



## **Concept Note**

### **Youth Model ICPD Conference: “ICPDians Engage to advance ICPD Agenda”**

#### **Background**

In 1994, 179 governments from all over the world met in Cairo, Egypt and adopted the groundbreaking ICPD Programme of Action, positioning rights at the center of sustainable development, and recognizing reproductive rights as human rights, as well as young people and adolescents as rights holders in regards to their sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

The ICPD Programme of Action reinforced a holistic understanding of individuals’ sexual and reproductive wellbeing.

Some of the commitments made in the ICPD Programme of Action (1994) to young people include: realization of the right to education and attainment of a secondary school education; delaying marriage beyond childhood and ensuring free and full choice in marriage-related decisions; exercise of the right to health, including access to friendly health services and counseling; access to health-promoting information, including on sexual and reproductive matters; acquisition of protective assets and agency, particularly among girls and young women, and promotion of gender equitable roles and attitudes; protection from gender-based violence; and socialization in a supportive environment. These are crucial for a successful transition to adulthood with reference to sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

In years to come, young people will be crucial to advancing not just the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda but all social movements.

This year we are not only celebrating 25 years' anniversary of this landmark conference from 12-14 November in Nairobi, Kenya, but also reviewing achieved progress and challenges in relation to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. We are also reflecting on where are we with reproductive health and rights of young people 25 years later. To this end UNFPA in partnership with the Minister of Youth and Sports of Egypt is hosting the "International Youth Model ICPD Conference"

### **Objectives of the conference:**

- 1) Bring about unique insight of young people leading the change and advancing ICPD agenda
- 2) Agree on the role of young people as well as the role of adults, in working together to help their governments to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, within the overall context of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs
- 3) Shed the light on national efforts to harness demographic dividend by increased investment in youth, particularly health and education.
- 4) Offer a unique opportunity for ICPDIans engagement, to voice their opinions, share ideas, and think together about what should be done to advance ICPD and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

### **Conference Format:**

The Youth International Conference in Egypt will be organized in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and under the patronage of H.E President Abdel Fatah El Sisi. The Conference will follow an educational simulation of the historical International Conference on Population and Development of 1994. Young people from all over the world will learn about the ICPD and contribute further to the advancement of the Programme of Action .

The same format will be applied as for the upcoming Nairobi conference and a creative programme will be designed around five specific themes in five plenaries, pertaining to the unfinished business of ICPD with a focus of getting youth perspectives

### **Five Thematic Areas:**

1. Essential SRHR package of interventions in the context of UHC;

2. Creating financing momentum;
3. Demographic diversity and sustainable development;
4. GBV and harmful practices against women and girls;
5. SRHR in Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts.

Each plenary will be followed by a series of World Cafe sessions where participants will be able to discuss and debate the issues in more detail and agree on recommendations which will be incorporated into a final Youth outcome document to be produced at the end of the conference.

**Participants:**

- Two members country delegation, a young woman and man between the age of 18 - 25 ( ideally 2 ICPDians born in 1994)
- Selected candidates should have proven track record of youth related activism and engagement in SRH activities

**Dates and Venue:**

11-12 September 2019, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt