



Declaration of the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

December 5th 2000
Paris

We, the participants of the first meeting of the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, from 23 Parliaments in Europe

Recognise

- *the need to address sexual and reproductive health and rights within a holistic development context*
- *the continuing challenge of effectively addressing sexual and reproductive health needs and expectations, especially within the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic which is affecting all sectors of society in all countries, and the real - but all too often - ignored needs of all young people*
- *the impact of globalisation and poverty upon women in both the developed and developing world*
- *the central role that basic education plays in the social, economic and political empowerment of women, including their sexual and reproductive health and freedom, and the need for a focussed gender perspective on these issues*
- *the negative and punitive impact that opposition to sexual and reproductive health and rights has on individual health, security and well being*
- *the examples of good practice that exist within other Regional Inter Parliamentary Groups on Population and Development*

and

- *the existing national and regional models of legislation and social practice that promote, defend and further individual reproductive health and rights*

Reaffirm the central role that national, regional and international parliamentary networks and committees have in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development, and in the discussion of the demographic trends within Europe and other regions

Endorse the vital work that has already been achieved by parliamentarians in the promotion and implementation of the Cairo *Programme of Action* and Beijing *Platform for Action*

Recognize the long and beneficial co-operation that governmental and non-governmental organizations have had working with parliamentarians in raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health, population and development issues, as exemplified at

- the European Parliamentary Forum For Action (Brussels, May 1995)
- the Voices from Parliaments in Europe Workshop (Brussels, September 1998)
- the International Forum of Parliamentarians On The ICPD +5 Review (The Hague, February 1999)
- the Council of Europe's Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Demographic Change and Sustainable Development (Bucharest, October 1999)

and the vital support that the European Commission and others have provided for the establishment of this Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development – support which will allow for vital development interventions at all levels

Underline the complex European identity which parliamentary activity on sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development, must recognize in order to reflect the diversity of conditions and roles within Europe; a diversity exemplified by Europe's role as the leading source of funding for sexual and reproductive health and population assistance around the world, which stands in contrast to the deteriorating state of reproductive well-being in certain parts of the region

Recognize the universality of sexual and reproductive rights and the need for European parliamentarians to protect and advance these rights within a domestic, European and international context

Support the vital initiatives that the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development; the Caribbean Movement of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development have worked to develop and sustain

And

Call on all parliaments in the developed and developing world to encourage their governments

- to support the creation of all-party parliamentary groups on population, development and sexual and reproductive health and rights where these groups do not yet exist
- to enable and encourage these groups to take part in political and public debate
- to encourage and facilitate national, regional and international working partnerships with other national and regional parliamentary groups
- to actively engage with non-governmental organizations in relevant debate and action plans
- to encourage governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners in civil society to take part in national and regional discussions and – where appropriate – provide technical support to parliamentary groups and other institutions working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development

And

Call on all existing and nascent all-party parliamentary groups on population, development and sexual and reproductive health and rights

- to work at regional and international levels with other parliamentary groups
- to use existing research and evidence to promote the individual sexual and reproductive health needs of all people around the world (particularly young people), and where this evidence does not exist, encourage the relevant agencies of the United Nations, and other international institutions to conduct research on these issues
- to use the expertise of national and international non-governmental organizations and independent experts in technical and programme development, and as support systems (i.e. secretariats) for all-party groups where appropriate
- to use – and encourage the development of - evidence based consensus on priority issues within the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and promote these issues within political arena; and utilise the media to create greater understanding of these issues
- to encourage non-governmental organizations to create similar consensus to ensure that all partners in civil society are working towards common goals, based upon the commitments made in the ICPD *Programme of Action* and strengthened by related treaties and documents such as the *Beijing Platform For Action* and the *Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women*

And

Call on all parliamentary groups, governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations to use the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

- to create closer working relationships with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Caribbean Movement of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
- to create a Forum platform from which to approach the World Bank, the IMF, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, UNFPA, UNAIDS and donor foundations with tangible and realistic solutions to existing challenges to meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of all people, especially women and young people
- to create strong and sustainable partnerships between parliamentary groups and non-governmental organizations
- to develop a Forum Agenda for the International Conference on Population and Development in 2004 (Cairo +10) and promote this Agenda in all Cairo +10 and Beijing + 10 reviews and related initiatives
- to make use of existing and new approaches that will recognize both successful and less successful development interventions and programmes , and disseminate the lessons to be learnt from this exercise, utilising, amongst others, the concept of 'twinning'
- to highlight the specific sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of all individuals in Europe, especially in Central and Eastern Europe
- to recognize the significant role that families and other support systems, in all their forms, play on individual health, choice and rights; and to work towards creating consensus amongst social and religious groups on how to support these individual needs
- to work with European donors, research, medical and development institutions and the private sector, to ensure that the sexual and reproductive health options, including access to contraceptives, which are available in parts of Europe are also available to all other individuals and at affordable prices
- to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights are fully integrated into all development debates, such as Copenhagen + 10 and in the EU enlargement process
- to work towards achieving the ICPD *Programme of Action* targets of 0.7% of GNP budgets to be allocated to development and the target of 4% of this contribution to be dedicated to sexual and reproductive health programmes



Adopted by Members of Parliament from:

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Bulgaria
4. European Parliament
5. Finland
6. Georgia
7. Germany
8. Hungary
9. Iceland
10. Ireland
11. Latvia
12. Lithuania
13. Moldova
14. Poland
15. Portugal
16. Romania
17. Russia
18. Scotland
19. Spain
20. Sweden
21. Switzerland
22. Ukraine
23. United Kingdom