

## Background

IPPF Africa Region in collaboration with the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate of the African Union Commission has organized a virtual side event on the Margins of 8th session of the ARFSD themed “Comprehensive Sexuality Education(CSE) matters: Stakeholders Engagement in advancing CSE in Africa through Education programs” on 1st March 2022 from 10:00-11:30 AM EAT. The platform aimed to promote CSE across the African countries, through the education sector, and its impact on creating a green and resilient Africa. The session was attended by representatives from UN agencies, AUC Youth Division, CSO representatives, and Youth.

## Outcomes

1. Space for dialogue to advance transformative strategies and perspectives in implementing CSE in Africa:

- Representatives from the UN Agencies; UNESCO, UNFPA, and a representative from Zambia, and Youth voices from different perspectives discuss CSE in the context of SDGs, young people, Humanitarian settings, and young people with disability.

2. Enhanced interaction and communication between young advocates and duty-bearers on achieving an effective and engaging CSE in the continent

- Young advocates: Teboho Mohloai, Abigail Abamukong, and Silvaine Obedi talked about their unique perspectives on the provision, challenge, and opportunities of CSE in Africa.
- UN agency representatives; Ms. Maria Bakaroudis: CSE Specialist and Disability Focal Point, UNFPA ESARO, talked about the international programmatic guidance on out-of-school CES and how UNFPA ensures leaving no young person behind in the implementation of CSE in Africa. Dr. Machawira Patricia, UNESCO regional HIV and Health Education Advisor for ESA discussed the role of CSE to reach SDGs, particularly SDG 4 and 5.

3. Best practice across the continent on implementing CSE ending harmful practices capitalized

- Kelvin Lubeya Ngoma, Country Director for the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSI), discuss the journey and the lessons learned on the public debate with several stakeholders advocating against the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) framework which was developed by the Ministry of General Education to enrich the provision of Reproductive Health and Sexuality Education (RHSE) in Zambia.

4. Agreed on a set of actions, including clear commitments from Stakeholders, to be taken forward to move us closer to CSE implementation across the continent.

- Sam Ntelamo, Head of IPPF Africa region Sub-Office to the AU and ECA discussed the importance of having a regionally binding framework/ strategy for CSE to avoid inconsistency of CSE implementation across Africa and ensure accountability of member states on the provision of sexuality education to young people
- Mme. Prudence Ngwenya, the Acting Director of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate mentioned that the efforts need to be intensified to ensure the implementation of CSE programs as it contributes to human capital development through every phase of life including the physical, phycological, social and spiritual dimensions. CSE is one of the elements that can unleash the potential of youth to better understand their role in society as well as encourage critical thinking as pertains to gender discussions.