



The Seventh African Population Conference

Johannesburg, South Africa

November 30 - December 4, 2015

First announcement

Theme:

Demographic Dividend in Africa: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges

The ICPD Beyond 2014 global survey, which was completed by 52 countries in Africa, shows an overwhelming commitment to the eradication of poverty; creating employment opportunities for youth; ensuring right and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV prevention among young people; eliminating Mother-To Child Transmission of HIV; increasing women's access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; and promoting environmental resources management.

Furthermore, the UNDP's MDG Report of 2013 on Africa, states that many countries in Southern, Eastern, Central and Western Africa have substantially improved their rate of progress and are listed among the top 20 countries, making good progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In North Africa, a number of countries have also been accelerating or maintaining their rate of progress. Globally, in 2012, 15 of the 20 countries which made the greatest progress on the MDGs were from Africa.

However, that same report concludes that while Africa is the world's second fastest growing region, its rate of poverty reduction is insufficient to reach the target of halving extreme poverty by 2015. Thus, despite the significant gains made in African countries on the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action, and progress made towards the MDG targets, the region faces serious challenges. Inequality, social exclusion, gender inequality, inequity, poor governance, corruption and perennial conflicts in some regions and countries as well as the limited participation of women, young people and other marginalised groups in policy and decision-making processes continue to hold the development of the region back, and limit its great potential for sustainable economic growth and development.

Africa's current demographic transition is going to be crucial for Africa's future. With an unprecedented youth bulge and a population beginning to show signs of ageing, how Africa deals with the transition will largely determine the future of the continent. It has been recommended that raising the age at marriage, keeping girls in school, enabling women

through family planning to decide the spacing and number of their children, and investing in the health and education of young people, particularly young girls, can unlock a powerful demographic dividend and set countries in Africa on the path to sustained, inclusive social and economic growth. Yet, how these could be achieved present questions which remain largely unanswered. These questions which are at the core of Africa's socio-economic development within the context of taking advantage of Africa's ongoing demographic transition, and the demographic dividends associated with it are some of the issues population, health and development scientists will be invited to discuss during the 7th African Population Conference from November 30 to December 4, 2015 in the Republic of South Africa.

The Conference will be jointly organized by the Union for African Population Studies and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

General session themes:

1. Fertility Transitions
2. Sexual and Reproductive Health
3. Adult Health, Mortality and Ageing
4. Children, Youth and Transition to Adulthood
5. Migration Patterns and Trends
6. Migration Consequences
7. Marriage and Family
8. Population and Development
9. Population, Environment and Politics
10. Population and Gender
11. HIV AIDS, Other STIs and Sexual Behaviour
12. Population Policies
13. Methodological Issues
14. Demographic Change in Comparative and Disciplinary Perspectives
15. Adolescents
16. Local/Internal Migration
17. Termination of Pregnancy
18. Changing Patterns of Family Formations
19. Child-headed Households
20. Vulnerability of Key Populations
21. Father hood Studies
22. Vital Registration Systems
23. Adoption and Orphanhood
24. Education
25. New Methods of Analysis
26. Other sub-themes (following suggestions made by members and stakeholders through the scientific committee)

Call for proposals for sessions:

Members of the Union and stakeholders are invited to make proposals for themes and sub-themes for supplementary sessions that will be reviewed by the International Scientific Committee.

The deadline for sending the proposals is **December 19, 2014**. Proposals should be sent to the following e-mail address: 7apcthemes@uaps-uepa.org