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## 14<sup>th</sup> International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development

**Accountability to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights:  
Delivering on commitments together**

Berlin, November 10-11, 2016

# Quick Facts

**Existing regional and thematic accountability mechanisms for the achievement of SRHR-related goals**

# High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

**Convener:** United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every four years the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

**Established in:** 2013

**Taking place:** Annually in July, New York

**Participants:** All UN member states, major groups and other stakeholders

**Short description:** The HLPF is the central platform for the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level. It aims to promote the exchange of best practices, experiences and obstacles to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to provide transparency and enhance the accountability of UN Member States. The main mechanisms to achieve this are the National Voluntary Reviews (NVR), in which member states provide insights into the progress made and the persisting challenges in the implementation process at the national level.

**SRHR milestones:** In 2016, SRHR was explicitly mentioned as an important rights-based concept crucial to achieving the SDGs in several NVRs, incl. those of Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, Philippines and Venezuela, among others. In 2017, the thematic review at the HLPF will include the SDGs on Health (3) and Gender (5).

# Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

**Convener:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission in Asia Pacific (UN ESCAP) – Environment and Sustainable Development Division

**Established in:** 2014

**Taking place:** Annually in April / May; Bangkok, Thailand

**Participants:** Member States of Asia Pacific, Observer States, UN Agency representatives, Civil Society Observers

**Short description:** The APFSD is an inter-governmental regional consultation process supported by UN system coordination and collaboration, constructive and inclusive engagement of stakeholders, credible assessments of progress, and an effective science-policy interface. It follows the theme of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and provides regional input into the process.

**SRHR milestones:** Formation of the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) in 2015. It is a constituency based platform (loosely based on the major group system at the UN) for interfacing with ESCAP on Agenda 2030 and related development issues, to ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes at regional and global level.

Formation of the cross- constituency Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Gender, Sexuality and SRHR at the RCEM. The TWG aims to mobilize organizations working on SRHR from across the different constituencies, provide SRHR related input on regional and global documents and organize joint activities at regional/global events.

# Citizens' Hearings

**Convener:** International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Save the Children, The White Ribbon Alliance and World Vision

**Established in:** 2015

**Taking place:** To date, over 100 hearings, in villages, districts and capital cities, through to the World Health Assembly

**Participants:** The hearings have brought citizens, community groups (including children's, youth and women's rights groups), and faith leaders together with local councillors and chiefs, district leaders, prime ministers, parliamentarians, ministers, policy officials and health professionals.

**Short description:** A coalition to advocate for an inclusive approach to women's, children's and adolescents' health. The Citizens' Hearings on women's, children's and adolescents' health are open and constructive dialogues that give community members the chance to share recommendations for improved health services with local and national leaders. This form of social accountability serves the double purpose of empowering citizens to know their rights and to hold their leaders to account on commitments made to end the preventable deaths of women, newborns, children and adolescents.

## **SRHR milestones:**

So far, the hearings have engaged tens of thousands of citizens in Africa and Asia – in Mauritania, Mali, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, South Africa, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Global Citizens Dialogue on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, held during the World Health Assembly in 2015 and 2016. Campaign strategy meeting in October 2016 to build the capacity of national level stakeholders in advocacy and social accountability tools and skills.

# Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

**Convener:** United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Established in:** June 1946

**Taking place:** Annually in March, New York

**Participants:** 45 member states elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of geographic distribution. ECOSOC-accredited NGOs can attend as well as UN entities, especially UN Women.

**Short description:** The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It discusses progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and Beijing+5, as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

**SRHR milestones:** Over the past years, SRHR has been highly contested at CSW. Existing language on SRHR that has been preserved has been hard won. The milestone 60th session of CSW in March 2016 was the largest CSW ever and SRHR was a major discussion theme.

# Unified Accountability Framework (UAF)

**Convener:** The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), as part of the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Architecture

**Established in:** 2016

**Taking place:** Continuously

**Participants:** Multi-stakeholder engagement of UAF partners (notionally includes key stakeholders in accountability for women's, children's and adolescents' health)

**Short description:** The Unified Accountability Framework (UAF) supplements the Every Woman Every Child accountability model to support country-led accountability processes for resources, results and rights at all levels and between different sectors. It promotes multi-stakeholder engagement and mutual accountability to monitor, review and act. The UAF helps to harmonize partner efforts to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics by linking with existing regional and global accountability work. Data on the Global Strategy monitoring framework will be reviewed and updated annually in advance of the World Health Assembly, accompanied by an annual report.

**SRHR milestones:** A first report presented initial data and discusses requirements to support robust monitoring of progress towards the Global Strategy's objectives. The UAF will be essential to ensure the support of a single health information system that is closely linked to national statistical systems and will contribute to the Independent Accountability Panel's (IAP) reports on progress towards women's, children's and adolescents' health in the SDG-era as appropriate.

# Independent Accountability Panel (IAP)

**Convener:** Independent panel appointed by the UN Secretary-General, housed by The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)

**Established in:** 2015

**Taking place:** Continuously; publication of an annual report

**Participants:** 10 panellists from diverse regions and backgrounds that range from human rights experts, economists, policymakers and health researchers to humanitarian leaders and statisticians.

**Short description:** The mandate of the IAP is to promote accountability for the strategies of the SDGs and the commitments to the updated Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

**SRHR milestones:** During the UN General Assembly in September 2016, the IAP released its first annual report, titled '2016: Old Challenges, New Hopes – Accountability for the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health'. The IAP focused on inequalities in 12 key indicators, four of which are reproductive health indicators. Using a human rights framework, the IAP makes bold recommendations for donors, national governments and the private sector.

# Commission on Population Development (CPD)

**Convener:** United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Established in:** The Population Commission was established by the UN Economic and Social Council 1946. Re-named Commission on Population and Development in 1994

**Taking place:** Annually in April, New York

**Participants:** 47 member states elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of geographic distribution. ECOSOC-accredited NGOs can attend. UN entities, especially UNFPA and UNDESA.

**Short description:** The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is the global intergovernmental body to discuss and give advice on issues such as population issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, and population and related development policies and programmes. It is tasked with monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) at the national, regional and international levels and to advise the Economic and Social Council thereon. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

**SRHR milestones:** The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA) put the spotlight on SRHR and generated unprecedented commitment and support from governments. In 2014, a special session of the General Assembly endorsed the findings of the 20 year review and the UN General Assembly decided that the ICPD PoA should continue until the agenda is achieved (including governments committing to intensify efforts). The Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD PoA explicitly refers to access to safe abortion and sexual rights.

# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

**Convener:** United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC)

**Established in:** 2006, first cycle of reviews from 2008 to 2011. 2017 sees the start of the 3rd cycle

**Taking place:** Annually in March, June and September in Geneva

**Participants:** All UN member states. 14 states are reviewed at each session. There are 3 reviews per year, meaning 42 states are reviewed annually. Hence a 4.5 year cycle to review each and every UN member state.

**Short description:** Reviews of the human rights situation of countries take place through an interactive discussion between the state under review and other UN member states. During the review, any state can pose questions, comments and/or make recommendations to the states under review. Reviews are based on:

1. A national report of 20 pages prepared by the state under review;
2. A compilation of ten pages prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) containing information from treaty bodies, special procedures and UN agencies;
3. A summary of ten pages prepared by the OHCHR containing information from civil society.

**SRHR milestones:** During the first cycle of the UPR, a total of 21,956 recommendations and voluntary commitments were made, 5,720 of which or 26 per cent of which pertained to SRHR and 77 per cent of which were accepted or partially accepted. A large proportion of the recommendations pertain to human rights instruments, gender equality, gender-based violence and women's human rights. Fewer recommendations have been made on contraception and family planning, early pregnancy, sex work and sexuality education.

# Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Convener:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**Established in:** 2012

**Taking place:** Every two years (alternating national and regional)

**Participants:** Member States of ECLAC

**Short description:** This regional conference is the successor of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, which formed in 1996. It is one of the main review mechanisms for the implementation of SRHR and SRHR-related topics in the region. Its aim is to examine the progress made in LAC countries with regards to the ICPD Programme of Action and, since 2013 to the Programme of Action Beyond 2014 and the Montevideo Consensus. The conference is informed by the Ad Hoc Committee, which is currently developing indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus. The Conference will inform the work of the newly created, Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Sustainable Development that will be responsible for following the implementation in the region of the Agenda 2030, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**SRHR milestones:** During the first session of the Regional Conference, the Montevideo Consensus was adopted which is the regional ICPD review document. It was applauded beyond the region for its progressive language on SRHR, which includes a definition of sexual rights.