



UNFPA VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Post-2015 discussions and consultations have unanimously concluded the need to ensure a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to the Post-2015 framework, in every theme and every sector and with due regard to national development processes and outcomes. A HRBA to development provides a normative basis on issues of equality and non-discrimination, quality of basic social services and accountability. These are fundamental pillars, including in taking forward the ICPD programme of Action beyond 2014 and its call to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment, expanding the capabilities of adolescents and youth, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- As outlined in the TST Issues Brief on Human Rights, **the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** have had some success in highlighting key development and human rights issues, but **failed to reflect the full ambition of the Millennium Declaration and its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

- **At the 1990's international conferences ---Vienna, Cairo, Beijing and other---** world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to **promote and protect the human rights of all people.** They also affirmed that women's rights are human rights, and they placed discrimination and acts of violence against women at the forefront of the human rights discourse. In Cairo, it was agreed that women's sexual and reproductive health and rights should be at the centre of population and development policies.

- **Full enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights can mean the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of women and**

adolescent girls: the difference between dying during pregnancy or childbirth from preventable causes and delivering safely; the difference between an unintended adolescent pregnancy and the possibility of pursuing an education and an autonomous life; and the ability of any individual, irrespective of their social condition, personal identity or status, to enjoy a safe and satisfying sexual life without fear of sexual violence or sexually transmitted infections.

- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights are universal human rights.** They are an indivisible part of the broader human rights. Their particular power resides in the fact that they deal with the most intimate aspects of our identities as individuals and enable human dignity, which is dependent on control of our bodies, desires and aspirations. Their empowering force starts in the home and goes on to the community, national and international levels.

- **The promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights is instrumental to the**

achievement of other human rights

including the right to education, the right to work, the right to food and the right to participation. Without addressing the discrimination and inequalities certain population groups face in relation to their sexual and reproductive health and rights (adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous women and girls, persons living with HIV, displaced persons, the elderly, LGBTI, sex workers and others) they will continue to be left behind in the pursuit of national development goals.

- **The human rights framework highlights the universality, indivisibility, inter-dependence and inter-relatedness of all human rights.**

UNFPA recommends that sexual and reproductive health and rights be part of the development equation at different levels: horizontally (across different goals), vertically (reflected in targets and/or indicators) as well as in the process of adapting global goals to national planning targets.

- **The principle of human rights accountability** must be an integral part of the Post-2015 accountability framework as it underscores the need to develop an enabling environment where groups who face discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization can have access to public information, can voice their concerns without fear of reprisals and can seek remedies when their rights are violated.

- **Human rights standards (availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of services and information) provide objective criteria to improve quality of care**

by emphasizing the need that health services are satisfactory to and respectful of their users. In particular, human rights standards emphasize the need to protect the right to privacy, confidentiality and informed consent and freedom of choice in accessing a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health services.

- As the world defines the Post-2015 architecture, the agendas set forth in Cairo, Beijing and Vienna are as relevant and mutually reinforcing today as they were 20 years ago. **Keeping the promises made by the United Nations Member States two decades ago – to promote and protect all human rights, and to ensure universal enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights – is the surest route to a life of dignity and well-being for all people everywhere, a world where everyone is empowered to contribute to and share equally in the benefits of development, a world where everyone counts.**

For more on the UNFPA vision for the new development agenda, please see the positioning document Empowering People to Ensure a Sustainable Future for All – UNFPA Proposals for Post-2015 Development Agenda.

<http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/news/2013/Post%202015%20Position%20Paper.pdf>