

Rio+20 zero draft:

Recommendations and suggested text from the Population and Climate Change Alliance (PCCA)¹

Note: text in the zero draft appears in black, suggested changes and additional text appear in blue. Further suggestions are italicized.

II Renewing Political Commitment

A. Reaffirming Rio principles and past action plans

- Para 8:
We also reaffirm our commitment to the Monterrey Census of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: the Political Declaration on Africa's development needs, the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, and the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

B. Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges (Integration, Implementation, Coherence).

- Para 11:
We acknowledge, however, that there have also been setbacks because of multiple interrelated crises – financial, economic and volatile energy and food prices. Food

¹ These recommendations and suggested text are based on the PCCA's submission to the Rio+20 zero draft, available at:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=510&nr=266&menu=20>

The Population and Climate Change Alliance (PCCA) is a network of Non-Profit Organisations that work together on population and climate change issues through a loose umbrella coalition. PCCA strives to advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) through active awareness raising and advocacy work on the linkages between population and climate change, and believe that increasing (universal) access to voluntary family planning can make a significant contribution to climate change both in adaptation and mitigation strategies and programmes.

The PCCA includes the following organisations:

[Danish Family Planning Association](#) (Sex & Samfund)

[International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF)

[Marie Stopes International](#) (MSI)

[Population Action International](#) (PAI)

[Population and Sustainability Network](#) (PSN)

[Population Health Environment \(PHE\) Ethiopia Consortium](#)

PCCA Secretariat: Population and Sustainability Network, info@populationandsustainability.org
PCCA, 6.2.12

insecurity, climate change and biodiversity loss have adversely affected development gains. New scientific evidence points to the gravity of the threats we face. New and emerging challenges include the further intensification of earlier problems calling for more urgent responses. We are deeply concerned that around 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty and one sixth of the world's population is undernourished, pandemics and epidemics are omnipresent threats. Unsustainable development, unsustainable and inequitable consumption and production, and population dynamics have increased the stress on the earth's limited natural resources and on the carrying capacity of ecosystems. Since the 1992 Rio Summit the world population has increased from 5.5 billion people to 7 billion people, expected to reach nine billion or more by 2050. To promote human wellbeing, reduce poverty, ensure food security and raise living standards for a large and growing population will require an increase in consumption, production and economic output and place further pressures on all natural resources, including the land, forests, water, oceans and the climate. Although population trends differ considerably between countries, the growth of the world population will have important effects on all countries. Recognizing these challenges, we reaffirm the call of the Rio Declaration of 1992, principle 8, for a two-pronged approach, which focuses on the promotion of more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, by encouraging a shift towards the green economy, and human-rights based policies that address population dynamics. Actions taken today can shape the path of future population change and, in the process, improve the lives of millions of women, their children and their families.

- Para 14:
We resolve to redouble our efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and to ensure that human activities respect the earth's ecosystems and life-support systems. We need to mainstream sustainable development in all aspects of the way we live. We acknowledge the particular responsibility in nurturing sustainable development and consumption and production patterns, alongside human-rights based policies that address population dynamics.

III Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

A. Framing the context of the green economy, challenges and opportunities

- Para 25:
We reaffirm that human wellbeing is the central concern of sustainable development. To promote wellbeing of a large and growing world population and to simultaneously ensure the sustainability of our ecosystem, we are encouraging a transition to the green economy. We are convinced that a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should contribute to meeting key goals – in particular the priorities of poverty eradication, food security, sound water management, universal access to modern energy services, sustainable cities, management of oceans and improving resilience and disaster preparedness, as well as public health, including universal access to reproductive health, human resource development and sustained, inclusive and equitable growth that generates employment . It should be based on the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and should be people-centred and inclusive, providing opportunities and benefits for all citizens and all countries.

V. Framework for action and follow-up

A. Priority/key/thematic/cross-sectional issues and area

- *We recommend the addition of a section on ‘Population dynamics and reproductive health’ to be inserted after para 71. Suggested text:*

Population dynamics and reproductive health

Recalling that Agenda 21 calls for “programmes that promote demographic trends and factors towards sustainability”, we recognize that sustainable development as a means to ensuring human well-being requires that interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development are fully understood and taken into account.

We acknowledge that population dynamics, including population growth, migration, urbanization, age structure and household composition influence consumption rates and are relevant to the management of resources and sustainable development planning, and should be integrated into development strategies and environmental planning.

We note that the world population, currently 7 billion, is projected to exceed 10 billion by 2100, and that 215 million women have an unmet need for family planning services, to enable them to decide freely the number and spacing of their children. Addressing this unmet need is essential for women’s health and human rights and for advancing gender equality and will also positively influence population dynamics, contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Facilitating the demographic transition offers opportunities to drive development and progress to a green and fair economy.

We call on governments and other stakeholders to make systematic use of population data and projections to anticipate and plan for population dynamics and address associated challenges in a proactive manner. Recognizing and respecting human rights and freedoms, governments should enlarge individual choices and opportunities by ensuring universal access to reproductive health and family planning, empowerment of women, and investment in education, particularly of disadvantaged children and youth, and girls and young women.

We call for the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, the MDGs, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to ensure peoples’ rights to education, employment and health, emphasizing reproductive health, including access to family planning programmes that respect and protect rights, through the understanding of linkages between social, environmental and population dimensions.

- **Para 72 [Cities]:**
We commit to promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities through support to local authorities, efficient transportation and communication networks, greener buildings and an efficient human settlements and service delivery system, improved air and water quality, reduced waste, improved disaster preparedness and response and increased climate resilience. *We note that sustainable development planning requires full use of data on demographic trends and population dynamics, including population growth, density, migration, urbanization and ageing.*
- **Para 73 [Green jobs-social inclusion]:**
We recognize that the development of human capacity is essential to achieving broad-based economic growth, building strong, sustainable communities, promoting social well-being, and improving the environment. Workers, especially women and young people, must have the *education, skills, health and well-being*, and protections necessary to participate in and

benefit from the transition to a green economy, which has great potential to create decent jobs, particularly for women and youth, and eradicate poverty.

- Para 88 [Natural disasters]:
We reiterate the call for disaster risk reduction to continue to be addressed in the context of sustainable development and placed within the post-2015 development agenda. We call for increased coordination among national, regional and international levels for a robust response to environmental emergencies and improved forecasting and early warning systems, better collection, analysis and use of data on social and demographic determinants of disaster risk, as well as closer coordination between emergency response, early recovery and development efforts, including adoption of a post “Hyogo Framework” and its integration into development policy.
- Para 88-9 [Climate change]:
We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and express our deep concern that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to and are experiencing increased negative impacts from climate change, which is severely undermining food security and efforts to eradicate poverty, and also threatens the territorial integrity, viability and the very existence of small island developing states. We welcome the outcome of COP17 at Durban and look forward to the urgent implementation of all the agreements reached.
We encourage international initiatives and partnerships to address the interrelationship among water, energy, food, gender inequalities, population dynamics, access to reproductive health services and climate change in order to achieve synergies as well as to minimize conflicts among policy objectives, being particularly sensitive to impacts on vulnerable populations.
We note with concern the considerable health impacts of climate change, which will disproportionately affect women, young people, and other vulnerable groups.
We call for climate change adaptation interventions to respond to these health needs, including reproductive health services and voluntary family planning, that empower women to freely plan and space their pregnancies.
We recognize the interrelationships between population, the environment and climate change, and note that population dynamics, including population growth, urbanization, migration and household size can increase pressure on natural resources and vulnerability to climate change, as well as influence consumption patterns. We support investment in integrated and community-based adaptation strategies that build on peoples expressed needs and desires, including education and increased access to reproductive and family planning services, which enhance adaptive capacity and reduce environmental pressures and vulnerability.
- Para 98 [Education]:
We recognize that access by all people, particularly of young people, girls and women, to quality education is an essential condition for sustainable development and social inclusion. We commit to strengthening the contribution of our education systems to the pursuit of sustainable development, including through enhanced teacher training and curricula development.
- Para 102-104: Gender equality

We recommend that this important cross-cutting issue is moved higher up in this section to give it greater weight, following on from the above suggested section on ‘population

dynamics and reproductive health' to appear before par.72. In addition we make the following suggested changes and additions to the text:

We recognize that sustainable development is linked to and dependent on achieving gender equality, to ensure the full and equal participation of women in all areas of sustainable development. We note with concern that persistent social, economic and political inequities continue to affect women, girls and youth, who make up the majority of those living in poverty.

We call for the removal of barriers to women's empowerment to address inequalities and unlock their potential as drivers of sustainable development, and agree to prioritize measures to promote gender equality in all spheres of our societies, including education, health, including reproductive health and access to voluntary family planning, strategies to eliminate gender based violence, employment, ownership of resources, access to justice, political representation, institutional decision-making, care giving and household and community management. We stress that overcoming these barriers to gender equality is also important to increase the capacity of girls and women to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to which they are particularly vulnerable.

We are committed to achieving universal access to reproductive health, including access to family planning, as stipulated in MDG 5, in order to empower women with the knowledge and means to decide freely on the number and spacing of their children. We recognize that access to reproductive health and family planning services is a human right and essential for the overall achievement of gender equality and sustainable development, increasing women's opportunities for education, employment and full participation in development, and positively influencing population dynamics and environmental sustainability.

We reaffirm and call for renewed actions for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We support the work of UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and other UN agencies in achieving gender equality and bringing greater attention to the linkages between gender equality and the promotion of sustainable development.

B. Accelerating and measuring progress

- Para 107-8:
We propose that the Sustainable Development goals could include sustainable consumption and production patterns as well as priority areas such as oceans; food security and sustainable agriculture; sustainable energy for all; water access and efficiency; sustainable cities; green jobs; decent work and social inclusion; gender equality; due attention to population dynamics and reproductive health, and disaster risk reduction and resilience. We consider that the Sustainable Development Goals should complement and strengthen the MDGs in the development agenda for the post-2015 period, and strengthen the ICPD Programme of Action under review in 2014, with a view to establishing a set of goals in 2015 which are part of the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.