TSHWANE DECLARATION

Background of Tshwane Declaration

The Tshwane Declaration was adopted on December 4, 2015 by participants of the 7th African Population Conference in Pretoria, South Africa which took place between November 30 and December 4, 2015.


The event is organized every four years and provides a platform to disseminate research on population, health and development issues, and review research evidences to enhance the quality of policies and programs aimed at improving the well-being of peoples on the African continent. Over 800 persons from academia, policy, civil society, regional and international organizations participated in this conference.

The Tshwane Declaration

The Declaration, adopted by public acclaim establishes that there are demographic shifts (transition) taking place in Africa. This “youthening” of the population provides opportunities to harness the benefits of having a growing population of young people. It is a summary analysis of the numerous empirical evidences on the prospects, opportunities and challenges of achieving and harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa.

The Declaration also reaffirms the imperative for African governments and institutions to be fully committed to the implementation of all global and regional consensuses on population and development issues, especially the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014.
Importance of the Declaration

The Declaration identifies priority areas policy makers for the purpose of evidence-based planning for national development.

Some major challenges of achieving the Demographic Dividend

High level of unemployment
High number of school drop-outs
Social, economic and legal obstacles to access to sexual and reproductive health particularly among young people
Corruption and political instability in some of the African states

How can governments create enabling environment to harness the Demographic Dividend

Relevant laws and policies can be enacted and amended to create enabling environment for children, adolescents, youth, women and men to realize their potentials and rights including:

Setting up policy frameworks and take steps to empower citizens to freely decide on their fertility and reproductive health choices

Sexual, reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health services are important; however, male participation in these programmes and services is crucial
Investment in quality education, health, skills development, employment for inclusive economic participation
Human capital investments and adopting appropriate policies that expand opportunities for young people by investing in:

- Young people’s schooling and health to improve their well-being and also their productivity and earning
- Preventive health services to reduce exposure to infectious and parasitic diseases
- Livelihoods and employment opportunities, improving access to financial services for young people and

Increased effort to mobilize domestic resources from within by reducing undue dependence on foreign aid and block resource leakages in Africa
Promoting good, transparent and accountable governance

We express our deepest appreciation to the Government and people of South Africa for hosting this conference; the partner national departments such as National Population Unit, Statistics South Africa for co-organising, the UNFPA, individuals and groups who made this conference a reality and a huge success.

Adopted by Public Acclamation on December 4, 2015 at St. George Hotel and Conference Centre, Pretoria, South Africa

Website - www.uaps-uepa.org ; Email - uaps@uaps-uepa.org