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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

AFRICAN CENTER FOR GENDER AND SOCIAL DEVELOPEMNT

**FIFTEEN-YEAR REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ICPD-POA IN AFRICA**

**CONCEPT PAPER
(JANUARY 2008- DECEMBER 2009)**

**ADDIS ABABA
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I. BACKGROUND

The 1992 Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, and the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PoA) are milestones in advancing population and development in Africa. The DND reviewed the experiences learned from implementing the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action adopted by the African countries in 1984. It also formed the basis of Africa's common position submitted to the ICPD in Cairo.

The ICPD adopted a twenty-year Programme of Action with a broad mandate on issues of interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and advances in the education, economic status and empowerment of women. The DND and the ICPD-PoA have since guided the implementation of health, population, environment and related development policies in Africa.

The implementation of the recommendations of the PoA is the "sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities". However, recognizing that, Governments are not expected to meet the goals and objectives single-handedly, the ICPD calls for partnership at all levels. The significance of the ICPD will depend on the willingness of Governments, local communities, the NGOs, and the international community to turn its recommendations into actions. In this vein, the ICPD PoA identified the following five functions to the Conference follow-up: -

- (a) Building strong political support at all levels for population and development.
- (b) Resource mobilization.
- (c) Coordination and mutual accountability of efforts to implement the Programme of Action.
- (d) Problem solving and sharing of experience within and between countries.
- (e) Monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the PoA.

At the sub regional and regional levels, the ICPD PoA calls on the regional commissions, and organizations of the UN system functioning at the regional level to play an active role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations to follow up the implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration and Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In collaboration with the UNFPA, and close consultation with African Governments, the African Union Commission (AUC), African Population Commission (APC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the ECA has implemented this mandate, by carrying out ICPD reviews at five-year intervals in

1999 and 2004.

1.1 ICPD+5 Review

Within the framework of the global assessment of the ICPD Programme of Action, the ECA undertook a 5-year regional review of the extent to which member states implemented the ICPD Programme of Action. The review, which was partly based on survey responses from 41 countries, revealed that remarkable progress was made by some ECA member states in areas such as: access to reproductive health services, integrating family planning and safe motherhood into primary health care systems, developing national action plans designed to empower women, and addressing emerging issues (HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive needs of adolescents).

The five-year review revealed heavy focus on reproductive health and reproductive rights, with little emphases on general health, education, income generation and employment, reducing infant and maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. Also the review indicated inadequate treatment of the family, refugees, the role of the aged in society, political and social instability, interrelationship between the role of the NGOs, private sector and civil society, and IEC and advocacy strategies.

1.2 ICPD+10 Review

The ICPD at 10 review aimed at addressing the gaps above mentioned. This review, which marked the mid-point for the ICPD Programme of Action, offered an opportunity to look forward and to reflect on the diversity of the goals, and demonstrated how their achievement would forward progress toward the Millennium.

At the global level, the 37th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, held in 2004, carried out a comprehensive review of progress in the preceding ten years on all aspects of the ICPD Programme of Action. This meeting built on the previous annual sessions of the Commission, held since 1994, which reviewed the implementation of specific chapters of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Commission's 2004 review culminated with the official reaffirmation of the ICPD Programme of Action and Key Actions, and a reiteration that Governments in every region should continue to commit themselves, at the highest political level, to achieving the ICPD goals and objectives.

At the regional level, the review conducted by ECA emphasized full ownership of the ICPD Programme of Action by Member States. Governments re-affirmed their commitment to full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the ICPD+5 Key Actions. This review underscored that the ICPD goals remain relevant, and that while much progress has been made in advancing them, this progress was not uniform across the region or across all substantive areas.

Overall, the outcomes of the ICPD at Ten review demonstrated that countries have

made significant progress in adopting and implementing a reproductive health approach; in strengthening efforts to improve gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women; in addressing adolescent reproductive health; in forging new partnerships with civil society and the private sector; and in promoting the integration of population dynamics and trends into development planning and policymaking.

However, the outcomes also show that major challenges to the full implementation of the Cairo agenda remain, including addressing HIV/AIDS more effectively, incorporating culturally sensitive approaches into programming and strengthening data collection and analysis systems.

Among the main policy findings and conclusions that emerged from the ICPD at Ten review, three are worth mentioning. First is the reaffirmation across the globe of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions. Second is the universal recognition that the effective implementation of the Programme of Action requires commitment of financial resources. And third is the acknowledgement that full implementation of the Cairo agenda is essential to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

II. DND/ICPD + 15 REVIEW

Year 2009 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the ICPD i.e. ICPD+15. ECA and its partners will undertake a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the DND and the ICPD Programme of Action in Africa. As part of this ongoing process, in the 2008-2009 biennium, the ECA is planning to adopt a regional and sub-regional process to review and report on the regional and national implementation of the commitments, with particular emphasis on issues also covered in the MDGs as well as issues on the current international agenda, such as international migration and ageing. This concept paper explains the objectives and methodology of undertaking the ICPD+15 review. It defines the main activities, output, and roles of stakeholders and partners. Also, it provides a budget and a two-year work plan for undertaking the DND and ICPD+15 review in Africa: -

II.1. Objective

Review progress in the implementation of the DND/ICPD Programme of Action in Africa over the past 15 years taking into consideration the 1999 and 2004 reviews, and in context of the MDGs.

II.2. Output

The review will document Africa's experiences in the implementation of the DND/ICPD-PoA and identifying successes, best practices, lessons learned and constraints. Its main out put will be **ICPD+15 Africa Regional Review Report** that

will: -

- (a) Identify the facilitating and inhibiting factors regarding implementation of the DND/ICPD goals and targets;
- (b) Document lessons learned and best practices in policy and programme interventions facilitating socio-economic change and demographic transition in African countries; and,
- (c) Identify future activities to accelerate further implementation of the DND/ICPD PoA in the coming years.

The **ICPD+15 Africa Regional Review Report** will constitute Africa's input to the global fifteen-year review and appraisal of the ICPD PoA.

II.3. Activities

The following related activities will be undertaken: -

(a) Questionnaire

A questionnaire will be designed as a tool for collecting information from countries in Africa, on the progress that have so far been made on the implementation of the ICPD PoA. The questionnaire will focus on important issues and concerns included in the DND and ICPD PoA. It will be officially distributed to all countries in Africa through UNFPA country offices. In countries where there is no UNFPA representation, the UNDP offices will be requested to distribute and follow up the questionnaire. The design and instructions on how to fill the questionnaire will be expounded in a separate document. The findings of the analysis of the completed questionnaires will be summarized and included in the **ICPD+15 Africa Regional Review Report**.

(b) Country report

Country report is the second tool that will be used to collect information on the implementation of the DND and ICPD PoA in Africa. The reports will provide more qualitative and in-depth information than the questionnaire. They include text on the lessons of experience and best practices, beside information indicators and the population profile. In order to achieve standardization and uniformity of national reports, annotated guidelines will be designed to help the countries draft their reports. Along with the questionnaires, these guidelines will be prepared and distributed to all countries. Information from country reports will be used in the review.

(c) Web portal

A web portal will be developed as a technical tool for gathering and sharing

information on the implementation of the DND/ICPD Programme of Action in Africa. Targeting experts and centers of excellence, the web portal will serve as a temporary platform for exchanging views and ideas on the DND/ICPD +15 review. Services of an expert in information technology (IT) will be needed to design the web portal and set up its technical structure around the DND/ICPD Programme of Action to solicit views and ideas on implementation of the actions most important for Africa, best practices, lessons of experiences and the constraints and limitations encountered. A document on the web-portal, its objectives and structure, and the terms of reference for the IT expert will be prepared separately.

(d) DND/ ICPD+15 Review

Many lessons of experience were learnt from the previous reviews in 1999 and 2004. Most important is the review must be very well coordinated, as involves data entry and statistical analyses of the questionnaires, and analyses of information from country reports and the web-portal. The outcome of these analyses will be used to prepare the DND/ICPD+15 review report, the drafts of which will be submitted to the steering committee. This activity will require time and capacity to follow up all stages from data entry to the preparation of draft documents. Therefore, services of a consultant will be needed to devote full time and provide support to the ECA, AU and UNFPA on this activity. Also, services of an assistant for data entry, preparation of statistics and tables will be needed. Terms of reference of the consultant and data entry and statistics assistant will be prepared separately.

(e) Regional Ministerial Review Conference

The DND/ICPD +15 review and its main findings will be presented at a four-day regional ministerial review conference that will consist of two segments – a three-day expert group meeting (EGM) that will be followed by a one-day ministerial conference. Representatives from governments, NGOs, population institutions, and experts from various organizations will attend EGM to debate and validate the DND/ICPD+15 review, consolidate its main findings and outcomes, and prepare a draft ministerial declaration, recommendations and the way forward. At the one-day conference of ministers, the states will endorse the ICPD+15 review and adopt a final ministerial declaration, and formally adopt the Regional Review Report as Africa’s input to the global ICPD+15 process. Unless one of the member states make an offer, these two back-to-back events will be held in 2009 at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa.

II.4. ICPD+15 review process

Close consultation between the ECA and UNFPA will ensure consensus and common understanding of the ICPD+15 review process. This initial stage will formalize the relationship and roles of the ECA and the UNFPA through exchange of letters and other appropriate follow up mechanisms. Both of the UNFPA and ECA will seek to harmonize the ICPD + 15 review process with their ongoing and

mandated processes such as the achievement of the MDGs, Human and Social Development Report on Africa, NEPAD consultation process, and the State of African Population.

Subsequently, a steering committee will be established for the participation of the regional stakeholders in the ICPD+15 review process. Membership of the steering committee will be drawn from agencies and institutions based in Addis Ababa - ECA, UNFPA, AUC, AfDB regional office in Addis Ababa, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, and ILO, and the Government of Ethiopia. The terms of reference of the steering committee will be to: -

- (a) Review and validate the ICPD + 15 review proposals and processes.
- (b) Ensure the availability of human and financial resources for the ICPD + review throughout 2008 and 2009.
- (c) Harmonize the ICPD+ 15 review with relevant ongoing processes of each organization member of the steering committee.
- (d) Advocate, create awareness and support at the regional and national levels for the ICPD+15 process.

When the draft ICPD+15 Regional Review Report is ready it will be presented to the steering committee, to a group of African Population experts, and to the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) Conference in 2009 for their comments. The Report will be circulated to all African countries for their review and comments. It will be presented to the EGM, which will be attended by representatives of all the African countries.

II.5. ICPD+15 Review Partners

Three partners - ECA, AUC and UNFPA, will coordinate the ICDP+15 review activities (see Annex 1). Other partners will include the AfDB, RECs, African Population Commission, ECA divisions and SROs. In addition to sharing of responsibilities and exchanging of knowledge and information, the partnership will harness human and financial resources for undertaking the above-mentioned activities. Close collaboration with the AUC, AfDB, and UNFPA, will be pursued to ensure that research results are fed into the advocacy tasks of AUC, the development tasks of the AfDB, as well as the policy analysis and advocacy tasks of ECA, SROs and UNFPA. Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and regional and sub-regional population training and research institutions, such as RIPS, CDC, and will also be involved in the process.

II.6. Workplan 2008-2009

The work plan described in Annex 2 will enable timely preparation of administrative and substantive inputs into the preparation of the Regional Review Report.

Annex 1 Roles and responsibilities of partners

	ACTIVITIES	Responsible/partners
Preparatory activities	Preparation of concept paper	ECA
	Review and approval of the concept paper	ECA/UNFPA
	Collaboration with AUC and UNFPA	ECA/UNFPA/AUC
	Organization of steering committee meeting	ECA/UNFPA/AUC
	Preparation and dissemination of information letters to countries	ECA/AUC
	Preparation of the terms of reference for the international consultant	ECA/AUC
	Preparation of the terms of reference for the local research assistant	ECA/AUC
	Preparation of the terms of reference for the local IT expert	ECA/AUC
Questionnaire	Preparation of draft questionnaire	ECA/AUC
	Finalization of the questionnaire	ECA/AUC
	Preparation of guidelines for completion of the questionnaire	ECA/AUC
	Dissemination of the questionnaire to countries	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
	Follow up of questionnaire with countries	ECA/UNFPA/AUC
	Collection of completed questionnaires	ECA/UNFPA/AUC
	Recruitment of research assistant	ECA/AUC
	Coding, data entry and analyses of completed questionnaires	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
Country Reports	Preparation of guidelines for country reports	ECA/AUC
	Finalization of the guidelines for country reports	ECA/AUC
	Dissemination of the guidelines to countries	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
	Follow up and collection of country reports	ECA/UNFPA/AUC
Web-Portal	Recruitment of IT expert	ECA/AUC
	Design of the web portal	ECA/AUC

	ACTIVITIES	Responsible/partners
	Launching of the web portal	ECA/AUC
	Analyses of information compiled through the web portal	ECA/AUC
DND/ICPD + 15 Review	Prepare annotated guidelines for the review document	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Establish drafting committee	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Preparation of the DND/ICPD+15 draft review	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Send draft review to the steering committee for comments	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Send draft review to countries, institutions and experts for comments	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
Regional Ministerial Review Conference	Production and translation of draft review for the Expert Group Meeting	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Organization of the expert group meeting to debate and validate the draft review	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Prepare of the draft ministerial declaration	ECA/AUC/UNFPA (International consultant)
	Organization of the ministerial conference	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
	Finalization of the Regional Review Report	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
	Translation of the Regional Review Report	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
	Dissemination of the Regional Review Report	ECA/AUC/UNFPA
	Preparation and dissemination of the report of the ministerial-level meeting	ECA in collaboration with AU, ADB, SROs and UNFPA
	Preparation of a synthesis of the Regional Review Report for distribution at the General Assembly of the APC	ECA
	Submission of the Regional Review Report to UNFPA	ECA

Annex 2 Work Plan for 2008 - 2009

Activity	2008				2009			
	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q
Preparation of concept paper								
Review and approval of the concept paper								
Collaboration with ECA,AUC and UNFPA								
Organization of steering committee meeting								
Preparation and dissemination of information letters to countries								
Preparation of the terms of reference for the consultant								
Preparation of the terms of reference for the research assistant								
Preparation of the terms of reference for the local IT expert								
Preparation of draft questionnaire								
Finalization of the questionnaire								
Preparation of guidelines for completion of the questionnaire								
Dissemination of the questionnaire to countries								
Follow up of questionnaire with countries								
Collection of completed questionnaires								
Recruitment of research assistant								
Coding, data entry and analyses of completed questionnaires								
Preparation of guidelines for country reports								
Finalization of the guidelines for country reports								
Dissemination of the guidelines to countries								
Follow up and collection of country reports								
Recruitment of IT expert								
Design of the web portal								
Launching and operating the web portal								
Analyses of information compiled through the web portal								
Prepare annotated guidelines for the review document								
Establish drafting committee								
Preparation of the DND/ICPD+15 draft review								
Send draft review to the steering committee for comments								
Send draft review to countries, institutions and experts for comments								

Annex 2 Work Plan for 2008 - 2009

Activity	2008				2009			
	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q
Production and translation of draft review for the Expert Group								
Organization of the expert group meeting to debate and validate the								
Prepare of the draft ministerial declaration								
Organization of the ministerial conference								
Finalization of the Regional Review Report								
Translation of the Regional Review Report								
Dissemination of the Regional Review Report								
Preparation and dissemination of the report of the ministerial-level								
Preparation of a synthesis of the Regional Review Report for								
Submission of the Regional Review Report to UNFPA								

