

## **National Youth Forum on ICPD<sub>+15</sub> & MDG<sub>+10</sub>**

### **Introduction**

World Population Foundation (WPF), organized “National Youth Forum on ICPD+15 and MDG+10” to highlight the significance of these international agreements on population development, for the civil society, youth networks and representatives of relevant ministries in Islamabad on 17 July, 2009. Members of various youth organizations, representatives of the civil society and media attended this Forum.

### **Why?**

The main purpose of this gathering was to bring together learned women and men from the ministries, local and international NGOs and media to explore what can and what needs to be done at the national level to achieve holistic aims of the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) and Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) – both of which Pakistan is a signatory of.

Pakistan, being an integral part of the global system requires not only international support in its efforts to fulfill its international pledges in letter and spirit but also needs to work ahead with augmented commitment. This need is especially all the more pressing in view of the fact that while barely 6 years remain for meeting the targets set in MDGs, Pakistan’s progress in a number of goals remains dismal.

**International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)** was a milestone in the history of population and development. In 1994, 184 United Nations Member States met to consider the broad issues of and interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth, health, education, economic status and empowerment of women. Countries agreed that population and development are strongly linked and that empowering women and meeting people’s needs for education and health, including reproductive health are necessary for both individual and national development.

**The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** are the centerpiece of development efforts around the globe. Although, the 18 global targets and 48 indicators adopted in 2000 have been translated into 16 national targets and 37 indicators keeping in view of Pakistan’s specific conditions, real progress in terms of visible impact still leaves a lot to be desired for.

### **Call to Action**

To achieve the set target Pakistan is far behind and to address these issues, effective response at the policy and programme levels is needed. Accordingly, the Call to Action prepared at the end of the Forum demanded from the Government that:

1. Sufficient resources be allocated achieve the ICPD goals as the target year 2015 is approaching.
2. Development support be extended to young individuals and youth networks for their meaningful participation at all levels.
3. Involvement of young women and men be ensured while developing policies and programmes.
4. Information and health care services related to Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights be provided.

5. Access to Reproductive Health through Primary Health Care (PHC) such as RH education, family planning counseling, safe delivery services, post-natal and safe abortion services to the women population in the Pakistan be ensured.
6. Right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights be recognized.
7. Access to quality education be ensured by 2015.
8. Reduction in infant and child mortality be achieved.
9. Reduction of maternal mortality be achieved.
10. Gender equality in the information and provision of services be promoted.
11. Strong monitoring systems be put in place to review the progress of ICPD Plan of Action.
12. Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) be integrated into the national curricula.
13. Information on RH in the text books (Middle and High schools) be incorporated.