

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: 00 251 11 5517 700; Fax: +251 115 182 072
www.au.int

**THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
POPULATION AND DRUG CONTROL
(STC-HPDC-3)
CAIRO, EGYPT
29 JULY- 2 AUGUST 2019**

Document Reference: SA24167

***Theme: "Increased Domestic Financing for Universal Health Coverage and Health
Security for All African Citizens- Including Refugees, Returnees and Internally
Displaced persons"***

**Report of the First Meeting of Ministers or Senior Government Officials in Charge of
Population as a Working Group of the Second Specialized Technical Committee on
Health, Population and Drug Control**

**FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS OR SENIOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF
POPULATION AS A WORKING GROUP OF THE
SECOND SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH, POPULATION AND DRUG CONTROL
(STC-HPDC-2)
ACCRA, GHANA
4-5 October 2018**

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of Ministers in Charge of Population as a working group of the Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-2) was held in Accra, Ghana from 4-5 October 2018.

2. The meeting discussed key Population and Development issues as follows:

The 5 year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) – The Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development beyond 2014 (AADPD) was adopted by Ministers in October 2013 and endorsed by the AU Summit in January 2014. The AADPD calls for periodic reviews based using the Operational Guide of the AADPD and the AADPD indicators contained, in its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which were approved by the STC-HPDC 2. The 5 year review of the AADPD will facilitate Africa's input into the 25th review of the International conference on Population and Development in 2019.

Common African Position (CAP) on Population and Development – Recalled the pre-consultation preparatory meeting, with AU member states in New York for the preparation for the 51st session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). AU member states based in New York requested for Africa to '*speak in one voice*' on Population issues. The Commission presented a draft Common African Position (CAP) on Population issues. The CAP is aimed at supporting African Member state to '*speak with one voice*'. The CAP will be guided by existing population policies, Agenda 2063 and the AADPD.

Preparations for the 52nd Commission on Population Development (CPD) – Member States discussed the preparation of the 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development and made recommendations to guide Africa's input into the global discussions.

ATTENDANCE

3. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following **53** AU Member States: Angola, Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, The Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, The Kingdom of Eswatini, The Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The following were invited to the meeting as observers United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and 8 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing the 5 regions of the Africa Union.

5. In addition, AU Organs (Department of Economic Affairs, Office of the Legal Counsel and the Department of Human Resources Science and Technology) were present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING

6. Welcoming statements were presented by the following:

i. Dr Sartie Kenneh, Director, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Africa Population Expert Committee (APEC) Chairperson

The ministers or senior government officials were welcomed by the Africa Population Experts Committee (APEC) chairperson, Dr Sartie Kenneh. He extended sincere appreciation to the Government of Ghana, the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for tirelessly working on ensuring the success of this meeting. He also recognized and thanked the support given by the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Civil Society Organization through their two day pre-consultation that made key recommendations to the expert's session.

Dr Kenneh outlined the activities of the two-day meeting which took into consideration the development of a Common Africa Position (CAP), the 5 year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) as well as preparations for the 52nd Commission on Population and Development (CPD). Which are tandem with aspiration 7 of Agenda 2063, and aspires for an "*Africa as a strong, United and influential global player and partner*". In order to facilitate Africa's single voice, within population and development fora at the continental and global arenas, Dr Kenneh stated that discussions from the expert's session and the upcoming ministerial session will strengthen Africa's position on issues of population that are distinct and pressing to the continent.

ii. Ms. Thokozile Rudzvidzo, Director, Social Development Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

The Director expressed appreciation to the Government of Ghana and expressed the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) pleasure, to be working once again with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in organizing this Conference. The member states have called upon the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations, and the ECA, to play a proactive role in ensuring that population issues, are at the core of the sustainable development agenda. The Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development calls for concerted action, and she was pleased that ECA could answer to the call to play a proactive role.

The Director outlined three reasons for the purpose and relevance of the 5 year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD); that the review reaffirms and consolidates past commitments in the area of population and development, it overlaps - in content and timing - with other major development agendas notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and it was officially endorsed by African Heads of State and Government at the African Union Summit. Through the findings and recommendations of the 5 year continental review the Director pointed out that Africa would like to put forward strong proposals that can inspire action and achieve meaningful results particularly for marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Africa must have more determination and robust action which will demonstrate that the continent needs a new deal with the world - where its youthfulness will be an asset to an ageing world.

iii. H.E. Mr. Dereje Wordofa, Deputy Executive Director, United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)

The Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA expressed, deep gratitude to the President of Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, (AU Champion for Gender and Co-chair of the Sustainable Development Advocacy Group).

He stated that two decades after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), in 2014 in Addis Ababa, Africa identified collectively what Africa needed to do to fulfil the vision of ICPD, “that investing in individual capabilities, dignity and human rights, is the foundation of sustainable development.” He stated that the Addis Ababa Declaration is closely linked to Africa’s Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan, and helped shape many aspects of the 2030.

Alongside the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa, UNFPA stands ready to support member states to ensure the rights, choices and progress for all through the full and accelerated implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, which will drive Africa’s sustainable development in line with Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

iv. H.E, Mrs Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, Africa Union Commission (AUC)

The Commissioner for Social Affairs greeted the Government of Ghana, delegates and ministers in attendance on behalf of the commission and the Africa Union Commission chairperson, H.E Mr Moussa Faki. The Commissioner applauded the Republic of Ghana, for being a beacon of Pan-Africanism on the continent and made special note of the leaders who have risen from the Republic of Ghana, to play key roles in the development of Africa. H.E Elfadil, made reference to Ghana’s first postcolonial president Dr Kwame Nkrumah and H.E Koffi Annan who was the seventh Secretary General of the United Nations. The commissioner expressed condolences from the commission to the President of Ghana, the Government and the people of the Ghana for the passing of HE Kofi Annan and Mr Atukwei Okai, the secretary-general of the Pan African Writers Association of Ghana.

The Commissioner thanked the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the United Nations Economic Commission to Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their technical and financial support in ensuring the successful organization of the meeting which sets to highlight Population agenda of the continent.

She stated that according to UN population projections, Africa’s population is projected to reach 1.7 billion by 2030, and 3 billion by 2063. These therefore are milestone years for both the UN and the African continent respectfully. If the 2030 sustainable goals are met by Africa, then the African continent would have also met its 2063 Agenda, approximately 30 years before it is expected to be realized. If the 2030 SDG’s are realistic, then the 2063 transformative agenda for Africa should not be described as ambitious, but possible!

Neither the 2030 SDG Agenda nor the Africa’s 2063 Agenda will be achieved if the citizens of the continent are not healthy and well nourished. The Commissioner encouraged and challenged AU member states, partners, private sector, African youth, the media and all Africa Citizens to contribute and remain engaged in Africa’s Population discourse. She said that ‘Unity’, as stated by Dr Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana: “is the key to Africa’s sustainable development.”

v. Hon. Mrs Abena Osei Asare, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Republic of Ghana

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance, representing the Honourable Minister of Planning, welcomed member states and distinguished delegates to Ghana and to the Second African Population Experts Meeting. The Deputy Minister commended the African

Union Commission, and its partners the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the United Nations for Population Fund (UNFPA) for choosing Ghana to host the meeting. The Deputy Minister acknowledged the achievements made by African countries in the past five years. Stating that many countries have adhered to the commitments of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) and are now focusing critically on policy formulation and implementation as well as resource mobilisation for reproductive health, population and development programmes. Through the investment in these three key sectors many countries have led to significant gains in poverty reduction and improvements in health and education.

The Deputy Minister encouraged experts and ministers to pay attention to the new emerging challenges associated with increased migration, rapid urbanization, environmental hazards, strange pediatric health situations, the ageing phenomena and unemployment when in discussions. As these factors influence the continents trajectory.

7. Opening statements were presented by the following:

i. Hon. Dr Robert Chakanda, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development from Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the Specialized Technical Committee for Health Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-2)

The Chairperson of the STC-HPDC-2 welcomed all delegates to Ghana, the African Union Commission and its partners for organizing an important meeting that has been planned to deliberate on key upcoming global and continental population issues. The Chairperson thanked all member states who submitted their national review reports, as this is the first step in getting Africa ready for its continental submission to the 25th review of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) next year.

He stated that the meeting therefore comes at an opportune time to allow us to pause and reflect on the cross cutting issues of the population agenda which remain at the center of our national development agendas. The collective examination of the draft 5 year continental review of the Addis Ababa declaration will also input into the development of a Common Africa Position (CAP) on population issues to guide future negotiations and agreement on key messages on the Population issues of the continent.

i. Honorable Dr Anthony Akoko Osei, Minister of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Republic of Ghana

The Honorable Minister of Monitoring and Evaluation from the Republic of Ghana, representing the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, highlighted some of the gains that had been made by member states in the past 20 years, to improve people's lives. He stated that governments have set out ambitious agendas to deliver inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. As a result, more people are living longer and healthier lives, more girls are in school and fewer women are dying in pregnancy and childbirth. There are also more laws to protect and uphold human rights.

The Honorable Minister, was concerned that efforts towards improving people's lives have not been without stumbling blocks. The Honourable Minister noted the exclusion of some groups and the potential for serious environmental damage, as some factors have put these gains at risk. He also took note of the changing age, household and family structures, as well as, the impact of rapid urbanization and migration which pose as new challenges for human development, particularly, in Africa which seeks to maximize its demographic dividend. Sub-Saharan Africa alone has nearly 300 million, young people who are aged

between 10 and 24 years of age and this is expected to climb to about 561 million by 2050. There is a concentration of young people in Africa, out of the 1.2 billion aged 15 to 24 year olds in the world, 200 million of whom are in Africa, and about 75 million of these young people are looking for work. In his opinion, young people want to be heard and engaged in specific and frank discussions. Young are looking for practical answers to their concerns and cultural confrontations, and effective population management becomes meaningful to them when it manifests in jobs, quality education, good health, reliable livelihood sources and opportunity to expand their horizon and exploit their inherent potential. It is crucial to invest in their health and education and to review legislation, standards and practices that restrict their full participation in and access to sexual and reproductive health services. Governments need to support gender equality, empower women and girls, crack down on teenage pregnancies and tackle communicable diseases.

The Honourable Minister concluded by quoting the late Busumuru Kofi Annan “we should have as our foremost thought strategies to utilize the ready asset of Africa; our youth! Our women! Men and the aged.”

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a) Adoption of the provisional agenda and programme of work

8. The Ministers adopted the proposed agenda and programme of work for their meeting.

b) Presentation of the draft continental report on the 5 year Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD)

9. The Commission presented the draft Continental report of the 5 year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD), 49 AU member states submitted their National Review Report to the Commission, these national reports formed the bases for the continental 5-year review
10. Following the presentation the chair opened the floor for discussions and questions. In accordance with rule 22 of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) .The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were invited to respond to questions raised from the floor.
 11. The Ministers adopted the draft 5-year Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) report with the following general comments:
 - I. Countries that have not yet prepared and submitted their national review reports be supported to do so
 - II. That there is a need for Africa to speak with one voice
 - III. That the next review of the AADPD and the next SDG’s review should be done together
 - IV. That there is a need to increase domestic financing at national level based on the outcomes of the 5-year review to contribute to the implementation of the SDG at the regional and national levels
 - V. That there is a need to have a greater representation of youth at high-level meetings
 - VI. Infectious, communicable and non-communicable diseases should be referred to in broad context and not named specifically.

- VII. To avoid stigma and discrimination, reference to 'organ transfer' should not be limited to migrants
- VIII. That there is a need to include LGBTQ issues in youth matters
- IX. That there is a need to have an indicator on Youth and Substance Abuse
- X. That there is a need to focus on drugs and addiction, particularly opioids and synthetic drugs abuse as this is one of the major concerns to member states. Youth are being lost to drugs and addiction and could become the future burden of member states
- XI. That there is a need for emphasis to be made on the empowerment of women and well-being of the youth
- XII. That there is a need for a focused consideration on early child development, undocumented and unaccompanied minors and stateless children
- XIII. That there is a need to place emphasis on inoculation and vaccination as major components of health system strengthening.
- XIV. The benefits of nutrition should be linked to Reproductive Maternal New born and Child Health (RMNCH)
That there is a need for emphasis to be placed on engaging traditional leaders and healers as they are consistent stakeholders and gate keepers in the population discourse.

<p>c) Consideration of the Report of the African Population Experts Committee (APEC)</p>

12. The Chairperson of the STC-HPDC-2, Hon. Dr Robert Chakanda, presented the APEC report for consideration by the Ministers. The APEC report was considered under the following agenda points contained there of as follows;
- A) Draft 5 year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD),
 - B) Consideration of the Common African Position (CAP)
 - C) Preparation for the 52nd Commission on Population and Development (CPD),
 - D) Consideration of the APEC Terms of Reference (ToR)

A) Draft 5 year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD)

- 13. The ministers adopted the general comments and recommendations on the draft 5-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development(AADPD) of the Expert's report as follows:**

- 14. Expert's report: General comments on the AADPD draft 5-year review of the AADPD:**

- i. The name of Swaziland must be corrected to the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- ii. There were some AU Member state that had been wrongly classified by region.
- iii. That the draft continental report needed to be updated based on the additional submissions that had been made by member state.
- iv. That the draft continental report is based on findings and data in the submitted national review reports should not be based on international data
- v. That the draft continental report contains more examples and best practices that member states can benefit from.
- vi. That the report should include and place more emphasis on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) of girls and women.

vii. That the reports needs to be properly edited paying attention to footnote and page numbering.

15. Expert's report: Recommendations under each of the 7 pillars:

a) Population Dynamics Pillar

- i. Emphasis the need to be placed on the demographic dividend and the need to invest in the youth
- ii. In the context of the Demographic Dividend (DD) there needs to be an emphasis on skill development for the youth as a component of education.

b) Dignity and Equality Pillar

- i. That there is a need for the report to include cross continental analysis of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- ii. That there should be an emphasis on the urgency for governments to address and pay attention to the adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of adolescents.
- iii. That the recommendations on Dignity and Equality need to be strengthened.

c) Health Pillar

- i. Requests an emphasis on adolescent issues under the pillar of health
- ii. The section on *Malaria and other Infectious diseases* be improved with stronger recommendations
- iii. Consideration needs to be given to the population needs of small Island States.
- iv. That urgent consideration is paid to the Universal Health Coverage for the aged
- v. Recommendations under the health pillar need to be strengthened and include the Integration of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV in accordance with the Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030.
- vi. That the inter-linkages between Nutrition and Reproductive Maternal New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) be investigated in order to prevent the long-term consequences of stunting and malnutrition

d) Place and Morbidity Pillar

- i. That the co-relation between migration and youth employment, and between urbanization and migration be strengthen.
- ii. The draft continental report should take into account, contemporary issues such as climate change, human insecurity, terrorism and human organ trafficking particularly among migrants.
- iii. Linkages in the draft continental report should be made with the Common African Position (CAP) and the Global Compact on Migration, in order to strengthen the recommendations on migration, including intra-African migration
- iv. Issues of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), trafficking of persons and trans human pastoralism, must be given sufficiently focused on under Place and Morbidity Pillar
- v. That the draft continental report should include as a recommendation the need for better coordination amongst receiving, transit and countries of origin of migrants.

e) Governance Pillar

- i. That there is a need to strengthen over all coordination mechanisms on population issues.
- ii. That there is a need to strengthen the coordination function of national population councils for better coordination of population issues, including to ensure data integration and sharing across sectors
- iii. That there is a need to increase women and youth the access to credit and other economic resources.
- iv. That there is a need to promote local administration ownership and leadership of current and emerging population issues

f) Data Pillar

- i. That due to the lack of data for evidence, member state must make resources available for the development of comprehensive data and need to invest more in departments of statistics.
- ii. That there is a need to encourage all member state to undertake the 2020 round of census
- iii. That there is a need for data to be used to define what it means to "*leave no one behind*"
- iv. That indicators related to economic growth are used in order to indicate how and when the continent development is advancing
- v. That there is a need for partnership with relevant institutions including the private sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure timely and good quality data
- vi. That there is a need for national strategies for statistical data collection
- vii. That there is a need for capacity building on data collection and analysis particularly for the data analysts
- viii. That there is a need to position data to emphasize value in prevention and in cost reduction
- ix. That there is a need for geo-spatial data, which is also useful in monitoring certain indicators
- x. That there is a need for national funding for data collection
- xi. That there is a need for harmonization of data, robust Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and administrative data
- xii. Government needs to show the requisite leadership when it comes to data, as data is a matter of sovereignty
- xiii. That there is a need for member states to implement the Revised Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2) in order to build sustainable National Statistics Institutions and well-coordinated National Statistics Systems to produce quality statistics to ensure evidence based decision-making, better planning, monitoring and evaluation of Africa's population and development agendas
- xiv. That there is a need for all Member States to fast-track the implementation of the decision of the 30th Session of Assembly of the Union held in January 2018 to allocate 0,15% of national budget to statistical activities including the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), undertaking of 2020 round of censuses and regular surveys, the improvement of administration data and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and geo-spatial data, etc.
- xv. That there is a need to establish and strengthens partnership between national statistics institutions and non-state actors including private sector, Civil Society organizations (CSOs), Academia, Media, etc. to improve the production and the use of statistics and ensure transparency and accountability at all levels;

g) Partnership and International Cooperation Pillar

- i. That there is a need to involve the private sector and CSOs in population issues and to place emphasis on public-private partnerships
- ii. There should be enhanced cooperation between Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and strengthened South-South cooperation in Population issues.
- iii. The draft continental report should contain a section on areas of collaboration, such as;
 - a) New frontiers
 - b) Disaster and,
 - c) Risk management

16. Expert's Report: Recommendations on the draft 5-year review of AADPD:

- i. Experts accepted the Continental Report on the 5-Year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD), inclusive of inputs and recommendations made by Member state, as a representation of Africa's progress towards the full implementation of the (AADPD) and to take into account all the national reports submitted as part of the 5 year review of the AADPD
- ii. Stressed the need to ensure the implementation and subsequent reviews of the AADPD, to contribute as Africa's input in to key global-level processes such as the UN Commission for Population and Development (CPD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) subsequent review of the AADPD should be linked to the review cycles of AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, and the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD).
- iii. Reiterated the need for periodic reviews of AADPD guided by its Operational Guide and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, in line with the decision of the second Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC2) as a way of ensuring the full and accelerated implementation of AADPD.
- iv. That committees on Population and Development are made to accelerate the full implementation of AADPD especially in the areas of health, education, harmonization of data, youth development and employment, to realize the demographic dividend for economic growth and development transformation of Africa, taking advantage of Africa's demographic window of opportunity as of 2014 and beyond.

B) Consideration on the Common African Position (CAP) on Population Issues

17. Ministers made the following general comments on the CAP:

- i. There are lessons to be learnt from the HIV epidemic to manage other issues
- ii. Further clarification needs to be provided on the AU Common African Position roadmap plan
- iii. There needs to be a clear understanding of what is expected by member states, with clear deadlines, and processes

18. Ministers made the following recommendations on the CAP:

- i. That the Common African Position should be used at all meetings, especially the 52nd CPD to advance the social economic development of the continent

- ii. That the report needs to consider Peace and Security frameworks in the continent with focus on radicalization
- iii. That the report should focus on climate change causes and effects on the continent
- iv. That the report should take note of Small island state population dynamics
- v. That the report should identify the link between Migration and the loss of Human Capital
- vi. That the report needs to consider the role of Traditional leaders and Healers in society, as they continue to maintain a long and strong lineage in African communities
- vii. That the report should acknowledge the progress that has been made in the area of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS infection
- viii. That there is a need to expand and scale up existing initiative such as the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) which focus on the demographic dividend and the empowerment of women should be included in the report

19. The ministers adopted the general comments and recommendations on the Common Africa Position(CAP)of the Expert's report as follows :

20. Expert's report: General comments on the Common Africa Position(CAP)

- i. That the consultant hired to undertake preparation of the CAP should also focus and consult with other countries who did not submit their national reports to the commission
- ii. That the CAP report should pay careful attention and consideration to teenage pregnancy as a determinant of social and economic implications

21. Expert's report: Recommendations on the Common Africa Position(CAP)

- i. The link between technical and vocational training for youth,
- ii. Consideration of emerging issues, e.g.: climate change, aging, care of the elderly, and long-term care.

a) That there be an analysis of:

- i. Access to financing for women and youth
- ii. An analysis of the continental brain drain
- iii. The imbalance between population growth and GDP
- iv. Demographic dividend with the provision of concrete recommendations
- v. Consensus on what unites us as Africans
- vi. An analysis on the prevalence of cervical Cancer

b) In the development of the CAP for Population focus needs to be placed on the following:

- i. Sanitation and hygiene
- ii. Brain drain
- iii. Teenage pregnancy
- iv. Ending FGM
- v. Unmet need for family planning
- vi. Population dynamics
- vii. Fertility rates
- viii. Maternal mortality
- ix. Illegal migration
- x. Youth

C) Preparation for the 52nd Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

22. Ministers made the following general comments on the preparation for the 52nd CPD:

- i. Commended the Commission for bringing together population ministers to discuss key messaging in line with Africa's priorities before the 52nd session of the CPD

23. Ministers made the following recommendation on the preparation for the 52nd CPD:

- i. Chairperson of the STC-HPDC should be involved in necessary briefing to New York Ambassadors before CPD in April 2019
- ii. Recommended the Common African Position on Population issues under development should guide future negotiations including the 52nd session of the CPD

24. The ministers adopted the recommendations on the preparation for the 52nd Commission on Population and Development of the Expert's report as follows:

25. That the consideration of key messages for the African Group in New York to be presented at the 52nd session of UN Commission for Population and Development (CPD) being held under the theme, "*Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*" Given its linkage of the ICPD 25 year global review

26. That the 52nd session of the CPD should be guided by the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population as the working document for Africa, and the findings and recommendations of its 5 year review.

27. That Key messages emphasize the employability of youth, especially women, in order to reduce the dependency ratio in Africa.

28. That key messages emphasize the need for people to be considered a resource in the continent, and as such free movement amongst member state be facilitated to foster development

29. That key messages focus on maternal and neonatal death and malnutrition which results in the continent lagging behind in meeting its development goals.

D) Consideration and adoption of the revised APEC Terms of Reference (ToR)

30. That the draft was considered for the third time by experts before its submission to the Ministers, amendments proposed by member states were inserted in the revised version.

31. That the draft ToR contains a background on the establishment of APEC, its statutes, composition, functions, its meeting, attendance and participation, quorum, constitution of APEC Bureau, Secretariat, languages of APEC meetings, amendments and finally a provision on the Entry into force.

32. That the experts meeting extensively discussed the two options relating to the constitution of the APEC bureau and finally agreed that there is a need to elect

a bureau from the APEC members in order to grant population experts to take the lead as a technical sub-committee of the STC-HPDC

33. Honorable Minister made the following recommendations:

1. That a new bureau will be elected in the upcoming ordinary Session of the STC-HPDC after the adoption of the draft ToR
2. Ministers adopted the revised APEC ToR

AOB

34. The Commission presented its upcoming AU campaign on eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
35. There was no discussion on the Agenda point by Ministers.

AGENDA ITEM 3: WORKING BREAKFAST- REDEFINING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, MAPUTO PLAN OF ACTION(MPoA) 2016-2030

36. High-level side-event was organised by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on the 5th of October 2018. Under the theme '*Redefining sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030*'.
37. Despite some remarkable gains in the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services such as the increased access to contraception, reduced maternal and child mortality, these gains have somewhat been inequitable among African countries, rendering the implementation of the MPoA a challenge. SRHR Services have often fallen short in coverage and quality, with high unabated cases of unsafe abortion.
38. The revised (2016-2030) Maputo Plan of Action, is the limelight of the side event, provides a framework to achieve universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and services in Africa in the post-2015 period
39. As African Governments take stock of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, the objective of the high level side-event was to:
 - i. Mobilize political commitment for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights(SRHR), particularly the domestication and integration of all SRHR policy instruments
 - ii. Interrogate synergies and complementarities between the Maputo Plan of Action and the recently launched Guttmacher-Lancet Commission Report on SRHR (published May 2018),
 - iii. Identify possible ways to work collectively to accelerate access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights essential packages, such as for example antenatal and postnatal care, safe abortion services and treatment, etc.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL REPORT

40. The draft Ministerial report was presented to the ministers. Ministers adopted the draft report with amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CLOSING

41. Closing remarks were made by the following:

- i. H.E. Mrs Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, AUC

The Commissioner extended her appreciation to the government of Ghana and the ministry of Planning of the Republic of Ghana, for their support, in the hosting of the First ministerial working group of the Specialized Technical Group on Population. HE Commissioner appreciated and commended the commitment of the member states in their participation and in-depth analysis of the agenda items. HE thanked the chairperson, Dr. Roberts Chakanda, for his excellent leadership in facilitating a successful meeting.

In conclusion the HE commissioner assured the member states that the commission would take on board all the recommendations adopted from the meeting. She stated that the commission is committed to prioritizing Africa's population issues and ensuring that these issues are well placed as development agenda's.

- ii. Hon. Prof Gyan Baffour, Minister of Planning for the Republic of Ghana

Hon. Prof Gyan Baffour, Minister of Planning for the Republic of Ghana, closed the meeting by emphasizing the need for leaders to provide change within the next coming five years. He emphasized that beyond the comments and endorsements made in the meeting, it is important that leaders improve the quality of life of their people. The Honorable minister stated that the recommendations that had been made provide strategic directions which countries, can translate into reality through the empowerment of the youth, addressing gender equality, climate change, and strengthening health systems that were pivoted on the need to invest in the dignity, human rights and capabilities of all persons. The need for coordination and collaboration in the implementation of the commitments, goals and targets contained in the Declaration, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is imperative if sustainable development is the goal.

- iii. Hon. Dr. Roberts Chakanda, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Republic of Sierra Leone, Chairperson of the STC-HPDC-2.

Hon. Dr Robert Chakanda, thanked the Minister of Planning from the Republic of Ghana and all member states for the smooth deliberations in all sessions. The Chairperson applauded the African Union Commission in its commitment to the advancement of population agenda of the continent and for hosting a successful first meeting of ministers in charge of population as a working group of the Specialized Technical Committee of Health Population and Drug control (STC-HPDC).

The chairperson encouraged member states to continue to be committed in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration and all key continental development frameworks. If Africa is to achieved the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals it is imperative that continental reviews of documents like the AADPD are fulfilled and that Africa speaks in one voice.