

LISBON DECLARATION

We, the participants of **the International Conference on Young Decision Makers - SRHR & MDG in Portugal and around world** held in the Portuguese Parliament, Lisbon, October 18 2005, commit ourselves to advance the sexual and reproductive health rights of all people, according to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Platform for Action of the International Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Millennium Development Goals, and the 2005 World Summit (New York, 2005).

WE SUPPORT

1. The General Secretary of the United Nations, Kofi Anan, when recognising that it is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, if we do not face population and reproductive health issues. This means intensifying efforts to promote women's rights and implement greater investments in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning";
2. The efforts made by government leaders, international agencies and NGOs during the 2005 World Summit (September 2005), when they recognized that the main issues to attain the MDGs and international Human Rights include contraception and family planning, adolescent health services, and overcoming domestic violence, as cited in the official reports on the implementation of the MDGs highlighting the centrality of adolescents' rights to sexual and reproductive health and education;
3. A greater integration of HIV/AIDS with other reproductive health services, including voluntary counseling and testing, family planning, and safe motherhood and believe that these must be at the core of global efforts associated to the youth empowerment;
4. The idea that States and Governments in general should take greater action to attain gender equality and equity, as well as youth involvement, not only in their representation in government bodies but also at all different decision-making levels;
5. UNFPA's work on the efforts to commit to and implement the PoA of Cairo, PfA of Beijing and the MDGs;
6. The advocacy work of European Parliamentary Groups and young decision-makers, namely IEPFPD and GPPSPD, other international organizations, United Nations agencies involved in the work of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the European Union, and the Council of Europe, governments and national parliaments, and NGOs.

WE RECOGNIZE

1. The need for urgent collective action to achieve the national and international agenda of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
2. The right of all young people to make free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives, and the right to information, services, and supplies necessary to implement those choices.
3. That youth participation in decision-making is a basic human right, taking into account the largest youth population in world's history ever – 3 billion people are over 25 years old and 1.06 billion are between 19 and 25 (UNFPA, State of the World Population Report, 2005). The participation of young decision makers in the formulation of policies and legislation aimed at young people is therefore crucial.

4. That the poorest countries hold 85% of the global population younger than 25 (UNFPA, State of the World Population Report, 2005).
5. That 500 million young people live on less than 2 dollars a day (UNFPA, State of the World Population Report, 2005).
6. That teenagers between 10 and 19, in particular girls, are the priority group of intervention concerning Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, since gender-based discrimination leads to lower access to education and a higher risk of sexual abuse, early marriage/pregnancy, traditional harmful practices, trafficking, and HIV infection; and that it is the reason why 14 million poor teenagers give birth every year, facing higher risks of maternal and child mortality and social exclusion (UNFPA, State of the World Population Report, 2005)
7. Almost one fourth of the HIV-positive people are younger than 25, according to the UNAIDS data.
8. That violence and discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, political-religious-cultural options, social-economical strata, and family strata are obstructing factors to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
9. That Young Decision Makers have an important role to play on SRHR issues because they can make a difference with their ideas, words, innovation, and social responsibility, and because they are a part of the decision –making system.
10. That these rights are intrinsically related with other social justice and human rights issues.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES

- To advocate for policies and programmes that ensure the people's health and rights not only in Portugal, but also in the entire global community, especially in developing countries and in the Lusophone community
- To promote SRHR as a human right as well as an element of equal opportunity and development.
- To support mechanisms that allow the reinforcement of young people's participation concerning the promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and the Millennium Declaration.
- To call upon the appropriate structures and the Ministries of Health and Education to advance the implementation of health and sexual education programmes in school, therefore promoting an effective and necessary continuity in the educational process.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT

1. reinforce the collaboration between Young Decision Makers, Parliaments, NGOs, Governments, international agencies, UN and EU bodies, and that they disseminate the outcomes of this conference as an example of good practices in advocacy for the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and for the Millennium Development Goals;
2. guarantee and promote the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and health to all young people;
3. strengthen all efforts to achieve gender equity;

4. facilitate the elimination of all forms of sexual abuse and violence in and outside the family;
5. provide universal access to information, sexual education and family planning;
6. involve young people in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that affect them;
7. develop integrated programmes that establish a response to the unmet needs concerning Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health of young boys and girls;
8. facilitate the access of more vulnerable groups (e.g. due to social-cultural and age reasons) to sexual and reproductive health information and services;
9. evaluate the quality of Sexual and Reproductive Health services, identify specific groups with unmet needs, and implement new intervention strategies to reduce the increase of STIs and unwanted pregnancies and abortion;
10. advance the elaboration of an articulated programme on teenage pregnancy prevention, with the creation of at least one health service for teenagers in every part of the country, articulating an effective regional and national network of response to the needs of boys and girls.
11. reverse the increase of HIV/AIDS and of other sexually transmitted diseases;
12. work with the international community in order to implement Sexual and Reproductive Health policies and programmes addressed to teenagers;
13. recognize that HIV prevention is part of a greater effort to protect and promote health, especially Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
14. take up their commitment as laid out in the Cairo Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular their commitments concerning sexual and reproductive health in the field of public support to development, namely, increasing, in a substantial way, the Portuguese contribution to UNFPA and reinforcing the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health plans and policies in Portuguese international cooperation;
15. monitor the implementation of the Ibero-American Convention of the Young People's Rights, signed last October 12th in Badajoz, Spain, in which article 23 refers explicitly to the issues of the Young People's Right to Sexual Education;
16. recognise that equal opportunities, social inclusion and development in national and international plans cannot be achieved without political and financial investments in Health, Education, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of young people.

WE SIGN THIS DECLARATION to formalise our commitment to the promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Portugal and in the world.

Political action needs financial resources. It is the difference between past and future, poverty and development, and life and death.

The need for civic and social support is a crucial part of public opinion and of the political decision. This is the reason of our commitment, today the 18th of October 2005.