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DHAKA DECLARATION

Global Leadership Meeting on
Population Dynamics
in the context of
Post 2015 Development Agenda

Dhaka, 12-13 March 2013

Supported by:



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**Dhaka Declaration
on
Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

We, the Ministers and representatives of the participating countries, met in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for the Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

2. We reaffirm that people are at the centre of sustainable development and that sustainable development must improve the lives and livelihoods of both present and future generations.

3. We recognize that population dynamics affects all three pillars of sustainable development; and we thus urge countries to address and integrate population dynamics into the post-2015 development agenda.

4. We note that population mega-trends – continued population growth, population ageing, urbanization and migration – constitute important developmental challenges and opportunities in the 21st century. These are also at the forefront of international and national development agendas. Population dynamics affect economic development, employment, income distribution, poverty, social protection and pensions. These also affect the realization of universal access to health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy, and influence the lives and livelihoods of people, the sustainability of urban and rural areas and the environment.

5. We recognize that these linkages are influenced *inter alia* by advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and young people to enable them to make free and informed decisions about reproduction, sexuality, marriage and mobility as well as their participation in social, economic and political life within their communities and countries.

6. We acknowledge that population dynamics not only influence development at the national, regional and global levels but also are affected by them. We thus encourage local authorities, governments and inter-governmental agencies/organizations to take population dynamics into account while formulating rural, urban, national and global development strategies and programmes.

7. We reaffirm, in this context, the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (1994) and its subsequent reviews and the key actions for its further implementation, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Un Conference on Women (1995) and its subsequent reviews, the Programme of Action adopted at the HABITAT (1995) and its subsequent review and the key actions for its further implementation, the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and Rio+20, the Report by the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Chair's Conclusion on the UN High-level Dialogue on Migration (2006), the outcomes of the annual meetings of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD).

8. We take note of the outcome document of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with the following overarching recommendations:

- I. Adopt rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to population dynamics, including pursuing population policies, which eliminate discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups, including women and girls; promote gender equality and focus on enlarging individual freedom and choices and opportunities.
- II. Strengthen migration governance to achieve a balanced and equitable system that is socially and culturally acceptable to people and beneficial for all.
- III. Undertake and share knowledge through research and analysis on the linkages between population dynamics and development to promote the sustainability of rural, urban, regional, national and global development strategies; and ensure that these strategies respond to the changing characteristics and needs of all populations.
- IV. Promote development of human capital, notably health and education, throughout the life cycle. In this context, take into account the changing needs of people as they age, as well as the different needs of children, women and men; internal and international migrants; and rural and urban populations; invest in human capital throughout the life cycle.

- V. Provide special support to the poorest, disadvantaged and most vulnerable populations and empower every citizen to participate actively in the social, economic and political lives within their communities and countries, particularly women and young people.
- VI. Collect data and enhance capacity to analyses and make projections and draw scenarios to formulate forward-looking development goals, targets and policies, including for skill enhancement, and to monitor progress towards internationally agreed development goals.
- VII. Provide targeted support to the most socially and economically disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, including those affected by climate change and natural disasters; and help to strengthen their resilience to social, economic and environmental shocks.
- VIII. Strengthen national capacities, including through international technical and financial assistance, for all aspects of population dynamics, including for effective governance of migration and human mobility.
- IX. Eradicate poverty and address income inequalities through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic and social development, in the context of sustainable development; generate and gain access to productive and remunerative employment and decent work, both at home and abroad; and adopt more comprehensive social protection measures.
- X. Develop as well as strengthen existing and innovative national, regional and global collaborative mechanisms and partnerships to help the countries concerned in addressing the challenges and seize the opportunities arising from changes in population size and structure, the demographic dividend, internal and international migration and urbanization.
- XI. Welcome the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the World Urban Forum and the London Summit on Family Planning; and encourage high level participation in the Second High-level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration (HLD) (New York, October 2013) and in the next Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) (Stockholm, 2014; Istanbul, 2015).

THEMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9. In the area of **high fertility and population growth**, we call upon States and all relevant stakeholders to:
 - I. Ensure sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in line with ICPD (1994), and provide universal access to reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning, maternal health care as well as HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support.
 - II. Strengthen coverage and quality of pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education, particularly technical and vocational training, especially of the girl child, including through apprenticeship programmes in the developed countries.
 - III. Make significant efforts to seize the opportunities provided by the demographic dividend, including through investments in productive employment of young people.
 - IV. Improve and actively support opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work, including through investment in youth employment programmes.
- 10. In the area of **low fertility and population ageing**, we call upon States and all relevant stakeholders to:
 - I. Eliminate discrimination based on age in order to ensure that people of all ages are able to contribute productively to their respective societies, to formulate policies that are sensitive and supportive of the family.
 - II. Provide higher coverage and adequate levels of social protections, including pensions and health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and ensure a balanced distribution of the human and financial costs of care.
 - III. Develop appropriate technologies, care services and infrastructure to accommodate the needs of older persons, commensurate to the stage of economic development and societal norms, structures, etc.
- 11. In the area of **migration and human mobility**, we call upon States and all relevant stakeholders to:
 - I. Ensure that migrants are considered as agents of development.
 - II. Ensure that migration is safe and orderly and that adequate protection and assistance are extended to all migrants, in particular to migrants caught in crises.

- III. Ensure that migration, which affects many areas of development (e.g. human rights, health, education, rural and urban development, financing for development and disaster risk reduction), is integrated into national and sectoral development policies, strategies and programmes, particularly poverty reduction strategies and National Adaptation Plans of Action.
 - IV. Strengthen policy coherence at all levels through local, national, regional and global cooperation, including deepening cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries, and establish global partnerships in the post-2015 framework to ensure that migration contributes to equitable and sustainable development.
 - V. Promote matching of skills and jobs as well as labour supply and demand within and between countries; and facilitate circular mobility through enhancing portability of social security entitlements, recognition of educational and professional qualifications and adoption of enabling legal frameworks aimed at enlargement of freedom of opportunities of individuals.
 - VI. Promote opportunities for migrants to seek employment abroad securely and at low cost, transfer savings and provide incentives to trade with and invest in origin and destination countries.
 - VII. Consider internal and international migration as possible adaptation strategies in the context of addressing climate change, particularly in the most climate-vulnerable countries.
 - VIII. Ensure human rights of, and non-discrimination toward, migrants, especially women and vulnerable groups, and promote social cohesion of communities through equal wages and working conditions, social benefits and protections as well as recognition of educational qualifications.
- 12 In the area of **urbanization**, we call upon States and all stakeholders to:
- I. Anticipate and plan for urban growth to ensure that the growing number of urban residents, including the poor, have secure access to land, housing, water, sanitation, energy and transport, as well as health, education and other essential services, by addressing the safety concerns of women, girls, children and older persons, and by ensuring more coherent and coordinated service delivery at the national level.
 - II. Promote rural development with a view to achieving rural and urban development; contain the spread of urban slums; and expand slum upgrading efforts through cooperative and inclusive approaches, which involve innovative partnerships and do not resort to forced evictions.
 - III. Minimize the environmental impact of cities by slowing urban sprawl, and seize the opportunities of higher population density, notably higher energy efficiency in transport and housing, as well as cheaper provision of services and infrastructure.

13 We underscore the recommendations emerging from the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and encourage and support international agencies, civil society and other stakeholders to work with Member States to formulate goals and targets that address population dynamics, as well as forward-looking development targets that take into account current and emerging patterns in population dynamics.

14. We also encourage Member States to integrate population dynamics into their respective national sustainable development strategies and, where appropriate, to promote regional initiatives.

15. We express our sincere appreciation to the Governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland for convening, organizing and co-chairing this Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics. We commend the Government of Bangladesh for the warm hospitality extended and detailed arrangements made.

Dhaka, Bangladesh; 13 March 2013