Policy 4.18

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

1. IPPF recognizes the complex, critical links between sustainable development; population dynamics; climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

2. IPPF welcomes the scientific evidence that meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning contributes to ensuring sustainable development, including the management of climate change and finite resources such as arable land and drinkable water, and can contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

3. IPPF acknowledges the scientific evidence that climate change is one of the major threats to human well-being and sustainable development, especially for the poor and the most marginalized populations in the poorest and most vulnerable countries and that climate change will therefore exacerbate inequity and poverty.

4. IPPF also recognizes therefore that climate change will contribute to environmental degradation, diminished resources, food crises and extreme weather events, which will drive forced displacement of people, and that

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1 Population dynamics include migration, urbanization and rates of population growth.
migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees in every situation must have access to sexual and reproductive health including voluntary family planning.

5. IPPF remains firmly committed to human rights, in particular the reproductive rights framework adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 and the Sexual Rights Declaration adopted by IPPF in 2008. The denial of the right to choose if, when and how many children to have, increases human vulnerability to the impact of climate change.

6. IPPF is committed to addressing the unfulfilled rights of hundreds of millions of women around the world, and especially young women, through advocacy, services and education, so that they can decide on all aspects related to their reproduction, sexuality and life choices.

**IPPF will:**

7. Advocate for integrated policies that aim at sustainable development and that therefore:

   (i) Address all major causes of climate change,
   (ii) Meet the unmet need for contraception/family planning.
   (iii) Are based in social justice, and the human rights framework, where protection of the poorest and most vulnerable is paramount.
   (iv) Ensure responsibilities are shared by countries which have contributed most to climate change, including strategies to reduce their consumption and carbon emissions.
   (v) Support clean energy and green technologies, and address deforestation and its impact.
   (vi) Address climate change mitigation and adaptation as integral to development, giving special attention to enhancing resilience, especially of women and children.
   (vii) Above all, respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of everyone, including young people, to make decisions related to their sexuality and reproduction, free from coercion and violence.
   (viii) Recognize that communities, and women in particular, understand the balance between their families’ needs and the environment and are key agents in the management of climate change.

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8. IPPF is committed to promoting and advancing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and will therefore:

(i) Re-double its efforts to promote the rights of women, particularly the poor and young, and especially in less developed countries.

(ii) Contribute to meeting their need and desire for contraception by continuously increasing access to and uptake of contraceptive services, so enhancing the well-being, economic status and resilience to climate change of women, their families and communities.

(iii) Coordinate with national, regional and global partners in ensuring that priority life-saving sexual and reproductive health services are integrated into emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction strategies as well as into emergency responses, as to alleviate human suffering in humanitarian crises brought about by climate change, extreme weather events and other disasters.

(iv) Work with governments, development, humanitarian, health and environmental NGOs, and UN agencies to address these issues, and to ensure the importance of voluntary family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights is fully recognized in responses to climate change, and the achievement of sustainable development and poverty elimination.

(v) Seek to reduce its own carbon footprint and impact on climate change and the environment by improving the efficiency of its activities and adopting cost-effective technologies.

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