

Action Canada for Population and Development
CPD 46 Joint oral statement – ISRRC

This statement is delivered at the 46th Session of the Commission on Population and Development on behalf of the Human Rights Caucus, which is a group of 36 organizations working on sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and migrants' rights.

We call on members of the CPD to continue affirming the principles, goals, objectives, and recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, including those related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, population, development, education, gender equality, poverty eradication, international and internal migration, and sustainable development.

Reproductive rights were explicitly affirmed as inherent human rights at the ICPD in 1994. The following year at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Member States affirmed that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health. Through the outcome of this CPD session, governments must ensure that all migrants are able to realize these human rights.

Governments must ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services for all, including migrants, refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers. Particular attention must be paid to marginalized groups, including adolescents and young women, rural populations, indigenous peoples, sex workers, and persons with disabilities. They must have access to comprehensive sexuality education and a comprehensive range of quality sexual and reproductive health services including maternal health care, contraceptive counseling and services, emergency contraception, safe abortion services, and counseling, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

The principle of non-discrimination should be integrated in the design and implementation of policies and legislation protecting the human rights of all migrants, whether documented or not, regardless of their legal status. This principle guarantees that migrants' human rights will not be compromised on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression, race, age, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, among other factors. We urge governments to review and reform any legislation and policies that may be discriminatory.

In keeping with human rights principles, including those outlined in the ICPD Program of Action, States must ensure meaningful participation of migrants in the identification of problems, policy design and budget allocation and the evaluation of programs and policy implementation affecting

