

AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE DECLARATION

SEVENTH AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE TSHWANE DECLARATION

After five days of intense discussions and debate on diverse themes and issues bordering on the prospects, opportunities and challenges of Africa harnessing her youthful population to reap THE benefits of the built-in demographic dividend, in 162 thematic sessions, We, the participants of the 7th African Population Conference in Pretoria, South Africa which took place between November 30 and December 4, 2015 on the theme “Demographic Dividend in Africa: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges”.

1. **Noting** with great satisfaction, the efforts of the Government of South Africa through its Department of Social Development, and Statistics South Africa [StatsSA], and other stakeholders, in providing excellent conducive environment for hosting this conference ;
2. **Noting** the demographic shifts (transition) taking place in Africa, the “youthening” of the population, which provides an opening of a window of opportunity for harnessing the benefit of growing population of young people;
3. **Desirous** to share our research findings to policy makers for the purpose of evidence-based planning for national development;
4. **Having** discussed and analysed numerous empirical evidences on the prospects, opportunities and challenges of achieving and harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa,
5. **Noting** the challenges of achieving this dividend such as high level of unemployment, high number of out-of-school youth, social, economic and legal obstacles to access to sexual and reproductive health particularly among young people hi, corruption, political instability in some of the African states,;
6. **Recognising** the importance of sexual, reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health services as well as the importance of male participation in these programmes and services

Do thereby

- i. **Reaffirm** the imperative of African governments and institutions to be fully committed to the implementation of all global and regional consensus on population and development issues, especially the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014
- ii. **Call** on African governments to create an enabling environment through enactment or amendment of relevant laws, policies for children, adolescents, youth, women and men across the life course to realise their potential and rights;
- iii. **Urge** African governments to accord the highest priority to improved investment in the demographic dividend by investing in quality education, health, skills development, employment for inclusive economic participation,
- iv. **Encourage** governments to take their steps to empower their citizens to freely decide on their fertility and reproductive health choices by setting up policy frameworks that respect and promote human rights and freedom;
- v. **Call** for increased effort to mobilise domestic resources from within by reducing undue dependence on foreign aid and block resource leakages in Africa.

- vi. **Call** on African governments to make the right human capital investments and adopt appropriate policies that expand opportunities for young people by:
- **Investing** on young people’s schooling and health to improve their well-being but also their productivity and earning
 - **Investing** in preventing health services to reduce exposure to infectious and parasitic diseases
 - **Expanding** livelihoods and employment opportunities and, improve access to financial services for young people and
 - **Promoting** good transparent and accountable governance
- vii. We express our deepest appreciation to the Government and people of South Africa for hosting this conference; the partner national departments such as National Population Unit, Statistics South Africa for co-organising, the UNFPA, individuals and groups who made this conference a reality and a huge success.

Adopted by Public Acclamation on Dec 4, 2015 at St. George Hotel and Conference Centre, Pretoria, South Africa.

