

# Reflections on the Maputo Plan of Action and the Abuja Declaration

Chi-Chi Undie  
**African Population & Health Research Center**

Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in East & Southern Africa  
Health Equity & Primary Health Care: Responding to the Challenges &  
Opportunities  
September 16-18, 2008, Munyonyo, Uganda

# The Abuja Declaration

- 'We [Heads of State & gov't of the OAU] gathered in Abuja to undertake a critical review and assessment of the situation and the consequences of these diseases [HIV/AIDS, TB, ORID] in Africa, and to reflect further on new ways and means whereby we, the leaders of our continent, can take the lead in strengthening current successful interventions and developing new and more appropriate policies, practical strategies, effective implementation mechanisms and concrete monitoring structures at national, regional and continental levels with a view to ensuring adequate and effective control of HIV/AIDS, TB and Other Related Infectious Diseases in our continent.'

# The Maputo Plan of Action

- 'The ultimate goal of [the] Maputo Plan of Action is for African Governments, civil society, the private sector and all development partners to join forces and redouble efforts, so that together the effective implementation of the continental policy including universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2015 in all countries in Africa can be achieved.'

# Presentation Outline

- ✓ Assumptions about:
  - the popularization of the documents
  - the clarity of accountability mechanisms
  - the relationship between Civil Society and Parliamentarians
  
- ✓ What can Parliamentarians do?
  
- ✓ Conclusions

# **SOME ASSUMPTIONS**

inherent in the Maputo POA and the  
Abuja Declaration

# Popularization of the Documents

- to read or not to read ...?

# Clarity of Accountability Systems

- **clear** and inclusive mechanisms for the establishment of national targets by certain dates
- a well-articulated mechanism for **jointly reviewing** progress at the regional level
- a strong role for national parliaments in reviewing progress on implementation

## The Maputo Plan of Action ...

- 'Recognizing the unique circumstances of each country, the Plan is specifically broad and flexible to allow for adaptation at the country level. It provides a core set of actions, but neither limits countries, nor requires those that already have strategies to start afresh; rather, it encourages all countries to review their plans against this action plan to identify gaps and areas for improvement' (pg. 2).



# The Maputo POA Indicators: A Few Examples

## **Strategic Action (2.1.4a)**

- Develop & implement BCC strategy for community mobilization and education on health promotion and utilization of integrated SRH with STI/HIV/AIDS, malaria and nutrition

## **Indicator**

- No. of countries with comprehensive BCC strategy

# The Indicators: A Few Examples

## **Strategic Action (3.2.2a)**

- Build capacity of SDPs & all levels of service providers to provide a comprehensive, gender sensitive package of care for young people

## **Indicator**

- No. of countries with youth-friendly health services within their training curricula

# The Indicators: A Few Examples

## **Strategic Action (3.2.3a)**

- Develop and implement IEC strategies for parents and educators to communicated to young people.

## **Indicator**

- No. of countries with IEC strategies for parent education for young people.

# The Indicators: A Few Examples

## **Strategic Action (1.1.1)**

- Integrate SRHR and HIV/AIDS/STI and malaria in key national health policy documents and plans
- # countries with integrated SRHR/HIV/AIDS/STI and Malaria policy documents and national plans

# The Relationship btw Civil Society & Parliamentarians

- How well do we know each other?
- How do we get acquainted?

## So, what can parliamentarians do ...?

- ... to stimulate popular ownership of the Maputo POA, the Abuja Declaration, and other key documents?
- ... to advance the cause of these documents?

# So, what can parliamentarians do ...?

- Serve as 'accountability link btw govt and citizens'
  - Hold Executive responsible & accountable
  - Regularly review & report on performance
- Pass legislation with these documents in mind
  - How do bills promote Maputo POA principles?
  - How do bills undermine Abuja Declaration principles?

# Discussion Points

- How can MPs work towards taking ownership of key documents such as the Maputo POA and the Abuja Declaration [What are the opportunities for making this a reality? What are the constraints?]?
- What role can MPs play in popularizing key documents such as the Maputo Plan of Action and the Abuja Declaration among stakeholders in their respective areas/countries?



THANK YOU



African Population and Health Research Center

[www.aphrc.org](http://www.aphrc.org)

*Promoting the well-being of Africans through policy-relevant  
research on population and health*