# THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR PROPER HUMAN SEXUAL RIGHTS AND FAMILY VALUES

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MOTTO: WENNING THE LOVE AND CARE OF GOD

STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR PROPER HUMAN SEXUAL RIGHTS AND FAMILY VALUES ON THE ANTI-FAMILY AND PRO-LGBTQI OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

We the National Coalition for Proper Human Sexual Rights and Family Values, which is an amalgamation of Christian and Para-Christian bodies, Muslims and Non-Religious entities and Traditional and opinion leaders in Ghana, HAVING THE FOLLOWING AFFILIATE GROUPS: the Christian Council of Ghana, Catholic Bishops' Conference, Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council, National Association of Charismatic Churches Association, Ghana Baptist Convention, Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Scripture Union Ghana, Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Coalition of Muslim Organisations of Ghana, (COMOG) Ghana Muslims Mission, Ahmadiyya Muslims Mission, & the Traditional and Opinion Leaders within the Ghanaian Society.

HAVING THE UNDER-MENTIONED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: a) to ensure the preservation of our indigenous African traditional and cultural sexual rights and family values, b) to draw attention to the looming and dangerous threat of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (LGBTQI...) rights activism in Africa and the world at large whose basic thrust is to undermine the natural family unit as the most sustainable building block for human societies c) to proffer vacible solutions to this growing threat posed by the false international sexual rights movement spearheaded by self-seeking United Nations bureaucrats and their allied agencies like the UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, IPPF, WHO, among others.

WE THE CONSTITUENT MEMBERS OF THE COALITION BEING ETERNALLY **CONSCIOUS:** 

- 1) Of the rights and obligations of all peoples of the world guaranteed by the express provisions of the 1992 fourth republican constitution of Ghana. (see Chapter 18)
- 2) Of the inalienable rights of all humanity set out in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of 1945 to which Ghana acceded to as the 1<sup>st</sup> Black African country to break out of imperialistic shackles of colonialism on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1957.
- 3) Of the sacred rights of children and the natural family as the foundation of all human societies as set out in the Covenants of the United Nation Treaty on economic, social and cultural rights and the U.N Treaty on the rights of children.

## And being engaged:

4) In the aspirations and development of our nation especially in the areas of health, family, education and Governance

# Do hereby note the following in respect of the International Conference on Population and Development:

- a. ICPD assumes that a large population or family is a liability to development, while available data clearly show the institution of the family is key to development and our people are the nation's greatest assets.
- b. Morality, which is an indispensable societal good underpinning national development is being undermined by the ICPD 25 agenda. The agenda is particularly problematic with regards to "rights and choices" for adolescents in sexual matters and "comprehensive sexuality education", which pushes promiscuity under the deceptive banner of "sexual and reproductive health rights" in ways that violates the rights of Ghanaian Parents and undermining the moral fabric of our nation.
- c. The provision of the ICPD principles (paragraph 1) calling for the "full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds" of a nation's people in implementing the ICPD is being completely ignored in the ICPD 25 agenda.
- d. The definition of health by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which was used to develop the ICPD definition of reproductive health, left out the essential elements of "spirituality" and "family well-being". Therefore, the ICPD definition is the deficient as it doesn't recognise the role of spiritual and family well-being in development.
- e. The provisions in ICPD prohibiting the use of abortion as a method of family planning (paragraph 8.25) and calling upon nations to discourage abortion (paragraph 7.24), are not just being

overlooked, but they are intentionally being ignored in favor of an aggressive abortion rights agenda as part of the ICPD25 events to be held in our great nation.

### We the Faith Sector in Ghana:

- 1) strongly believe that the dignity of the human person is inherent and derives from the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Human dignity should therefore be respected from conception to natural death. It is not man's law that gives us such dignity and the law cannot abuse or take away the human dignity of the preborn person. In fact, binding international law provides children "special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth" (Convention on the Rights of the Child Preamble). ICPD itself states that "everyone has the right to life (chapter ii, Principle 1)
- 2) We also believe that God gave us the gift of procreation and this is best realized between a man and a woman committed to each other in marriage. Children, who are the product of this gift, should therefore grow in a secure environment, benefitting from different teachings and lessons from the father and the mother, making marriage a critical pillar of family life.

### ICPD 25 Nairobi Summit

The first International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt produced a consensus document (declaration of political will) call the Programme of Action (PoA). We know that this is not a treaty and declare that it is non-binding on any country, including Ghana.

Our understanding is that the ICPD 25 Nairobi Summit goal is to help meet the following "three zeros"

- 1. Zero unmet need for family planning.
- 2. Zero preventable maternal death.
- 3. Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women, girl and youth.

While we find these goals commendable (if they are implemented with full respect for our culture and religious values), we are deeply concerned by the commitments being proposed for adoption at the

ICPD25 as the means for achieving these goals. These proposed commitments are oriented to institutionalize and propagate sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). According to the WHO's in 2015 document entitled, Sexual health, Human Rights and the Law, co-published with the Human Reproduction Programme consisting of UNDP, UNFPA, and the World Bank, the term sexual health (which is a key component of (SRH/SRHR) encompasses:

- Access to abortion;
- Acceptance of the diversity of sexual behavior and expression (homosexuality, transgenderisms);
- Legalization of sex work (prostitutions);
- Legalization of same sex unions;
- Access to gender reassignment surgery and cross sex hormones;
- Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) as a crucial component of sexual health; and
- Access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents (10-18 years of age) without parental consent and these services include contraceptives and abortion.

SRH/SRHR is an ideology/doctrine that is counter to Ghanaian culture and inconsistent with our faith and beliefs. If adopted and committed to by our government, it will lead to the destruction and innocent preborn lives, mutilated men and women, the destruction of the family unit, and moral decadence and a collapse of the human population. We therefore reject the SRH/SRHR ideology/doctrine in total.

### We also recognize that:

- 1. The UN 2030 Agenda encompassing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a separate consensus agreement with its own processes. The ICPD summit needs to remain within its original agreement.
- 2. Family planning is not equal to contraception, as natural family planning is a viable option. Many women do not use contraception by choice or may not want them because of health, religious or ethical concerns; therefore, no amount of contraception will meet their fictitious "unmet need for family planning." Uptake of family planning can therefore not be measured through the uptake of contraceptives.
- 3. Although the term "age appropriate" is often used as a qualifier in the matter of adolescents and youth accessing information, many comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programmes that

are labeled "age-appropriate" contain highly inappropriate materials for youth of any age. We oppose all CSE materials, including those being promoted in the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, which teach children of minor age that they have a right to have sex, a right to abortion, or to sexual choice, or that teach children about sexual pleasure, gender identity ideology, or a right to explore sexual behaviors of any kind (whether homosexual or heterosexual). We denounce such teachings as harmful to our children and offensive to the moral sensibilities and cultural values of most Ghanaians.

- 4. Gains made so far as a result of the **ICPD Programme of Action have tended to** ignore areas that affirm human life, the human family, parental rights, immigrants, e.t.c.
- 5. Even at a time of great need and vulnerability such as during humanitarian and fragile contexts (for example, refugee camps), international law requires that the host country's laws be respected. We therefore strongly oppose the imposition of highly controversial SRHR policies into such contexts.
- 6. The WHO definition of abortion is deficient. We hold that abortion is the deliberate killing of an innocent preborn person regardless of who performs it or where it is performed. Therefore it does not make any sense to refer to abortion as "safe" or "unsafe". There are always health risks to the mother, regardless of the circumstances under which abortions are perpetrated and abortion always ends in the death of the child.

We therefore recommend that the UNFPA "commitments" be contextualized as follows:

- Intensify our efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the
  original ICPD Programme of Action, ensuring that implementation is guided by the original
  ICPD provisions calling for respect for national sovereignty and religious and cultural values
  and that the ICPD caveats discouraging abortion are emphasized.
- 2. Zero unmet need for family planning with the understanding that many women need and want support and help with pregnancy and children, not help to prevent pregnancy.
- 3. Zero preventable maternal deaths, and maternal morbidities, with the understanding that abortion shall never be considered a method of maternal mortality prevention as it is never necessary to intentionally kill a baby to save the mother. Although it may be necessary to deliver a child early to save the mother, we declare that in such cases, every effort should be made to save both mother and child.

4. Ensure access for adolescents and youth to human dignity education that affirms chastity and sexual risk avoidance to shield them from all the negative mental and physical health consequences of early sex.

Date	ed at A	ecra this	10th	day	of Nov	ember,	2019
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/
NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON
(THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
PROPER HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAMILY VALUES)