

## **The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014**

### *Recommendations from the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development*

*The purpose of these recommendations is to provide inputs from the Caribbean to the First Regional Conference on Population and Development and the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.*

#### **Preamble**

*Recalling* the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, adopted in 1999; the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994; the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome; as well as resolution 60/265 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006,

*Recalling* also the commitments of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995, and the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010,

*Taking into account* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the outcome document of the Conference entitled The future we want,

*Taking into account also* resolution 65/234 by virtue of which the General Assembly decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and in which it also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session,

*Bearing in mind* resolution 63/225 in which the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013 and resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in March 2006,

The participants of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development make the following recommendations:

#### **1. Population Dynamics, Youth, Ageing, Poverty and Inequality**

##### ***Poverty Eradication***

1. Promote measures to reduce poverty and inequality;
2. Implement measures to ensure sustainable development programmes;
3. Establish national social protection floors and pension reform including contributory and non-contributory systems;
4. Encourage the creation of economic sectors that bring about job opportunities;

5. Promote social and economic policies, plans and programmes to maximize the demographic dividend to positively influence development.

### ***Older Persons***

6. Promote and protect the rights of older persons and eliminate all forms discrimination, violence and abuse;
7. Incorporate ageing into national and regional development plans and promote inter-generational equity and solidarity;
8. Ensure economic security of older persons and access to social protection;
9. Promote equitable access to comprehensive health and social care services with special attention to mental health, age friendly health care and delivery systems;
10. Ensure participation of older persons in decision-making and policy dialogue which affect them directly;
11. Create or improve a supportive and enabling environment and condition for older persons regarding living arrangements, transportation and disaster preparedness;
12. Promote healthy and active ageing through lifelong learning.

### ***Persons with Disabilities***

13. Promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and eliminate all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse;
14. Mainstream disability issues in national and regional development plans;
15. Ensure that persons with disabilities have equitable access to comprehensive health and social care services, including access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services;
16. Provide persons with disabilities with easy access to buildings and public spaces, as well as appropriate and affordable transportation;
17. Provide persons with disabilities with decent and appropriate work, as well as social protection;
18. Ensure participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making and policy dialogue which affect them directly;
19. Create a supportive and enabling environment and condition for persons with disability;
20. Provide appropriate curricula and teaching methodologies to meet the needs of children with special needs;
21. Improve population data collection, management, analysis and dissemination to inform and influence policy and programme formulation at the national and sub-regional level.

### ***Adolescents and Youth***

22. Support and promote the rights of adolescents and youth to economic security by fostering youth employment, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities;
23. Ensure universal access to free, quality, comprehensive education, including formal, informal, and vocational training, and promote innovation and creativity at all levels;
24. Ensure that adolescents and youth obtain universal access to affordable, quality health care and youth-friendly services, including comprehensive sexual education and reproductive health services;
25. Ensure that all adolescents enter adulthood with the highest attainable standard of health;
26. Ensure that health and family life education meets age appropriate comprehensive sexual education standards and is implemented in and out of schools;
27. Promote health and family life education programmes that are in alignment with the life cycle approach, and linked to sexual and reproductive health services;

28. Guarantee equality before the law, the protection from abuse and violence and non-discrimination for all adolescents and youth;
29. Promote national campaigns to eliminate violence against girls and boys;
30. Promote young people's leadership and ensure their meaningful participation in policy and decision making processes;
31. Establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms that ensure adolescents and youth's access to the information they need to exercise their human rights and fulfill their potential;
32. Ensure that the rights, needs and aspirations of adolescents and youth are fully prioritized in national and regional situation analysis, development plans, policies and programmes;
33. Provide universal access of adolescents and youth to comprehensive integrated quality SRH services;
34. Support capacity building of young people to promote youth development agenda.

## **2. Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women**

### ***Policy development***

35. Implement policies that will enhance the ability of gender mechanisms to implement national policies on gender equality, mainstreaming gender in all national policies and programmes;
36. Involve all stakeholders of the private sector and civil society in gender policy revisions;
37. Request governments and political parties to consider using the quota system to increase women's representation in political process drawing on good practices globally;
38. Promote the increase of women's participation and leadership at all levels of decision making, both in the public and private sector.

### ***Economic Security***

39. Promote the inclusion of women in the formal employment sector and equal pay for equal work, as part of the decent work agenda;
40. Ensure that all women in the informal sector know their rights to social protection;
41. Develop initiatives for women in rural areas to gain skills and to have access to micro credit;
42. Establish enterprise education for women as a key component for employment opportunities.

### ***Gender Based Violence***

43. Strengthen legislation for the protection of women, girls and boys from abuse and sexual violence, and assure its implementation;
44. Outlaw child marriage;
45. Sensitize the population with regards to gender stereotypes that reinforce aggressive masculine behavior and subordinate femininity.

## **3. Achieving Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

### ***Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights***

46. Design and implement public education campaigns on human rights laws and policies on sexual and reproductive health and rights to foster understanding of human sexuality as a positive aspect of life;
47. Create an enabling environment of acceptance, respect, non-discrimination and non-violence; ensure gender equality, equity and empowerment and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; and engage men and boys, policy-makers and law enforcers, parliamentarians,

educators and health providers, employers, the private sector and media for the equal enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights by all;

48. Ensure that policies in low and high fertility countries are based on the right of individuals to decide freely and responsibly, the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, taking into account the need for such policies to be based on evidence and best practices;
49. Give highest priority to the prevention of unwanted and unplanned pregnancies through improving access to information, technologies, commodities and services that increase the ability of couples and individuals to make free and informed decisions about the number and timing of children, making every effort to eliminate the need for abortion;
50. Remove barriers to access, including restrictions based on age or marital status, or prohibitions on certain contraceptive methods, such as emergency contraception;
51. Ensure that sexual and reproductive health is one of the priorities of the health sector, as an integral part of national health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations and expenditures;
52. Address legal and policy anomalies including those related to the age of consent to sex and the age at which sexual and reproductive health services can be accessed without parental consent;
53. Enact, repeal or amend laws and policies in order to respect and protect sexual and reproductive rights and enable all individuals to exercise them without discrimination on any grounds;
54. Eliminate early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation within this generation;
55. Advocate for the amelioration of practices that violate the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and adolescent girls;
56. Provide safe legal termination of pregnancies and review laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions;
57. Eliminate discrimination in access to education and employment based on motherhood and pregnancy;
58. Protect the human rights of people living with HIV, and prohibit all discrimination and violence against them.

### ***Male involvement***

59. Increase access of men and boys to sexual and reproductive health and rights information, counseling and services, as a public health priority;
60. Ensure that men and boys are engaged so as to promote equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work;
61. Include support programmes that target men and boys and sensitize them to gender justice and human rights issues;
62. Take action to ensure that men and boys recognize and act on their responsibility to support women's reproductive health and how they can influence factors that constrains SRHR.

### ***Comprehensive sexual education***

63. Recognize that comprehensive sexual education is essential for young people to be able to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to plan their lives;
64. Design and implement comprehensive sexual education programmes that provide accurate information about human sexuality, including growth and development, sexual anatomy and physiology; reproduction, contraception; pregnancy and childbirth, HIV and AIDS, STIs; family life and inter-personal relationships; culture and sexuality, human rights empowerment; non-discrimination, equality and gender roles, sexual behavior, sexual abuse, gender-based violence,

- harmful practices; as well as, opportunities to explore values, attitudes and norms concerning sexual and social relationships;
65. Promote the acquisition of skills and encourage young people to assume responsibility for their own behavior and to respect the rights of others;
  66. Provide young people with the knowledge, skills and efficacy to make informed decisions about their sexuality, taking into account scientific data and evidence, and ensure that the promotion of life skills is culturally and age-appropriate, and gender-sensitive;
  67. Ensure that health and family life education meets comprehensive sexual education standards and is implemented in and out of schools;
  68. Ensure that health and family life education programmes are linked to sexual and reproductive health services, and engage parents, community, traditional and religious leaders and actively involve young people at all stages;
  69. Train health care providers and educators with respect to the delivery of comprehensive sexual education, including youth friendly programmes and implementation.

### ***Gender based violence***

70. Ensure that all victims and survivors of gender-based violence have immediate access to critical services, including 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services in all cases of violence, rape and incest, within the law;
71. Ensure that all victims and survivors of gender-based violence have police protection, safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; and referrals and longer-term support;
72. Integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health programmes and services including in humanitarian situations, as part of a broader, multi-sectoral, coordinated response, including within maternal and child health, family planning, and HIV-related services.

### ***Reproductive health services***

73. Eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through ensuring that births are attended by skilled health personnel, including the provision of training and support to local birthing personnel, access to prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, access to emergency obstetric care, and management of complications arising from unsafe abortion, to safe guard the lives of women and girls;
74. Provide comprehensive integrated and quality sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services through the primary health care system, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable populations and most at risk populations;
75. Provide education for women and girls to know and claim their sexual and reproductive health and rights;
76. Expand access for all women and adolescent girls to timely, humane and compassionate treatment of unsafe abortion complications and to quality safe abortion services;
77. Establish mechanisms that foster providers' compliance with human rights, ethical and professional standards, including full disclosure of scientific information, and regulating that such information and services are made available regardless of providers' personal beliefs or conscientious objection;
78. Facilitate the full participation, collaboration and meaningful partnership with CSOs in the design and implementation of SRHR programmes;
79. Collect, disaggregate, analyze, disseminate and translate data into strategic information to inform sexual and reproductive health policy formulation at all levels;

80. Strongly recommend that the achievement of sexual and reproductive health and rights be considered as a priority in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;
81. Highlight the need for international development partners to continue support to Caribbean countries to address the challenges of achieving and maintaining sustained progress made in the areas of maternal and child health and HIV.

#### **4. Migration**

82. Create a national and regional diaspora database to ensure all countries within the Caribbean may access their own diaspora and also that of the entire region;
83. Build capacity with the support of the diaspora and include mentoring for hands on skills transfer as well as technology transfer;
84. Facilitate access of diaspora on a continuous short term basis which does not have attendant costs on family and long term disruption to migrants;
85. Encourage and support long term returning diaspora and facilitate greater interaction with diaspora;
86. Facilitate more face to face interaction with the diaspora through a diaspora forum in the Caribbean;
87. Promote cultural exchange between the diaspora and locals to maintain cultural identity;
88. Promote and facilitate voluntary re-migration programs for migrants who want to return for a period of time;
89. Build capacity with the focus on transfer of skills and competence;
90. Facilitate flows of remittances;
91. Promote diaspora direct and indirect investment at the national and regional levels;
92. Facilitate and encourage training in financial management of remittances;
93. Promote reduced transactional costs of receiving remittances;
94. Promote possibility of diaspora bond;
95. Meet skills shortages through managed immigration;
96. Encourage and facilitate third country investors to include training and hiring of nationals over time to do the jobs being done by the third country investment related immigrants;
97. Strengthen policies and support programmes for families of migrants – schools, and other facilities;
98. Harmonise the implementation of the Free Movement Regime of the CSME throughout the Community;
99. Promote circular migration to facilitate skills transfers including but not limited to health care professionals;
100. Publish Information on the rights and obligations of migrants;
101. Showcase the Caribbean more prominently in international dialogue forums- GFMD and UNHLD;
102. Build capacity to manage borders in order to reduce irregular migration and trafficking in persons and train border officials to be more sensitive to migration policies and the nexus with development;
103. Reorient border officials to help them recognize the positive aspects of migration;
104. Ensure the human rights of migrants are protected;
105. Establish a Caribbean Forum for Migration and Development;
106. Create a platform for dialogue on the positive and negative aspects of migration and development;
107. Mainstream migration into national and regional development policy and planning.