

THE UNECE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ICPD BEYOND 2014

JULY 1, 2013, GENEVA

President Tarja Halonen
Co-Chair

High-Level Task Force for ICPD
RIGHTS, DIGNITY & HEALTH FOR ALL

Triple window of opportunity

- Taking stock of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and formulating ICPD Beyond 2014
- Developing the Post 2015 Agenda
- Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals

Situation in ECE

Gaps

- disparities among and within countries, discrimination
- access to SRH services and commodities is limited, unaffordable or of poor quality
- maternal mortality higher in poor and marginalized communities

Opportunities

- SRHR as a means to lower risks of STIs, meet the need for contraception and lower maternal mortality
- gender- and family-friendly work environments
- equality under law regardless of gender orientation and sexual identity

The High-Level Task Force for ICPD

- Urges decision-makers in the European region to prioritize the protection and fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.
- Reminds about focusing especially on women, adolescents and youth, and on communities living in conditions of poverty and marginalization.
- Calls for **four key actions** to address the ICPD 'unfinished agenda':

1. Respecting, protecting and fulfilling **sexual and reproductive rights for all** through public education campaigns and community mobilization on human rights, and enabling policy and legal reforms.

All individuals should be able to exercise sexual and reproductive rights regardless of

- age
- sex
- ethnicity
- religious affiliation
- marital status
- disability
- HIV status
- national origin
- sexual orientation or
- gender identity, among other factors.

2. Accelerating universal access to quality, comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health **information, education and services.**

We can accomplish this by

- focusing on principles of **equity**, and ensuring no group is left behind;
- improving geographic **distribution and availability**, including in rural areas;
- ensuring providers comply with **human rights standards**;
- making sure that all services are **available** for all individuals, regardless of their background;
- and making sexual and reproductive health a **priority** of the health sector, and of our development cooperation policies.

3. Ensuring universal access to comprehensive **sexuality education for all young people, in and out of school.**

The Task Force encourages the international community to consider adopting **an 'updated' definition** and understanding **of good practice** on what comprehensive sexuality education entails.

Besides teaching about biology and providing practical advice on, for example, how to prevent pregnancy and HIV, sexuality education should teach about **human rights**: gender equality, the elimination of violence against women and girls, and tolerance and respect for diversity.

4. Eliminating violence against women and girls and securing universal access to critical services for all victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

All individuals subjected to violence, including sexual assault, must have ready access to critical emergency services for their safety, health and access to justice.

All countries should define at a least a core **package of services**, including post-rape care. This must include that in all cases of rape and incest, our policies, laws and services ensure access to quality, compassionate and timely safe abortion services.

More information about
the High-Level Task Force for ICPD
can be found at
www.icpdtaskforce.org

Thank you!