Synopsis of the Regional Synthesis Report

• The Regional Synthesis summarizes the findings from 25 country progress reports that had been submitted for this midterm review.

• The report highlights progress achieved and outlines challenges in implementing the Ministerial Declaration in the context of individual country experiences as well as the:
  – Size and diversity of the region;
  – Different stages of social and economic development; and
  – Differing phases of the demographic transition of countries in the region.

• It also identifies synergies between progress on the implementation of the Declaration, the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, and proposes ways forward based on best practices.
Progress in poverty reduction: reduced number of people living below the poverty line

Source: National reports on midterm progress on APMD implementation, 2018.
Health

- Improvements to the health-care system have resulted in reductions in communicable diseases, but there has been a rise in non-communicable diseases.
- In order to achieve further health gains, greater efforts are needed to control non-communicable diseases, while strengthening capacities to address communicable diseases.
Sexual & reproductive health, services & rights

- Progress noted in access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights in many countries, however, disparities remain between regions, urban and rural settings, and between income quintiles.
- In countries where unmet need for family planning remains high, key challenges include a lack of empowerment among poor women, limited access in remote areas, quality of health services and sociocultural factors that deter women from accessing these services.
Gender equality & women’s empowerment

- Outcome area with mixed results – significant progress in women’s political participation, but not much change in violence against women.
- Female labour force participation has been declining in the region, affected somewhat by girls staying longer at school.

Percentage of women aged 15-49 who are victims of gender-based violence, selected countries

Adolescents & young people & education

• Challenges for adolescents and young people: unemployment and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, services and rights.

• Need for more focused advocacy on comprehensive sexuality education and building capacities of parents, educators, health-care providers and policymakers on the rights of all young people, of diverse needs and status, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and services.

• Primary enrolment rates almost universal in the region, but progress has been slower in secondary education. Education and training systems need to be reformed to match labour market and redress gender inequality.
Population ageing

- Population ageing is a megatrend with myriad challenges - need to improve the integration of ageing issues into strategic planning and policy interventions.
- The future sustainability of social protection schemes for the elderly will be critical, particularly for those in informal or vulnerable employment, especially women, who not only live longer than men, but are often not covered by pension schemes.
- About 75 per cent of older persons in the region suffer from one or more illnesses. Care providers are mainly women. Urgency in the need for long-term care, be it at home or community-based.
Urbanization, internal and international migration

• To capture the benefits of urbanization, policy development needs to be inclusive of the rights of internal migrants.
• Urban services need to be based on, and responsive to, reliable data so as to avoid the emergence and proliferation of slums.
• Better managed international migration that benefits the migrant, the country of origin and the country of destination. The rights of migrants need to be respected and protected.
Population & sustainable development & data

- To prioritize disaster risk reduction in view of the region’s vulnerability to natural disasters.
- Innovation in integrating concepts of sustainable development, consumption and production into the formal education syllabus – needs greater attention.
- Generate comprehensive data on social and environmental issues, and enhanced capacity to plan for long term sustainable development.
- Improve statistical infrastructure to monitor progress on the SDG indicators and address limited and uneven data availability. Greater investments required in data collection and analysis capacities.
Ways Forward

• Just as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action are interconnected, all eleven priority actions of APMD are closely interrelated.

• Investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights, the core thrust of the Programme of Action, improves gender equality, saves lives and improves health and well-being.

• It improves women’s opportunities to access quality education, decent jobs and better income, and in so doing, contributes significantly to the achievement of broader development goals.
THANK YOU.

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