

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Post 2015 Era

Putting People at the Heart of Development

Be-Cause Health Seminar

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Session Outline

4 key topics – Channel 4 for translation

- Assessing the **responsibility of the state** in improving sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Strengthening the **role of civil society** in policy development and implementation
- Improving the **accountability** of actors engaged in SRHR service delivery towards their target groups
- Using the **law** for safeguarding and promoting sexual and reproductive health rights



Responsibility of the State – the Legal Basis

International Law

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - 1948

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - 1966

International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - 1966

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women - 1979

International Conference on Population and Development – Programme of Action – Cairo – 1994 (not legally binding)

Fourth World Conference on Women - Platform for Action – Beijing - 1995

The Millennium Development Goals - 2001 (not legally binding)



Responsibility of the State for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Reproductive rights include the rights of couples & individuals to:

- Make free and informed decisions about their reproductive lives, including the number, timing, and spacing of their children
- Attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health

Sexual rights include the rights of all individuals to:

- Make free and informed decisions on all matters relating to their sexuality
- Be free of discrimination, coercion, or violence in their sexual lives and decisions
- Expect and demand equality, full consent, mutual respect, and shared responsibility in sexual relationships

adapted from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and ICPD+ 5



Responsibility of the State for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

International Commitments including:

- right to life
- right to liberty and security of the person
- right to equality and non-discrimination
- right to health
- right to consent to marriage and equality in marriage
- right to education
- right to participate in the conduct of public affairs



Responsibility of the State for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Key concepts in a rights based approach to realising these obligations to respect, protect and fulfill:

-transparency

-equality

-non-discrimination

-accountability

-meaningful participation



Strengthening the **role of civil society** in policy development and implementation

Meaningful Participation (requires access to information)

At multiple levels including household, community, health center, regional government, national government, international level. Structural inequality issues.



Improving the **accountability** of actors engaged in SRHR service delivery towards their target groups

Accountability

- Requires monitoring the health system and other social, cultural and legal factors at household, community, health center, regional government, national government, international level
- A process to determine what is working and what needs to be addressed, including in structural terms
- Includes monitoring of the health system and underlying social determinants of health



Three speakers

Role of civil society in promoting SRHR and influencing law

- Susana Chavez, Promsex, Peru
- Marites Bacunata, Advocates for Community Health, Philippines
- Efrain Soria Alba, Equidad, Ecuador



Proposed recommendations to Belgian Co-operation

1. Strengthen support to civil society, in particular those representing the marginalised and vulnerable, to ensure their inclusion in the national and global democratic process.

Concretely: Include civil society in the upcoming Commission on Population and Development coordinated by Belgium,

“Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including the post-2015 development agenda”



Proposed recommendations to Belgian Co-operation

2. Be a strong voice on the international stage for full recognition of sexual and reproductive health and rights as human rights and the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Agenda.

Concretely: Funding commitments on health including a component on SRHR.

