



## OUTCOME DOCUMENTS OF REVIEW CONFERENCES (Beijing and ICPD)

*Taken from 2016 Resource Guide to UN Consensus Language on Family Issues  
by Family Watch International*

### OVERVIEW

Increasingly, when “reproductive rights” is proposed in UN documents, States have tied the definition of reproductive rights to the agreements negotiated in ICPD and Beijing with the following language: *“reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.”*

In fact, in spite of great opposition from a number of States, this phrase was adopted as part of SDG target 5.6. This is highly problematic for the following reasons:

- It is dangerous to endorse or affirm broad categories of documents without specifying each document by name.
- UNFPA conducted an operational review “ICPD Beyond 2014” that contains more than 500 highly controversial references, including 391 references to “sexual,” 25 references to “sexual orientation,” 6 references to “prostitution,” 4 references to “transgender,” 18 references to “comprehensive sexuality education,” 44 references to “sexual and reproductive rights,” and 173 references to “abortion.”
- The ICPD outcome document from the Bali Global Youth Forum review, led by UNFPA, calls for the legalization of prostitution, same-sex marriage, abortion, the abolishing of parental consent laws, access for youth to abortion and comprehensive sexuality education, LGBT rights, and more.
- The outcome documents of some of the regional reviews of ICPD promote sexual rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, prostitution, comprehensive sexuality education and much more.
- This could imply endorsements of future review outcome documents for ICPD and Beijing that have not even been negotiated yet.
- Since *“the outcome documents of their review conferences”* modifies *“reproductive rights,”* and since a number of these outcome review documents promote LGBT and abortion rights, this phrase could also be used to interpret *“reproductive rights”* to include access to abortion and access for same-sex couples to reproductive technologies, surrogacy arrangements, or the adoption of children. In fact, the term *“reproductive*

*rights*” alone has even been used to promote such rights for LGBT persons. (See the “*Reproductive Rights*” section for more on this.)

- The fact that this phrase was adopted in the SDGs does not mean it has to be accepted if it is proposed in future documents, and it should never be accepted in a binding document.

Better yet would be to delete “*reproductive rights*” entirely as it is a highly problematic term as described in the “Reproductive Rights” section.