



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

WARSAW CALL TO ACTION

Central and Eastern European CSOs Call for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Sustainable Development November 2012

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, adopted a 20-year Programme of Action (PoA) that addressed the issues of population and development and dwelled upon the intricate interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth, sustainable development, advances in education, economic status and the empowerment of women. The ICPD Programme of Action (POA) emphasized universal access to health care, including reproductive health, safe motherhood, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and protection from violence.

The 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the Cairo Conference, an opportunity to offer an all-encompassing assessment of the program's principles, its goals and its future.

Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries have made modest headway in applying the ICPD framework as a tool to establish a sustainable architecture that protects and promotes women's rights in the region. While some progress can be noted in the sphere of reproductive health and sexual rights (such as a small decrease in maternal mortality or a small increase in the use of contraceptives, or the decriminalization of homosexuality in most countries of the region) the completion of ICPD's main aims is far from sight.

Starting with the 1990s, the region was marked by a series of social and economic upheavals that had an overall negative impact on the region's development. This particular dynamic contributed to a growing inequality, expressed, most significantly, in gendered terms. More recently, the region witnessed a revival of populist politics, of patriarchal discourses and of religious fundamentalist pressures. These factors tampered with policies addressing population management and reproductive rights.

Throughout the region we continue to experience a lack of political will and of commitment on the part of governments in developing and implementing policies addressing the priorities underlined in the ICPD Programme of Action. From an economic point of view, we have witnessed a general implementation of health policies inspired by neoliberal principles that transform patients with rights to sexual and reproductive health into consumers who can (or cannot) pay for their sexual and reproductive health. The situation continues to worsen as major funding streams have withdrawn from the region.

Taking into consideration that the ICPD PoA (15.3.) identifies non-governmental organizations as an important and efficient means to focus local and national initiatives and to address pressing concerns regarding population, the environment, migration, economic and social development,

we, representing organizations from Central and Eastern Europe comprising representatives of Civil Society Organizations, including women, men, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQI, sex-workers, faith-based organizations and other network and organizations throughout the region call on

> our governments:

1. to recognize, implement and reinforce the commitments accepted in 1994, in particular the promise to promote and achieve sustainable development through a SRHR agenda and to recognize its critical role for the improvement of women's status and the elimination of gender inequality;

- 2.** to renew their commitment to provide universal access to comprehensive sexuality education as an efficient and proved preventive measure; to make available the full range of contraceptive methods, including emergency contraception; to promote condoms, including female condoms, as a dual protection method; to guarantee access to a full range of abortion services and post-abortion care; to make available and guarantee a full range of medical services that prevent maternal deaths, especially emergency obstetric care in adequately equipped facilities; to provide the full range of services for the identification and treatment of victim-survivors of gender-based violence; to address STIs and HIV/AIDS, reproductive cancers, and to raise awareness of male responsibility in sexual and reproductive health, as well as to enunciate measures against stigma and discrimination in access to SRHR services;
- 3.** to adequately fund such medical services and pharmaceutical products in order to abide the principle of equal access to health care as well as to guarantee the individual right to non-discriminatory access to health care.
- 4.** to guarantee the implementation of SRHR policies through ensuring the functionality of health systems, providing adequate budgets, training for human resources and updated training and curriculum for health professionals;
- 5.** to inform SRHR policies with intersectional analysis; to found those on data measuring based on reproductive rights indicators, and to include marginalized groups, especially Roma communities, and to use qualitative research input in order to ensure that these policies are continually relevant;
- 6.** to base policy reviews on human rights paradigms in order to ensure that sexual and reproductive health are being recognized as human rights, and that governments are obliged to fulfill them, regardless of economic climate or political change;
- 7.** to ensure that general health and HIV-related policies, programmes and services are free of stigma and discrimination and are built on the fundamental commitment to respect, protect and promote human rights and gender equality.

> UNFPA and development partners to:

- 1.** Ensure the capacity enhancement of civil society to effectively engage with governments and to participate in the ICPD Beyond 2014 processes on all three inter-related levels country, regional and global level;
- 2.** Map national and regional level CSOs to involve in the ICPD+20 review process and in the Global Survey validation process;
- 3.** Convene in conjunction with CSOs pre-conferences to thematic conferences (Women's Health and Human Rights) which will feed into the Secretary General's Report;
- 4.** Work with CSOs to ensure meaningful representation in country delegations to thematic conferences as well as at the 47th CPD in 2014;
- 5.** Recognize SRHR issues as fundamental and critical issues in CEE and a priority for their funding allocations.
- 6.** Provide assistance to mobilize resources and to facilitate the above mentioned technical processes, as well as to create conditions to guarantee transparency and accountability for all budgetary allocations related to ICPD.

In conclusion, we urge governments, donors and international organizations to address the critical need and to take action towards full implementation of the ICPD PoA that is fundamental for achieving the MDGs and for the advancement of women's status in the region.

ASTRA members: ASTRA coordination and secretariat: Albania - Albanian Family Planning Association, Armenia - Women's Rights Center, Armenia – Society Without Violence, Azerbaijan - Center "Women and Modern World", Belarus - Women's Independent Democratic Movement of Belarus, Bulgaria - Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Bulgaria- Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Gender Education, Research and Technologies, Bulgaria - Demetra Association, Bulgaria- Gender Alternatives Foundation, Croatia - B.a.b.e. (Be Active, Be Emancipated), CESI - Center for Education and Counseling of Woman, Women's Centre for Sexuality and the Prevention, Research, and Combating of Sexual Violence - Women's Room, Georgia - Women's Center , Georgia – Hera XXI, Kazakhstan - The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives, „Sana Sezim“, Lithuania - Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Latvia - Latvia's Association for Family Planning And Sexual Health, Macedonia - Sheltar Centar, Moldova - Reproductive Health Service Center, Poland Federation for Women and Family Planning, Romania- ECPI -Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives; Romania-Asociatia pentru Libertate si Egalitate de Gen - A.L.E.G., Romania -The East European Institute of Reproductive Health, AnA: Society for Feminist Analysis, Russia - Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, ANO „Women's Health“, Novogorod Gender Center, Slovakia - Pro – choice, Ukraine - Women Health and Family Planning, Charitable SALUS Foundation.