

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE 70th UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Albanian Center for Population and Development and UNFPA with the support of the Coalition Network on Population and Reproductive Health Issues consider it indispensable the addressing of the following recommendation in the upcoming Special Session of the 70th UN General Assembly, on September 25-27, 2015, in New York.

1. We feel Albania should strongly support Goal 3, and its inclusion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, maternal health, AIDS and more; and Goal 5 with targets on discrimination against women and girls, gender-based violence, harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage. As a champion of human rights and gender equality, it is essential that Albania supports advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in their entirety, including comprehensive sexuality education under Target 3.7 and the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to abortion, sexual orientation and gender identity under Target 5.6.
2. We feel Albania has lots to say and support from skills and education related to gender equality and human rights in Goal 4; to youth employment – central to the demographic dividend – in Goal 8; to broadly addressing inequalities and discrimination, including for migrants, in Goal 10; to inclusive urbanization in Goal 11 and ensuring participation and safety from violence in Goal 16; to strong data systems in Goal 17.

The Post-2015 process continues to unfold, with the UN Summit in September where the outcome will be formally adopted, the UN Climate Change Negotiations in December, and crucially, the formulation of indicators as part of the monitoring framework, and the further elaboration of the follow up and review mechanism for this agenda. It is critical and UNFPA/UN together with its civil society partners fully support Albania in the development and implementation of the monitoring framework and the capacity needed to implement it, building on our long-term role as champions for human rights-based and data-driven sustainable development and using the ICPD Programme of Action and Beyond 2014 Review as guideposts in this effort.

3. We also encourage the further accomplishment of the work of the Millennium Development Goals, and implementation the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and related agreements. Respect, promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all must be an essential foundation of a universally relevant, transformative, high-impact and cost-effective sustainable development agenda across its social, economic and environmental dimensions. They are key to addressing inequality; achieving poverty eradication, educational attainment and public health outcomes; fostering productivity, labour force participation and economic growth; reaping the rewards of demographic dividends; improving environmental management, energy, food security, water and sanitation; and easing pressures on limited resources and ecosystems.”

We encourage Albanian government that together with all other Member States to support SRHR at the Special Session of the 70th UN General Assembly on Sept. 25-27, 2015, and to add support for these targets to any statement made in your national capacity.