

**Declaration of the Caribbean Sub regional meeting to assess the implementation
of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and
Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
November 12, 2003**

We, the representatives of 20 countries and territories of the Caribbean sub-region, gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on the 11th and 12th November 2003, in the framework of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling the Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development: Follow-up to ICPD, adopted in Nassau, the Bahamas, May 1995,

Recalling also the Latin America and Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development, adopted by ECLAC Member States in 1996,

Recalling further the Declaration of Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (UNFPA Caribbean Youth Summit held in Barbados, 1998),

Bearing in mind ECLAC resolution 590 (XXIX) entitled: "POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR 2002-2004" adopted in Brasilia, Brazil, in May 2002,

Taking into account that 2004 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994,

Having considered the report entitled "Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994 – 2004): Achievements and Constraints",

1. Reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to the principles and actions contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the document "Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and

Development”, in particular, with respect to ensuring reproductive rights and reproductive health, gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women;

2. Reaffirm our commitment to the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and recognize that the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
3. Recognize the rights of adolescents and youth to access youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information, education and services and call upon all countries to fully involve them in the design, implementation and evaluation of these programmes;
4. Pledge to further formulate and implement laws and mechanisms to protect children from the dangers they face, especially labour exploitation, sexual abuse and exploitation;
5. Recognize the new and ongoing challenges we face in the areas of population and development including issues related to reproductive rights, sexual and reproductive health, gender, youth and adolescents, ageing and persons with disabilities and acknowledge in particular the importance of continuing to address the following issues:
 - (a) Protection and promotion of reproductive rights;
 - (b) The provision of sexual and reproductive health information, education and services throughout the life cycle;
 - (c) Attention to the challenges that adolescents face in the context of persistent high rates of poverty and unemployment;
 - (d) Promotion of men’s responsibilities in regards to their own reproductive health and in support of their partners;
 - (e) Promotion of the need for evidence-based information on the under-performance of boys in the education system;
 - (f) A comprehensive approach to preventing and addressing the consequences of gender-based violence;

- (g) Attention to the increasing ageing of the population;
 - (h) Attention to reducing maternal morbidity and mortality;
6. Express our deep concern that the spread of HIV/AIDS has made the Caribbean the second-hardest hit region in the world, threatening population growth, as well as the economic and social structures of countries throughout the region, and reaffirm our commitment to the fight against the epidemic recognizing the need to address HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in the context of reproductive health programmes;
 7. Acknowledge the efforts of Caribbean countries and territories to achieve sustained economic growth and social development and to reduce poverty, and their continued commitment to advance policies and programmes on population and development;
 8. Recognize that in the Caribbean, population, economy and society have been negatively impacted by structural adjustment programmes, heavy debt servicing obligations, inequitable external trading regulations and practices, and unilateral measures not in accordance with the international law and the Charter of the United Nations;
 9. Call upon the international community to foster a supportive economic environment by promoting an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory international trading system, particularly for the Caribbean;
 10. Call upon all countries and territories of the Caribbean sub-region, to accelerate their efforts and enhance collaboration to achieve the social and economic well-being of the people of the sub-region;
 11. Commit to continue the national legislative reform process and to strive for effective implementation in order to ensure the full realisation of the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Caribbean Plan of Action;

12. Call upon all countries to strengthen their capacity –through the establishment of national and sub regional training programmes and by taking advantage of appropriate modern technology– to improve data collection, processing and analysis; and to ensure timely –sex disaggregated– information dissemination procedures for evidence-based decision making at all levels;
13. Recognize and commit to address the challenges caused by intra-regional and international movements of people on population and development, particularly in relation to the smuggling of and trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the brain-drain; returning migrants; deportations; border security in the light of September 11, 2001; and the free movements of persons under the provisions of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy;
14. Acknowledge the important contribution made by international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the donor community in the provision of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Caribbean sub-region, and urge them to continue and intensify such financial and technical support;
15. Recognize the important and complementary role non-governmental organisations play in *inter-alia* policy development, implementation and delivery of services and in promoting reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health, and call upon all countries to support mechanisms to build and sustain partnerships with non-governmental organisations, in a manner that does not compromise their autonomy;
16. Express our concern that the flow of resources to countries and territories in the Caribbean is not commensurate with the level of needs in the sub-region, as reflected in the report “Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994 – 2004): Achievements and Constraints”

17. Commit to strengthen our efforts in formulating and implementing comprehensive population and development policies and programmes, using existing resources and mobilizing additional domestic resources to support the implementation of programmes, despite the economic constraints faced by countries and territories throughout the Caribbean sub-region;
18. Express our appreciation to ECLAC, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, and UNFPA for their support in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and in the preparation of report entitled: "Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994 – 2004): Achievements and Constraints";
19. Call on the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, in collaboration with UNFPA, to continue its role of coordination of population and development activities in the Caribbean sub-region and in assisting with monitoring and follow up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action;
20. Encourage UNFPA, ECLAC, PAHO/WHO and other UN agencies to continue supporting the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, in particular in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;
21. Express our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting this Caribbean Sub regional meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption;
22. Adopt the present Declaration in commemoration of the upcoming 10th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, and as a contribution of the Caribbean sub-region to the regional and international 10-year review process of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development.