

## **Africities declaration and recommendations: Family planning and urban development**

### **“Declaration”**

*The rapid population growth of African cities, accompanied by inequitable access to family planning information and services, challenges the delivery of physical infrastructure and social services. We urge African leaders to allocate more resources towards family planning services to increase access to quality family planning services that enable sustainable urban development for gender equal cities. Specifically, deploy a budget for family planning services at the national and local governments and ensure that the funds are fully disbursed and utilized.*

### **List of session recommendations from the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)**

#### **Governments**

- As signatories of SDG 11 and cognizant of the **90 per cent** urban growth forecasted to happen in Africa in the next 30 years, governments should prioritize the implementation of SDG 11 as they seek to achieve sustainable development for all.
- Governments should prioritize family planning services and define the policy environment and frameworks for family planning, in keeping with the above declaration.
- Should develop a policy document that links family planning and urban development and oversee the implementation of the policy.

#### **Relevant Ministries departments and agencies**

- Ministers should ensure that national data systems allow social and spatial disaggregation to ensure effective urban demographic analysis, including fertility and demographic change.
- There is a need for an inter-sectoral approach and collaborations between Family planning and urban planning stakeholders.

#### **City leadership/Local leaders**

- Governors/city leadership/local leaders should play a leadership and champion role in promoting gender equity in their cities and increasing access to safe, quality and affordable FP services.
- Show political commitment and willingness by creating a favorable environment for every player working in the family planning sector.
- Should provide oversight and jointly with other stakeholders implement the above declaration.

## **Development partners**

- Donors and implementing partners should assist with data analysis and building capacity to understand urban demographic change (e.g. by providing technical support or facilitating networks of learning to local governments).
- Should continuously work with implementing partners to strengthen the capacity of local leaders to implement their designed frameworks for family planning.

## **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

- Urban-focused NGOs (especially those with an interest in gender) should expand their remit to include promoting access to safe, quality and affordable family planning.
- Generate data on urban demographic and demographic change to understand how different city environments are going to change in their economic positioning, opportunities, access to trade.
- Civil society should engage the community for FP uptake and empower citizens to hold their governments accountable to public resources and service delivery.

## **United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)**

- UCLGA should recognize that the issues of urban demographic change and family planning (FP) fall within the remit of local and regional governments and therefore cannot be ignored, and should be foregrounded in any long-term strategic planning, data analysis, and any intervention relating to health and wellbeing, gender equity, and long-term fiscal planning – social accountability.
- Should continuously work with local and regional governments to reinforce the importance of family planning within the international urban agenda (including post-SDG processes).

## **Religious leaders and community gatekeepers**

- Both religious leaders and community gatekeepers should mobilize communities to educate and improve health-seeking behavior by giving statements in support of family planning services and proper information and improved quality of life for families.

## **Media**

- The media should create awareness and provide the correct information on the importance of family planning and the positive impact on urban development, including the contribution to gender equality and the boost on economic development.