

# WORKSHOP 16

## PLEASURE, SEXUALITY and DEVELOPMENT

### *Rethinking Youth Sexual Health & Rights: Focus on the African Youth Charter Implementation*

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# Outline of Presentation

- About the African Youth Charter as a framework for Sexual health and rights
  - **Policies**
    - Review of policies and legal frameworks from a rights perspective with a guarantee for youth sexuality
    - An Optional Protocol for accountability and reform of State laws and policies
    - First African Parliamentary Forum on Youth rights in Africa
  - **Programmes**
    - 2009-2018; AUC 10- year Plan of Action with a cost-benefit analysis on the return on investment through youth participation at individual level and as a sector of growth and development
  - **Service delivery**
    - Composite Policy Index and Empowerment measure e.g percentage of Primary health Centers with Youth Friendly Service Outlets; Deployment of youth in 'task shifting' to meet the short fall in human resource for health systems in Africa and reducing maternal morbidity

# Sexual health and/or sexual pleasure? emerging Issues for ICPD+15

- A theology and the heteronormativity of sexual pleasure
- Peer pressure and puberty (identity, image, selfhood, masculinity etc)
- Quietly disturbed behaviors – substance abuse, alcohol, enhancement drugs
- Health outcomes (choices, prevention of diseases and pregnancy, nutrition, bodily image and integrity)

# Youth Sexual Health and Rights

- Young People have a right to enjoy Sex when initiated
- Youth Sexual rights is a dual responsibility between state and the individual
- Youth need to be protected in their desire to identify with their sexual self without discrimination and stigma
- Healthy sexual behaviors are central to youth participation in sustainable socio-economic growth and development

- **Where are we going:**

- NGO Partnerships with Government needs to be consolidated along the lines of mobilizing skilled labor in task shifting, facility providers and training of public educators
- Redouble efforts in protecting and promoting Youth sexual health and rights and Gender equity from the domain of 'guided' independence
- Increase domestic resources in human, infrastructure and financial terms for strengthening health systems
- Implement program, monitoring and evaluating, policy level advocacy that design and ensure the integration of HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive health and rights

- Expand Modern Contraceptive Options and take measures to increase utilization and guarantee security of supplies for young people and women
- Intensify evidence based advocacy efforts targeting traditional norms that continue to mitigate progressive political ideologies needed to promote and protect the equality and equity of women and youths from enjoying and achieving desirable sexuality and reproductive health outcomes: ***safe abortion, sexual diversity, contraceptive regulations, comprehensive information and service delivery***
- Continue to disseminate evidence that operationalize the cost-benefit in bi-directional investment in quality Education, training and employment linkages to Sexual and reproductive health and rights

- **THANK YOU**