE 27 DAYS
4 DAY 15 27 5 >

Your past cycles

9 JUL 2015 - 4 AUG 2015 27 DAYS
4 DAY 15 5 >

12 JUN 2015 - 8 JUL 2015
4 DAY 15 >

16 MAY 2015 - 11 JUN 2015
5 DAY 15 >

19 APR 2015 - 15 MAY 2015
5 DAY 15 >

23 MAR 2015 - 18 APR 2015
5 DAY 15 >



Collective action:

Here's where to start

Sexual and reproductive justice demands greater ambition and stepped-up action. The Commission asserts that this makes it both a powerful framework and a hopeful one. It opens a chance for billions of people to gain healthier, safer, more productive lives, in line with their own choices.

The Commission therefore urges making the thirtieth anniversary of the ICPD in 2024 a moment to call on all countries to achieve sexual and reproductive justice. Slow and incomplete progress in the past should not deter ambition. It should, in fact, inspire more commitment by more people. A just world is one that will work better for us all.

The Commission states unequivocally that sexual and reproductive justice will determine whether or not we reach the people-centred development defined by the ICPD agenda and the SDGs. How far countries progress will in turn define how well they navigate climate and multiple other crises as well as historic demographic trends. Around the world, rapid ageing and widely diverging patterns

of fertility have already sparked concerning responses that undermine sexual and reproductive rights and choices, including those centred on the control of people's bodies and behaviours. Such reactions obscure the reality that demographic and other forms of resilience depend on human empowerment and capabilities to thrive, and on the right and freedom to exercise choice.

Towards ICDP30, the Commission draws on its expertise and findings over the past three years to outline five immediate priorities in taking sexual and reproductive justice forward. These complement the broader call for action developed over the course of the Commission's work, as recapped at the end of this report.

Each priority has strong, evidence-based potential to interrupt multiple forms of discrimination and injustice and contribute to global and national development goals. Together, they invite participation by all actors, in government, parliaments, the private sector and civil society.

1 Invest in midwives for health and justice: The Commission emphasizes that there will be no sexual and reproductive justice without midwives. Evidence of their positive impact is overwhelming. Universal access to midwives, for instance, is the most important factor in ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths. Yet health systems still marginalize and underinvest in them, leaving the world short by about 900,000 midwives. They make up less than 10 per cent of the global sexual and reproductive health workforce but provide 90 per cent of these services. In an almost entirely female profession, gender discrimination results in unequal pay, training opportunities and working conditions.

More just treatment of midwives and their clients would come from creating more leadership positions for midwives, particularly in ministries of health, gender equality and finance. They must be able to lead and influence health-care policy choices that give midwifery the respect and professional position it deserves. This would improve health-care services and open options for decent work for women.

2 Provide comprehensive sexuality education to uphold rights and choices: A lack of knowledge about sexuality and reproduction is an injustice that feeds many others, putting adolescents and young people at risk of coercion and abuse as well as disease and unintended pregnancy. The Commission points out that the protective power of comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education has been widely demonstrated. It is a starting point for realizing bodily autonomy, which depends on the right to make choices as well as high-quality information leading to meaningful decisions.

Provided in and out of school, by public, private and civil society organizations, comprehensive sexuality education opens opportunities to improve family life and relationships, and to model and affirm human rights and gender, racial and other forms of equality. It must respond to the varying needs of vulnerable groups, such as LGBTQ+ youth, youth living with disabilities and young people in humanitarian crises, including the needs that they themselves express.²³

3 Achieve justice-informed universal social protection: A safety net that catches people before they fall into deprivation upholds justice and dignity, ensures a more equitable distribution of resources to the most vulnerable groups, and sustains resilient economies.²⁴ The Commission emphasizes that sexual and reproductive justice depends on universal social protection that fully responds to intersecting forms of discrimination so that no one is left behind. While many countries have made significant progress in extending social protection, over half of humanity still goes without it.²⁵ Even where systems are robust, marginalized groups may miss benefits due to insufficient information or discrimination by service providers.

While governments provide social protection, the private sector, civil society and researchers have critical roles in advocating for making it adequate, fully accessible and universal, across the life cycle. They can help build consensus to prioritize it, including in choices around taxation and public finance.

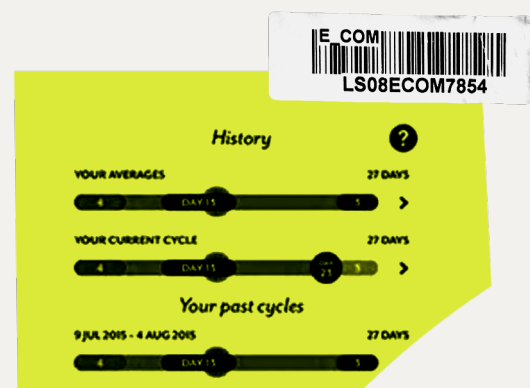
4 Disrupt discrimination through innovation: Technology has both eased and worsened injustices, reflecting the biases and discriminatory norms that course through all societies. On the positive side, new digital tools have made sexual and reproductive health care and knowledge about rights more readily available in many contexts. But a global gender digital divide persists; it is most acute in the poorest countries.²⁶ Artificial intelligence picks up discriminatory gender, racial and other norms and threatens to replicate them widely.²⁷

The Commission calls on businesses, large philanthropies and civil society to push for more deliberate alignment of technology and innovation with justice and public goods, moving past the assumption that technology by itself is a panacea.²⁸ This implies not just providing technology but explicitly recognizing and mitigating biases and harms, across diverse groups of people and geographies. New forms of contraception based on needs expressed by women,²⁹ for example, would better meet unmet need and rebalance power dynamics. Data innovations should provide a clearer picture of how intersectional discrimination operates and which policies can systematically break persistent biases.³⁰

5 Unleash the unifying power of movements for justice: The Commission has clearly articulated that all forms of justice are interrelated, rooted in human rights and dignity, and lead to people-centred development. The Commission contends that people united for justice will achieve it, and encourages proponents of sexual and reproductive justice to find common cause and strength by joining advocates for climate justice, gender equality, youth empowerment, LGBTQI+ rights, disability rights and inclusive economies, among many others. Activists should bring their perspectives to all local, national and global forums with an impact on sexual and reproductive justice. These include discussions on universal health care and pandemic preparedness as well as peace, climate change and the drive to reform the international financial system.

Sexual and reproductive justice has many more entry points than can be elaborated here. The call for action that follows provides a broader framework to help articulate these. Many more will likely emerge in coming years as technology evolves, and under the influence of population shifts and global megatrends such as urbanization and

climate change. The Commission concludes with a reminder that while justice remains the goal, people, in all their diversity and wisdom, have the right to define the paths to achieve it – and to be guaranteed safe passage as they walk forward, towards the freedom of better choices and better lives.



A (continued) call for action

In its 2021 report, the Commission issued a Call to Action that builds on the Nairobi commitments and the monitoring framework. In its final report, the Commission once again spotlights the Call as a practical guide for progress in achieving sexual and reproductive justice, from setting a vision to the innovation, investment, data collection and new narratives required to achieve greater ambitions.



Make sexual and reproductive justice the goal.

Conduct all work on sexual and reproductive health and rights under a justice framework. This must consider human rights and fundamental freedoms as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

- ▶ Establish and use mechanisms for accountability.
- ▶ Invest in people's movements to claim sexual and reproductive justice.
- ▶ Strengthen and forge new alliances with parliamentarians.

Put rights and development at the core.

Develop universal health coverage with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights as essential services.

- ▶ Use the COVID-19 recovery to jumpstart universal health coverage.
- ▶ Scale up support for midwives as a proven investment.
- ▶ Listen to health-care users to uphold their rights and improve the quality of care.

Think differently.

Pursue recent innovations in health-care service delivery to accelerate sexual and reproductive justice and support people's agency and bodily autonomy.

- ▶ Develop the potential of self-managed care.
- ▶ Pursue digital innovations while tackling the digital divide.

Reach further.

Prioritize groups facing the worst disparities in sexual and reproductive justice.

- ▶ Close gaps in humanitarian action by ensuring comprehensive integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ▶ Reach youth on their terms through meaningful engagement in public policymaking.³¹

Show the money.

Increase domestic and international finance for sexual and reproductive health and rights at levels sufficient to achieve sexual and reproductive justice.

- ▶ Make expenditure visible and measurable.
- ▶ Introduce no-cost comprehensive services for sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ▶ Explore new avenues for finance.
- ▶ Forge alliances with new partners.

Tell a new story.

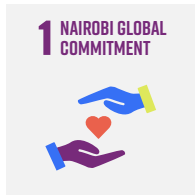
Create new narratives around sexual and reproductive justice that are accurate and powerful enough to counter ongoing opposition.

- ▶ Develop more robust systems to collect and use data.
- ▶ Inspire broad support and action.

THE NAIROBI STATEMENT: 12 GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

Recognizing our different capacities and responsibilities, our way forward is to focus in particular on those actions, expressed in specific commitments and collaborative actions, that will deliver on the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the outcomes of its reviews, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In that context, we will:



1 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Intensify our efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD Programme of Action, Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, the outcomes of its reviews, and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

≡ *Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as a part of universal health coverage (UHC), by committing to strive for:*



2 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Zero unmet need for family planning information and services, and universal availability of quality, accessible, affordable and safe modern contraceptives.



3 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Zero preventable maternal deaths and maternal morbidities, such as obstetric fistulas, by, inter alia, integrating a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health interventions, including access to safe abortion to the full extent of the law, measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortions, and for the provision of post-abortion care, into national UHC strategies, policies and programmes, and to protect and ensure all individuals' right to bodily integrity, autonomy and reproductive rights, and to provide access to essential services in support of these rights.



4 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Access for all adolescents and youth, especially girls, to comprehensive and age-responsive **information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive, quality and timely services** to be able to make free and informed decisions and choices about their sexuality and reproductive lives, to adequately protect themselves from unintended pregnancies, all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, to facilitate a safe transition into adulthood.

≡ *Address sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, in particular child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation, by committing to strive for:*



5 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, including zero child, early and forced marriage, as well as zero female genital mutilation; and **elimination of all forms of discrimination against all women and girls**, to realize all individuals' full socioeconomic potential.

 Mobilize the required financing to finish the ICPD Programme of Action and sustain the gains already made, by:



Using national budget processes, including gender budgeting and auditing, increasing **domestic financing** and exploring new, participatory and innovative financing instruments and structures to ensure full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.



Increasing **international financing** for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, to complement and catalyze domestic financing, in particular of sexual and reproductive health programmes, and other supportive measures and interventions that promote gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment.

 Draw on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development, by:



Investing in the education, employment opportunities, health, including family planning and sexual and reproductive health services, of adolescents and youth, especially girls, so as to fully **harness the promises of the demographic dividend**.



Building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, where no one is left behind, where all, irrespective of race, colour, religion, sex, age, disability, language, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, feel valued, and are able to shape their own destiny and contribute to the prosperity of their societies.



Providing quality, timely and disaggregated data, that ensures privacy of citizens and is also inclusive of younger adolescents, investing in digital health innovations, including in big data systems, and improvement of data systems to inform policies aimed at achieving sustainable development.



Committing to the notion that nothing about **young people's** health and well-being can be discussed and decided upon without their **meaningful involvement and participation** ("nothing about us, without us").

 Uphold the right to sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian and fragile contexts, by:



Ensuring that the **basic humanitarian needs and rights** of affected populations, especially that of girls and women, are addressed as critical components of responses to humanitarian and environmental crises, as well as fragile and post-crisis reconstruction contexts, through the provision of access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, including access to safe abortion services to the full extent of the law, and post-abortion care, to significantly reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, sexual and gender-based violence and unplanned pregnancies under these conditions.

ANNEX A

NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENTS MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The 2019 Nairobi Summit showcased gains, gaps and shared commitment to action in completing the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Summit mobilized global momentum that resulted in over 1,300 commitments by diverse stakeholders, including governments. It also saw widespread endorsement of the Nairobi Statement, which outlines collective ambition to reach ICPD goals for everyone, everywhere. The Statement's 12 global, overarching commitments are key to ensuring full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD agenda and to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the Commission's 2021 report, *No Exceptions, No Exclusions: Realizing sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice for all*, as well as in its 2022 report *Sexual and Reproductive Justice as the Vehicle to Deliver the Nairobi Summit Commitments* a Global Commitments Monitoring Framework (GCMF) was included to complement the narrative reports. The GCMF presents a scorecard, using a four-colour traffic light system to indicate progress globally and regionally on key global indicators under each of the 12 global commitments and as an overall score for every commitment¹. The colours run from green as the most positive, to yellow, then orange and finally red as the lowest score. A grey colour means there is not sufficient data for that indicator for the respective region. In the Commission's first report, a baseline for selected indicators and overall regional scores for each commitment were presented, against the benchmarks and level of ambition included in the Nairobi Statement commitments. In the second report the Commission continued to reflect on the indicators and updated the overall regional scores for each commitment, based on the latest available data, while also marking trends, using an upward pointing triangle for progress in terms of advancement through the traffic light colors, while using downward pointing triangles when regression was concerned. In addition, the Commission developed a select set of Country Profiles as examples that present deep dives on the available data, including disaggregated data, to further elucidate the concept of sexual and reproductive justice and with a desire of contributing to further dialogue on how to advance the Nairobi commitments on the ground ensuring that no one is left behind.

This year, for its third and final report, to keep this report concise, the Commission has opted to only include in the print version the main oversight of the status of the Nairobi global commitments that is presented on the opposite page, presenting the overall scores on global commitment 1 which concerns the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and consists of a composite index constructed of all other key global Nairobi commitments.

To access the full-length updated Global Commitments Monitoring Framework and the new range of Country Profiles spanning all regions, please find them, along with a detailed methodological note, online in pdf format here: <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/publication/all-rights-all-people-acting-now>. Moreover, the High Level Commission has also developed an interactive online dashboard that incorporates the annual GCMF scorecards and country profiles that can be accessed here: <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/gcmf-dashboard>

¹ Except commitments 6 and 7 which did not have relevant indicators or data sets at this stage



Intensify our efforts for the **full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD Programme of Action**, Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, the outcomes of its reviews, and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

| COMMITMENT | CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ASIA | EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA | EUROPE AND NORTHERN AMERICA | LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | NORTHERN AFRICA AND WESTERN ASIA | OCEANIA | SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 2 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 3 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ▲ | ● | ● |
| 4 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 5 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 6 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 7 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 8 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 9 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 10 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 11 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ▲ | ▲ | ● | ● | ▲ | ● |
| 12 NAIROBI GLOBAL COMMITMENT | ● | ▼ | ▲ | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| OVERALL SCORE | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

There is no internationally comparable data and indicators available for each of Commitments 6 and 7

ANNEX B

HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Co-Chairs

- H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President, United Republic of Tanzania
- H.E. Michaëlle Jean, Former Governor General and Commander in chief of Canada; former Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie

Members

- H.R.H. Crown Princess Mary, Crown Princess of Denmark, Countess of Monpezat
- Hatim Aznague, Founder and President of The Sustainable Development's Youth, Morocco
- Alvaro Bermejo, Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary (CEO), Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance
- Franka Cadée, former President, International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)
- Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Myrna Cunningham, First Vice-President of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, (FILAC)
- Jaha Dukureh, CEO, Safe Hands for Girls
- Alexandra Dvaretskaya-Chichikova, Miss Wheelchair World 2017 and health advocate
- Mary-Ann Etiebet, Assistant Vice President, Health Equity & Lead, MSD for Mothers
- Senait Fisseha, Director, International Programs, Susan Thomas Buffett Foundation and Chief Adviser to the WHO Director-General
- Lorence Kabasele Birungi, President of AfriYAN for Eastern and Southern Africa
- Martin Karadzhev, Board member and Chair of the Youth Steering Committee of ILGA World (The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association)
- Sangeet Kayastha, Coordinator, Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center
- Hans Linde, former President, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)
- Hon. Angélica Lozano Correa, Lawyer, civic activist and Senator of Colombia
- Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women
- Lucy Mulenkei, Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network
- Friday Okonofua, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Benin, Nigeria
- Sara Pantuliano, Chief Executive, ODI
- Bandana Rana, Vice-Chair, United Nations CEDAW Committee
- Jan-Willem Scheijgrond, Vice President Government and Public Affairs, Royal Philips
- Gamal Serour, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of the International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University
- Keizo Takemi, Member, House of Councillors in the Japanese parliament and WHO Goodwill Ambassador
- Nahid Toubia, Director of the Institute for Reproductive Health & Rights in Sudan
- Jayathma Wickramanayake, outgoing United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- H.E. Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development, South Africa and Chairperson, Partners in Population and Development

ANNEX C

HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT TEAMS

Secretariat

- Saskia Schellekens, Global Coordinator, ICPD25 Follow-up & Lead HLC Secretariat
- De-Jane Gibbons, Coordination Specialist, ICPD25 Follow-up
- Lisha Du, Technical Consultant, ICPD25 Follow-up
- Sarah Peck, Communication and Outreach Consultant, ICPD25 Follow-up
- Gabriela Ullauri, Communications and Event Support Consultant, ICPD25 Follow-up
- Maxine Smith, Executive Associate, ICPD25 Follow-up
- Ivy Jagganarine, Administrative Consultant, ICPD25 Follow-up

Sherpas and Support Teams

- Co-Chair H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete: Lucas Mayenga and Medard Ngaiza, Private Secretaries
- Co-Chair H.E. The Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean: Philippe Duhamel, Private Secretary

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