During the conference on the ICPD Beyond 2014 in Africa, recommendations were adopted calling on the region’s top decision-makers to step up political will and investments for advancing gender equality, the empowerment of women and young people, and ensuring universal sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as fundamental human rights that are critical for the sustainable development of the region.

Our understanding of population and development issues has greatly improved since 1994. Research on population and development has extended beyond the narrow confines of economic growth and economic development, to the broad and complex areas of social development, the environment and climate change. It was also noted that some demographic trends have changed. These include rapid urbanization and the redistribution of people from rural to urban areas, international migration and changes in the population-age structure of many countries.

The aim of the side event is to ensure that the outcome of the ICPD Beyond 2014 represents the views of the governments from Africa (as contained in the Addis Ababa Declaration), and that it fully promotes the principles of the ICPD PoA, as well as integrating these in the post-2015 development agenda with human rights, gender equality, women and young people at its heart. All governments, accredited NGOs and UN agencies are invited to the event. Please direct enquiries to Ms Nichola Sabelo at SabeloN@dirco.gov.za.

Provisional programme:

- Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, South Africa’s Permanent Representative to the UN: Moderator
- Dr Babatunde Osotimehim, Executive Director, UNFPA: Population and Development integration for sustainable development in Africa
- President Joachim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique and Co-Chairperson of the High Level Task Force on ICPD+20: The rights based framework for population and development in Africa
- Ms Bathabile Dlamini, Minister of Social Development of South Africa: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Dr Bience Gawanas, Special Advisor to the Minister of Health of Namibia and Member of the High Level Task Force on ICPD+20: Prospects for the demographic dividend in Africa

Harnessing the demographic dividend and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health

The future we want for Africa