23-24 October 2019
Metzy Hotel in Kotu, The Gambia
I. Introduction


The objective of the forum was to:

- Amplify the stories of incredible youth-led work that is already being done by West African youth leaders and youth organisations to advance the ICPD Agenda and be heard by world leaders at the Nairobi Summit.
- Empower West Africa youth leaders and youth organisations with the skills, knowledge and support they need to magnify their efforts for accelerating the promise.
- Highlight the contribution of ECOWAS particularly WAHO on improving access to quality sexual and reproductive health services tailored to the needs of adolescents and young people in West Africa region through the eyes of young people and world leaders at the Nairobi Summit.
- To get better understanding of the content of the African Union Agenda 2063 "The Africa We Want" for its dissemination.
- To identify the next steps to preparing and equipping the youth leaders and youth organisations in West Africa for their meaningful participation to the Nairobi Summit on the ICPD25: Accelerating the promise

This forum was organised in the context of Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 with a view to amplify, capture the voices and contributions of West African Youth towards the achievement of the ICPD agenda. It is a follow up to recommendation of a joint side event hosted by the AYC, NYC and UNFPA The Gambia at 3rd Pan-African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development held in Banjul, The Gambia from 23-27 March 2019.

II. Attendance

The forum brought together 100 youth leaders from Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya and T Chad’. The list of participants is enclosed in Annex 1.
III. Opening session

The opening ceremony was moderated by Mr. Lamin Darboe, the Executive Director of The Gambia National Youth Council (NYC). He introduced members of the high-table, thanked the participants for attending, and requested the forum be started with individual prayers. In his introductory statement, he presented the agenda and gave a background of the forum and the partners West African Health Organization and others that made the forum possible.

Delivering his welcoming remark, Mr. Dembo Kambi, Chairman of the Gambia National Youth Council thanked the participants and partners making time to attend this important forum.

He expressed the gratitude of National Youth Council in associating and supporting the event. “We have gathered here today to assess and reflect on what we have gained and what is yet to be met in the ambitious plan of achieving population and development objectives since Cairo 25 years ago, he said.”

He emphasized that it is time for young people to rewrite the narrative that confronts them in West Africa region and beyond. He questioned the level of awareness of young people on their own sexual and reproductive health care. He called on the ECOWAS Commission to bring together all youth councils in West Africa to establish the ECOWAS Youth Council. He further calls for the appointment of the ECOWAS Youth Envoy to provide the lead in the advocacies of young people in the sub region. He encourages the participants to think of every sector that concerns the development of young people and bring out key issues to the discussions. Finally, he highlighted the need for young people to accept the call to go into leadership especially political leadership in order to take the driver’s seat in addressing their own needs.
Mrs. Jennifer Yere Agbaji, Commissioner Gender, Agriculture and Rural Economy, African Youth Commission from Nigeria delivered the introductory statement on behalf of Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane, Executive Chairperson of the AYC.

Mrs. Yere introduced the AYC as a Pan African youth network spearheading the unification and mobilization of young people across Africa towards achieving the ideals and aspirations of the Pan African Agenda. She indicated that the AYC has a membership of over 1000 youth led and youth serving organizations in 46 African countries and its expanding. For the outcome of this 2-day forum, Mrs. Yere said at the end of the forum, participants with come up with a West African youth paper position to be presented to World leaders at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. She noted that the document will highlight key issues that West African youth would like to see address during the Nairobi Summit and beyond.

She concluded by encouraging the participants to focus attention on where we have been, where we are now and where we want to take the ICPD agenda after this 2-day forum.
Dr. MONGBO Mèdessi Yves Armand, PO Maternal and Child Health, WAHO delivered the keynote statement on behalf of Prof. Stanley Okolo, Director General of WAHO.

He started by thanking the Government of The Gambia for providing the enabling environment to the organizers to be able to host this important forum. He conveyed the greetings of WAHO DG Prof. Okolo who would have loved to witness the opening of the forum but could not make it due to other pressing engagements.

He acknowledged that this gathering of West African young people by young people themselves is unique and a legacy in the sub region. He said the WAHO is very pleased to be associated with this important sub-regional youth forum and provided technical and financial support for its successful organization. Dr. MONGBO noted that issues of population and development in the sub region ranges from low access to contraceptive and its uses by youth, female genital mutilation, early and unwanted pregnancies as well as limited awareness on key development frameworks such as the Africa Agenda 2063 among young people to encourage its domestication and dissemination.

He said one of the mandates of WAHO is to make advocacy to government and international organizations on the subject of health and promote health related programs in the ECOWAS region. In his concluding remarks, he made emphasizes for West African youth to organize themselves and work together on a common position paper to feed into the ICPD25 Summit in Kenya come November 12-14, 2019.
Solidarity statement by Mr. Kunle Adeniyi, Resident Representative, UNFPA The Gambia

Mr. Adeniyi, gave background of ICPD and how the conversation around it started 25 years ago in Cairo, Egypt. He said in 1994 participants from 180 countries made of world leaders, youth people and women from different backgrounds met to chart the path ways on population and development. He said this year 2019 marks 25 years since the Cairo Summit, and emphasize how importance it is after 25 years to meet and review the work of the ICPD and to chart a way forward in achieving the unfinished business.

According to Mr. Kunle, the action plan of the Cairo Summit is far from being achieved but it is not too late to change the paradigm. He said the West Africa region is homogenous; it is a place where young people can seat and work together for their own development. He acknowledges the capability of West African youth to can change the narrative and retool the population, and as well as to collectively empower the adolescent and girl child.

Mr. Adeniyi said the Government of Kenya and Denmark working with the UNFPA are committed to calling on every one to recommit to the ICPD program of action. Finally, he said the UNFPA is proud to be associated with this gathering of West Africa Youth Leaders and assured the continues support of UNFPA to the process. He thanked the AYC, National Youth Council, The of Government of The Gambia, WAHO and all partners for organizing this important forum.
Statement by Mr. Claude Kondor, Political Advisor to the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of ECOWAS Commission to the Gambia, H.E Madam Vabah Gayflor.

Mr. Claude begins by saying that there cannot be any serious talk on population without investment in the health of young people. He said in Cairo Programme of Action about 200 recommendations were made to provide comprehensive reproductive health care. He acknowledges the significant steps taken so far and how this 2-day forum is important to review those recommendations and map out strategies to achieve the unfinished business beyond the Nairobi summit. Mr. Kondor said, no country in Africa can boast of achieving fully the recommendations of the Cairo conference.

He said Population is not about numbers but it is about people and this is why ECOWAS is committed through WAHO to provide continuous support towards achieving the objectives of population and development in West Africa. He gives his assurance of conveying the call for appointment of ECOWAS Youth Envoy to the ECOWAS Commission.
Statement by Mr. Karamba Keita, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health on behalf of Hon. Dr. Ahmadou Samateh, Minister of Health The Gambia

Mr. Keita first and foremost, thanked WAHO for supporting the forum and commended the youth leaders for taking initiatives to better their health conditions and standard of living. Stressing the importance of the forum, the deputy permanent secretary noted that issues of population and development are mostly health related issues. He said poverty and ignorance have contributed to inappropriate health behaviors, particularly among young people. He informed that his Ministry has established a health policy that carries the central theme of health resulting into wealth.

He gave some insights of the current Health Situation of The Gambia, noting that; as of 2015, The Gambia achieved the Millennium Development Goals for Infant Mortality Rate, Under-5 Mortality Rate, immunization coverage, proportion of population using an improved drinking water source, primary schools enrolment and reduction in Malaria disease burden. The maternal mortality ratio, however, remains unacceptably high at 433/:100,000 live births (GDHS 2013), which exceeds the 2015 MDG target (263/100, 000) and it continues to be a major challenge for health service delivery.
Through our partnership with World Health Organization as well as the West African Health Organization and other development partners, we have developed the “Gambia National Health Policy 2012-2020”. The theme, ”HEALTH IS WEALTH”: “Acceleration of Quality Health Services and Universal Coverage”, which is the current philosophy which our national health policy is hinged upon becomes a reality only when a healthy population can contribute to improved productivity, increased GDP and sustained economic growth and overall ensure social equilibrium. Hence the slogan: “A Healthy population is a Wealthy population”, he said.

Accordingly to DPS Keita, the mission of the Ministry of Health is to contribute to socioeconomic development and wealth creation by promoting and protecting the health of the population through equitable provision of quality health care within the context of Primary Health Care. This mission puts the concept of health beyond the confines of curative care to other socioeconomic determinants of health. He acknowledged the fact that the health sector despite remarkable achievements registered since 1994 to date is still under great pressure due to a number of factors: high population growth rate, increasing morbidity and mortality, insufficient financial and logistic support, deterioration of physical infrastructure, inadequacies of supplies and equipment, shortage of adequately and appropriately trained health personnel, high attrition rate as well as inadequate referral system.

Assuring the Ministry of Health’s commitment to supporting youth development and empowerment particularly investing in young people’s health and education, Mr. Keita said they will continue to work with WAHO, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and The Gambia National Youth Council, the AYC and other development partners to put youth issues at the forefront of population and development agenda.
Opening Statement by Mr. Hassan Jallow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports on behalf of Hon. Hadrammeh Sidibeh, Minister of Youth and Sports The Gambia

PS Jallow started his remark by appreciating the efforts and support of all partners in organizing this first ever West Africa Youth Leaders Forum on Population and Development in The Gambia. He said the forum is timely and quite important for the Ministry of Youth and Sports The Gambia.

He noted that the Government of the Gambia has been at the forefront in championing the issues that concern young people. “The Gambia has always been at the forefront in championing and promoting youth development at all levels. The creation of The Gambia National Youth Council in year 2000 and the adoption of the African Youth Charter in Banjul in 2006 are a testament to this”, PS Jallow said.

Mr. Jallow went on further to say that The Government of The Gambia under the able leadership of H.E President Adama Barrow has recognized young people as critical actors in National Development. Since the ushering of the New Gambia, the
Government has supported a numerous youth development programmes and initiatives in the fields of health, education, skills development, sports, agriculture, economic empowerment (business and job creation) among others. He assured the ministry of youth and sports full commitment to supporting the ground breaking forum on population and development.

Finally, he expressed his special appreciation to the Gambia National Youth Council and the African Youth Commission (AYC) for jointly organizing this important gathering, and to West African Health Organization (WAHO) for funding, and all other partners who in one way or the other contributed to the successful organization of the forum. He declared the forum officially open and thanked the participants, for coming and wished them a productive session and stay in The Gambia.

Summary of the Discussions and Presentations

IV. Panel discussions and presentations on Youth and ICPD:
   a) YOUTH AND ICPD PANEL SESSION
      • Panel discussion on the main theme: “Population and Development, ICPD25: the contributions from the West Africa Youth Leaders”.

Moderated by Mr. Alagie Jarju, Programme Manager, The Gambia National Youth Council

Panelists: L-R: Ms. Maria Helena Teixeira Furtado, WAHO (Cape Verde), Mr. Moussa Diop, AYC (Senegal), Mrs. Satang Nabaneh, TYW (Gambia), Mr. Patrick Michaelson Gibrilla, AYC (Sierra Leone)
The panelists noted that most the young people attending the forum today were kids between the ages of 1 and 8 when the ICPD was held in Cairo in 1994. Young people 25 years ago could not have imagined seating at the table to discuss such crucial matters that concerns them and their development. They recognized the need to seize such opportunity to talk about the aspirations of youth for the future. The ICPD framework has been undergoing technical reviews each 5 years and this has provided a level of awareness on the topic.

**Responding to the question as to what extent has ICPD been achieved, the following challenges were noted:**

- The objective of women to be autonomous and to reduce the inequality gaps and the need to address their sexual and reproductive health still remain a prevalent challenge.
- Young boys and girls are still not treated the same way which is evidence that there is still more work to be done in achieving the ICPD in bridging the gender gap.
- Though the sub region on a whole has made slow progress, The Gambia has come very far in addressing issues of gender based violence, child marriage and young people are taking more actions and becoming more gender conscious.
- The Sierra Leone Government launched the free health care policy in the wake of the Ebola crisis to address immediate and future health challenges.
- There is limited data to provide scientific basis for finding solutions to the challenges in the health sector.
- Gender equality is being promoted at different levels and the awareness and usage of reproductive health tools are gradually being accepted.
- Let us do more to stop force marriage and FGM in the sub region.

**On What steps should West African leaders take in achieving the ICPD and how should young people hold leaders accountable, the following suggestions were made:**

- Less than 15 years the young people of the continent will be accountable of the work of ICPD.
- It important to educate our population and to create awareness to enable wide range participation on the subject.
- Government should commit more resources to address the peculiar needs of girls and women.
- We need a mindset change not to hold anyone accountable but ourselves and in doing so increase investment in girls and women educational and empowerment programs.
Government leaders and politicians should fully participate in programs from the start to the end and not to only come and give opening remarks and leave the rooms after.

**What are we young people doing to achieve the ICPD**

- AfriYAN has organized forums to talk about and create awareness on ICPD, example is the support for this maiden ECOWAS youth forum.
- Young leaders have been leading advocacy programs to increase education and awareness.
- Young people in Niger have promoted advocacies that protect young people, for instance there is a law in Niger that protects and guarantees the girl child to education at least to age 13.
- Increase in the slot for women and girls in advocacy campaigns.

**Are the voices of young people really heard and how can young people be taken serious**

- Young people must involve themselves in decision making through active political participation.
- Young people must be given a seat not only at a ceremonial table but also at the planning, implementing and monitoring stages of every agenda, to be at the center stage of the process.

**What should be the commitment of young people in achieving the tenets of ICPD**

- Young people should commit to get the required skills and tools to create jobs for fellow young people.
- Conduct training sessions and festivals on sexual reproductive health.
- Let us commit to fight against violence and extremism to create peace and to promote quality education to give the chance to the girl child to go to school.
- Young people should commit to specific issues and to get involved in the process.
V. WAHO AND YOUTH SESSION

- Plenary presentation on initiatives of WAHO to promote better health in Africa through regional integration By Dr. Mongbo M. Yves Armand

Moderated by Mr. Olusegun Awolaran, Project Officer, Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescent and Youth, WAHO

Dr. Mongbo, made a detailed presentation on the work and initiatives of WAHO in promoting a better health in Africa through regional integration. In his presentation, he outlined the following:

- **State of population in ECOWAS region**

  He stated that there are about 300 million people in ECOWAS Region with 44% under 15 years of age. Most West African countries are among countries with the highest fertility rate. It is difficult to achieve demographic dividend due to the persistent levels of fertility and the slow change in demographic transition. The structure of ECOWAS population creates a need for social, education, health services and employment. Projections show by 2030 several countries in the region will still have more than 4 children which are far from the 3 target.

For determinants of high fertility, Dr. noted the following as contributing factors:

- The lagging socio economic development of countries.
• Weakness of family planning programs.
• A very high desired fertility rate among women and men.
• Weak political will.
• Early sexual debut and child bearing, many women give birth before at 18.

He summarizes WAHO projects as follows:

• Health information.
• Adolescents and youth health.
• Promotion of basic quality training.
• Quality of medicines.
• Sexual rights.
• Research.
• Gender promotion.
• Community mobilization.
• Continuous education.

WAHO Contribution:

• Strategic partnership with organizations to achieve the objectives of ICPD programme of action.
• Promotion of campaigns on sexual and reproductive health and rights, ensuring full universal access to SRHR, achievement of the SDGs, UHC and the Africa Union Agenda 2063, rapid growth of the population with significant contribution from young people to harness the demographic dividend.
VI. Plenary discussion on how access to RH quality services and efficient information sharing among youth could be improved to ensure rights and choices for all

Moderated by Ms. Christine Sayo, Director of Advocacy and Communications, AYC

What are the common sources of information on sexual reproductive health?

- Many young people are using social media as their primary source of information on sexual reproductive health.
- Peer education that encourages open discussion is also influencing how young people get information.
- Schools or formal education through subject like life skills help young people get information.
- Health forums and symposiums provide the platform for access to information for young people.

What challenges do young people face when accessing quality information on reproductive health?

- Limited access to data affect access to sexual reproductive health information.
• Cultural barriers confront young people in accessing information on sexual reproductive health.
• Religion in some countries makes the discussion of sexual reproductive health a taboo therefore impeding the ability of young people to access information.
• Language barrier.

**How can young people ensure that the gaps identified in accessing information can be overcome?**

• To mobilize local resources to fund projects on access to information in order to ensure the sustainability of programs and initiatives.
• To collaborate with other agencies in order to scale up the impact of promoting access to quality information.
• To increase advocacy in the bottom-top approach in providing information.
• To develop modern technology tool to enhance access to information.
• To hold duty bearers accountable in the discharge of their duties.
• There is the need to fight against stereotypes and stigmatization on the subject.
• Young people should be encouraged to better engage themselves using positive tools.
DAY TWO (2) 24TH OCTOBER, 2019

VII. ICPD at 25: Fulfilling the promise of Cairo

- Inter-generational discussion around the table on “what has changed since 1994 and what can we do better beyond 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25”

Spotlight Speaker: “The role of Youth in the Implementation of the Africa Agenda 2063 for the Africa We Want” by Mr. Bening Ahmed, Acting Secretary General of Pan African Youth Union (PYU), Ghana

In his spotlight presentation, Mr. Ahmed emphasized that young people in Africa must concern themselves with activities of high profile meetings of African leaders to find out how they can participate. African youth should mobilize themselves and hold leaders accountable for the promise they made to the people and for the administration of the resources of countries.

He argued that young people are either inadequate or underrepresented in political decision making processes on the continent and therefore encourage the participants to strive to understand the philosophical meanings underpinning intervention made on the continent. “Young people should become active
participants in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs and projects focused on achieving Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want; Young people require an aggressive shift in attitude and thinking towards the transformation of Africa; African youth must stand up as anti-corruption advocates to fight against the exploitation of natural resources; we must advocate for capital financing for indigenous business, and must take advantage of technological advancement to drive growth and development, he said”

For the inter-generational roundtable discussion on “what has changed since 1994 and what can we do better beyond 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25”, the panelists acknowledged the following milestones:

Moderated by Mr. Lamin Darboe, Executive Director of The Gambia National Youth Council

Panelists: L-R: Mrs. Jennifer Yere, AYC (Nigeria), Hon. Sarata Ceesay, Speaker of Children National Assembly (The Gambia), Dr. Mongbo M. Yves Armand, (WAHO), Mrs. Awa Dem, National Population Commission Secretariat (The Gambia)

The panelists noted the following progress and challenges:

- Women rights are increasing embraced around countries though sometimes at a slow pace.
- Infant mortality has been reduced by 66% in 2015.
• Maternal mortality has reduced by a 45% in 2015.
• The world has moved from MDGs to SDGs providing a basis of an increase in the level of approach in achieving the promise because most SDG ambitions are ambitions influenced by the ICPD.
• There are youth centers built in most countries to address the needs of young people regarding sexual adolescent and reproductive health.
• There has been significant change with regards to person with disability who are now more included in the decision making.
• There is an increase in the participation of women in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs.

They made the following suggestion for world leaders to do towards ICPD 25 in Nairobi:
• Include children and young people in decision making in developmental program.
• Implement laws that protect the rights and welfare of children, women and the youth.
• End all forms of violence against women and young people.
• Exploit nontraditional spaces in communicating and addressing the issues of sexual and reproductive health.

To fulfil the Cairo Promise, they recommended the following:
• There should be adequate data collection to influence scientific decision making.
• The game of promoting the ICPD should be sustained.
• Strengthen partnership and collaboration.
• Inclusion in adolescent and youth in political decision making processes.
• Government, NGOs and young people should be action oriented in implementation of population and development goals.
• Nairobi should not be ICPD promise but ICPD action.
VIII. The role of Youth in ICPD Unfinished Business

- Panel discussion to explore the role of youth leadership in delivering on the ‘unfinished business’.

Moderated by Mr. Keith Andere, Director of Programmes, AYC

Panelists: L-R: Ms. Fatoumata Diallo, PWD (Sierra Leone), Mr. Flomo Mau Maiwo, AYC (Liberia), Ms. Kiné Sarr, SheDecides (Senegal) and Mr. Olusegun Awolaran, WAHO.

The panelists shared the contributions of their various organizations, and how they are supporting young people in the sub region to address the unfinished business.

- WAHO is conducting a situational analysis on the effectiveness of reproductive health in the sub region.
- WAHO support countries in terms of capacity building on ways to scale up the impact of ICPD.
- WAHO is in the business of supplying reproductive health materials and tools to countries and organization in an attempt to the challenges in most countries.
- She Decides works in Senegal to support teenage girls who are pregnant and related matters on teenage pregnancy.
- AYC as a continental movement is continuously working to give young people the space and the platform to ensure that the voices of young people are heard at all levels.
• Young people in organizations that focuses on advocacy on disabilities are taking the initiative to educate the public on the challenges of disabilities and how to work together.
• In Sierra Leone young people with disabilities are registered providing a basis to drive policy and programs to meet their needs.

**Is there enough source of information that speaks to the needs of young people?**
- Social media has become the number one source of information for majority of young people.
- It is still considered a taboo in most countries especially in Senegal for young people to be given the national platform to speak about adolescent reproductive health.
- Young people must be trained on how to articulate their needs regarding sexual reproductive health.

**How can we put pressure on government and leaders to deliver on the unfinished business?**
- There should be a more effective and enhance communication strategies and wide range stakeholder engagement.
- Stakeholders should promote an annual ICPD conference in order to bring to the table the contribution of all stakeholders in making progress towards addressing the unfinished business.
- Young people should not place condemnation on religious, society and governmental leaders but rather provide information and education on the negative impact of child marriage and all related issues on sexual reproductive health.

**What are the challenges that confront young people in disability towards achieving the ICDP agenda?**
- Young people with disability face the challenge of access to tertiary institution in order to access better education.
- Young people with disability are challenged with getting access to information on sexual reproductive health.
- In general there is a low access to disability tools and materials that enhances the ability of young people in disability to be mobile, read, hear, see and to participate in everyday life.
- Most health centers are not disability user friendly.
IX. Youth as Drivers in implementation of ICPD Plan of Action in ECOWAS region

Spotlight Speaker: “The role of Youth in Promoting Mental Health and Psychosocial Support” by Mr. Mustapha Minteh, Mental Health Officer at Ministry of Health The Gambia

Mr. Minteh started his presentation by first and foremost thanking the organizers for including the topic of mental health in the discussion. He said it’s time and important. He stated the importance of why young people should be part of mental health discussion and champion the advocacy around it. According to him, there are about 1.2 billion youth globally and nearly half (45%) of the global burden of disease for young people is attributable to mental disorder. Various researches have revealed that approximately half of lifetime mental disorders, including depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety related disorders, impulse-control disorders and substance control disorders begins at age 14. “Across all countries, suicide has surpassed maternal mortality as the top cause of death for adolescent girl and it now the third leading cause of death for adolescent boys as well”, he said.

He went on to highlight some barriers such as, health providers not well trained to work with youth; social stigma related to youth seeking services for sensitive issues such as sexual and reproductive health or mental health; and youth are often neglected
in health programming and therefore there is an urgent need for action. Finally, he concluded that the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of youth is an essential determinant of their healthy development and future wellbeing as adults.

- **Plenary discussion on how West African youth can have their say in the ICPD discourse and drive the implementation of its Plan of Action beyond Nairobi Summit on ICPD25**

**Moderated by Mr. Andrew Gibba, President of AfriYAN Gambia**

The panelists suggested the following for young people to have their voice heard and meaningfully engage in the implementation of ICPD plan of action beyond Nairobi, they should;

- Assess themselves on what they are doing right and what they are not doing right in the implementation of the ICPD action plan.
- Strive to know and educate themselves on the content of the ICPD action plan and the interrelated technical issues.
• Come together and collaborate to achieving the objectives the ICDP.
• Come out with position papers to influence policy and decision making process.
• Demand a seat on the table of decision making.
• Education of the girl child is fundamental to addressing the needs of the girl child in respect to her sexual and reproductive welfare.
• Leverage the platform WAHO has offered to scale up the effort in their countries.

X. Thematic group works to develop the position paper/outcome document of the forum

At the end of plenary and panel discussions, participants were divided into seven thematic groups on 1) Population and Sustainable Development, 2) Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights, 3) Access to Reproductive Health (RH) Quality Services and Information for Youth, 4) Youth Friendly Services and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), 5) Gender Based Violence and Empowerment of Young Women and Men, 6) Urbanization and Internal Migration and 7) Mental Health and Persons with disabilities to discuss and identify what have we achieved (progress +key lessons), what are the challenges, what are the opportunities for improvement, what are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit and any other key issues. Following the group works, the presented the key issues which formed the recommendation/position paper of the forum.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</th>
<th>What are the challenges?</th>
<th>What are the opportunities for improvement</th>
<th>What are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit?</th>
<th>Any other key issues?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Free health care services for women in some African countries; Youth participation in decision making.</td>
<td>There is difficulty in facilitating data especially in current situation where old statistics are been used to manage current issues; Lack of education knowledge in rural areas especially the woman; The population affects the sustainability of the country because if the population exceed the resources sustainability will be difficult; Lack of health educations affects women in the rural areas more; Inadequate resources, mostly medical.</td>
<td>The government should make more effort in terms of improving health facilities and also properly monitor health workers; Learning and sharing best practices.</td>
<td>Government should do more in terms of promoting access to reproductive health services, and to end gender base violence; Government should only sign and ratify international document but domesticate and popularize treaties or convections</td>
<td>Attitudinal change of the individual (young people)</td>
</tr>
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### Thematic Group 2: Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights

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<tr>
<th>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</th>
<th>What are the challenges?</th>
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<th>What are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit?</th>
<th>Any other key issues?</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1. Tremendous increment on ICPD awareness raising from 1994 to 2019; 2. Policies have been put in place in ensuring that adolescent sexual and reproductive rights are adhered; 3. Accessibility of contraceptive.</td>
<td>Stigma \ attitude of health workers; Misconception of religion for culture; Policy not been implemented; Technology lapses, poor network.</td>
<td>Youthful population 60% to take up the responsibility to advocate for sexual reproduction; Using the media for information dissemination purposes.</td>
<td>Working collectively in ensuring that the policies put in place are adhered; Involving various stakeholders such as religious leaders, government; Inclusion of reproduction and sexual education into the school curriculum \ guidance consular in school.</td>
<td>Coming up with an ICPD commission\unit to be like pressure group.</td>
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### Thematic Group 3: Access to Reproductive Health (RH) Quality Services and Information for Youth

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</th>
<th>What are the challenges?</th>
<th>What are the opportunities for improvement</th>
<th>What are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit?</th>
<th>Any other key issues?</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Some youths are becoming aware and do participate in the issue of reproductive health; Coming together to discuss our problems and framing</td>
<td>Religious interference; Access to contraceptives is a major problem especially in the provinces; Lack of parental communication to their</td>
<td>Sexual reproductive health needs to be reintroduced in the school curriculum; There should be more room for engagements between</td>
<td>Exchange programs for nurses between countries in Africa; Training teachers to deliberate on sexual and reproductive health in</td>
<td>Peace and stability among African countries, which will enable us receive information and services; How prepared young people are in accessing information on reproductive health(radicalization)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solutions is one achievement because forums on reproductive health were never held before; There are CSOs and NGOs that are undergoing outreach programs, seminars in the provinces to sensitize girls especially on their rights, marriage, family planning, menstruation, sex, FGM etc; The concept of family planning is now active; There are information on reproductive health service that are being discussed and promoted on TV shows, movies, series etc.</td>
<td>children; Lack of enough youth centers; Culture can also be a hindrance; Not streamlining health services specifically for young people Behavioral problems in youth centers; Enough information in the available youth centers</td>
<td>parents and children; Behavioral problem needs to be improved in health centers between nurses and patients.</td>
<td>schools; Improve access to family planning among young people; Information on reproductive health in the form of drama and entertainment; Sustainability of initiatives for youths in government sectors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</td>
<td>What are the challenges?</td>
<td>What are the opportunities for improvement</td>
<td>What are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit?</td>
<td>Any other key issues?</td>
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<td>Sufficient communication Level of campaign &amp; Awareness; Access to information; Access for safe sexual reproductive products and affordable contraceptive method; Acknowledgement of youth services centers to be established; Ability to achieve certain policies; Breaking cultural barriers; Strengthen youth advocacy</td>
<td>The way services are setup; Sensitization, Religion, Culture believes; Lack of coordination between stakeholders; Lack of proper coordination between state holders; Ignorance; Political wills and commitment; Method of communication the issue of female genital mutilation; Accessibility &amp; affordability availability in rural area</td>
<td>The illiteracy is high; Formal education; CBO; Availability of platforms &amp; Packaging; use of social medias; traditional communication; Community leaders; Traditional leaders; Increase platform to enhance the conversation</td>
<td>Use of Data to inform policy maker; Recommendation; Increase campaign on sexual reproductive health; Commitment for state holders; Networking and partnership; Tracking the progress and challenges (a long road) of the ICPD; Pre annual youth assembly on the regional level; Annual youth assembly on continental level; Resource mobilization; Create safe space to continue the conversation about sexual reproductively; Creation mechanization to allow us to review and assess; Get government committed in; Score card to track the commitment that</td>
<td>Including sexual reproductive curriculum in high school</td>
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### Thematic Group 5: Gender Based Violence and Empowerment of Young Women and Men

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<tr>
<th>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</th>
<th>What are the challenges?</th>
<th>What are the opportunities for improvement</th>
<th>What are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit?</th>
<th>Any other key issues?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legislations that ensure the effective representation of young people e.g establishment of national youth councils, youth parliament and the NotTooYoungToRun; Laws and conventions that protect women and girls. CEDAW, UNCHR; Women and children act 2005, 2010 Gambia, 1999 constitution FGM act in Senegal; Right of children to free and compulsory education. Adopted in 2015; Establishment of the AU Youth Envoy.</td>
<td>Inadequate political will; Culture of silence; Right/ access to information; Cultural norms and values.</td>
<td>ICPD Summit 2019; Improvement of social policies; Improve quality education; Improved access to information; Guidance and counselling</td>
<td>Sexually and reproductive health education in schools curriculums; Strengthen of rural advocacy; Introductions of mainstream media advertisements, eg: Bill boards, national tvs and radios, general sms on national; Concrete (Entrench) laws against perpetrators of Gender based violence.</td>
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**Thematic Group 6: Urbanization and Internal Migration**

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<th>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</th>
<th>What are the challenges?</th>
<th>What are the opportunities for improvement</th>
<th>What are the key recommendations for Delivering the Promise beyond Nairobi Summit?</th>
<th>Any other key issues?</th>
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<td>Decentralization of development; Development oriented projects targeting the rural communities, i.e one district, one factory, one village, one dam; Adoption of migration national + sub-regional migration policies such as National Migration and ECOWAS protocol on free movement of goods, services and persons; Rehabilitation of the skill centers such as the one in mansakonko. The tekki fi project (agro grant targeting the rural area and the solar grant, rural and urban)</td>
<td>Low awareness on polices and protocols on migration; Inadequate enforcement of policies and protocols on migration; High unemployment and increase in crime rate in urban cities</td>
<td>Leverage on advanced technological tools to create awareness on protocols and polices on migration; Intervention of international development partners and CSOs; Agriculture as source of economic and social development</td>
<td>Government should take steps towards full enforcement of policies and frameworks on migration; Development should be people centered and driven; Invest and commercialize agriculture, agribusiness in particular; Prioritize investment in TVET in secondary schools curriculum; Young people should mobilize themselves to track the implementation of polices and protocols on migration; Young people should increase advocacy on the implementation of policies and protocols on migration and human trafficking</td>
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<td>What have we achieved (progress + key lessons)?</td>
<td>What are the challenges?</td>
<td>What are the opportunities for improvement</td>
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<td>Creation of specialty for mental health studies in AIU in the Gambia; Establishment of more civil societies that advocate for mental health in the Gambia; Free university education for people with disabilities in Sierra Leone; Representation of people with disabilities at the national assembly in the Gambia.</td>
<td>Poor implementation of people with disability Act in some countries e.g Sierra Leone and in the Gambia no passage of Act; Stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities and mental health; Gender base violence against people with disabilities and mental health; Poor access of to education, health and life skills for person with disabilities; Negligence by family members to people with disabilities and mental health.</td>
<td>More attention is been given to people with disabilities and mental health by government and private stakeholders; Some funds are already put aside for people with disabilities and mental health by individuals, companies to train person with disabilities and mental health on Entrepreneurship; Negative perception with people with disabilities and mental health issues are changing.</td>
<td>Consideration should be given to disability friendly public infrastructures; Training of more professionals to take care of people with disabilities and mental health; More efforts should be made to protect lives rights of people with disabilities mental health.</td>
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XI. **Official Closing.**

The forum was officially closed by Mr. Flomo Mau Maiwo, AYC Deputy Executive Chairperson, Mr. Aliou Oumarou, Acting President of Pan African Youth Union, Mr. Dembo Kambi, Chairman of The Gambia National Youth Council and Dr. Mongbo M. Yves Armand representative of WAHO. They thanked partners particularly WAHO for the immense support, and all the participants for attending and their active participation in the forum and wished them safe travels back to their respective countries.

-End-

**Enclosed:**

XII. 1 – List of Participants.