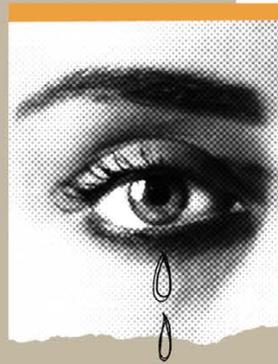


No Exceptions, No Exclusions

REALIZING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH, RIGHTS AND JUSTICE FOR ALL



ICPD25
The Nairobi Summit
Accelerating the Promise of ICPD

Executive summary

In late 2019, over 8,300 people from 172 countries and territories gathered at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. Together, they celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the landmark Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. Participants from governments, civil society, businesses and more presented over 1,300 commitments to action. These were accompanied by widespread endorsement of the Nairobi Statement, which defines 12 overarching global commitments to achieve the ICPD goals for everyone, everywhere.

To guide and propel meaningful follow-up on the commitments, the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up was formed. Each year, it will submit a public report on gains and gaps to the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA.

This report is the Commission's first. It stresses that progress has been made on some Nairobi commitments, even amid the devastating fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years. But on balance, governments and the international community have fallen short. Moral and political failure has been evident in eroding services, lost financing and diminishing political accountability for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Commission emphasizes that if the realization of sexual and reproductive rights is incomplete, people will not gain the agency

to make their own empowered decisions about their bodies and the rest of their lives. This in turn will impede the development of societies overall. Amid continued evidence of the denial of sexual and reproductive rights, the Commission calls for a global agenda for sexual and reproductive justice that requires deliberately overcoming all barriers to realizing rights and achieving bodily autonomy. The Commission emphasizes that this depends on specific, tailored and prioritized interventions for individuals and groups facing multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination.

The profound inequality of the current world underscores the urgency of sexual and reproductive justice and accelerated achievement of the Nairobi commitments. The Commission finds that patterns of injustice undercut human resilience and well-being for everyone, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated disparities based on gender, race, age, disability and other parameters. The redirection of services and funding from humanitarian settings is a grave concern, diminishing already insufficient support for sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality.

The Commission also sees the COVID-19 pandemic as revealing the consequences of the failure to strengthen health systems, make them resilient and universally accessible, and treat comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights as essential elements, in line with the Nairobi commitments. At the same time, the pandemic has ushered in new

ways of delivering care that can improve quality and access. A new era of sexual and reproductive health programmes should build on the self-expressed needs and wants of distinct population groups, operating under a framework of delivering rights and justice for all.

Full recovery from the pandemic depends on domestic and international financing that sets health systems on the path to universal health coverage in line with the Nairobi commitments. The Commission is concerned that while countries have made recent commitments to expanding the reach of essential health-care services, no substantial change is apparent in

allocations of additional funds. With some international donors making radical and unjustifiable cuts, the Commission strongly warns against such reversals and calls for safeguards against choices rooted in gender discriminatory agendas.

Above all, the Commission underlines that the world cannot wait for sexual and reproductive justice. It welcomes people's movements demanding justice and human rights and believes they should be encouraged and supported as drivers of action and accountability. This is particularly needed at a moment of continued and even intensifying backlash by regressive ideologies. The Commission appreciates



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. It includes establishing and using mechanisms for accountability, investing in people's movements to claim sexual and reproductive justice, and strengthening and forging new alliances. Closer engagement with parliamentarians should advance laws and budget choices in line with achieving sexual and reproductive justice and gender equality.



Put rights and development at the core

Develop universal health coverage with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights as essential services. The COVID-19 recovery should be used to jumpstart universal health coverage, including through scaled-up support for midwives as a proven investment. Listening to health-care users will help 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. One starting point is to develop the potential of self-managed care, which can be particularly helpful in reaching some marginalized groups. Another is to pursue digital innovations while tackling the digital divide.



those countries that are marshalling political will and establishing national mechanisms to steer progress on the Nairobi commitments.

It is also encouraged by increasing use of the commitments in global accountability mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council. This accords with the spirit of the Nairobi Summit, which demonstrated the immense value of global solidarity and set in motion a more rigorous architecture for accountability, built on many allies working together to push sexual and reproductive justice forward.

The Commission sees agency and bodily autonomy as what most people want and

what all people deserve. Everyone being able to exercise these, freely and on their own terms, will determine the resilience, development and even survival of individuals and nations. Accordingly, the Commission makes several recommendations to further the Nairobi commitments and set the stage for realizing sexual and reproductive justice.

In sum, the Commission maintains that closing inequalities and gender gaps, sustaining resilience in the face of crisis, and making successful links between development and demographics will depend on realizing agency and bodily autonomy for all. The surest route forward is through sexual and reproductive justice.



Reach further



Prionitize groups facing the worst disparities in sexual and reproductive justice. Closing gaps in humanitarian action is one urgent priority, coupled with more emphasis on reducing risks to sexual and reproductive health and rights in forward-looking disaster risk reduction and management plans. More outreach to youth, particularly adolescents and stigmatized young people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, upholds their right to be meaningfully involved in public policymaking that influences their health and well-being.



Show the money

Increase domestic and international finance for sexual and reproductive health and rights at levels sufficient to achieve sexual and reproductive justice. Expenditure must be visible and measurable in national health budgets and accounting for donor contributions. No-cost comprehensive services for sexual and reproductive health and rights should be introduced. Other priorities are to explore new avenues for finance and alliances with new partners beyond the health sector.



Tell a new story

Create new narratives around sexual and reproductive justice that are accurate and powerful enough to counter ongoing opposition. This calls for developing more robust systems to collect and use data on critical aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and intersectionality. Towards galvanizing broader support, making sexual and reproductive justice a rallying cry will instil new energy and inspire action.