

## **11<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development - Side Event**

### **Preventing Teen Pregnancy: An imperative for Human Capital Development**

**NAME OF THE ORGANIZERS:** UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS

**PARTNERS:** Sweden, Zambia, Nigeria and Uganda

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> April – Time TBC (1.30h)

**VENUE:** hybrid – Munyonyo Resort and online

**AUDIENCE:** Government representatives, Civil Society, UN, Academy, Practitioners, Adolescents and Youth

#### **THEMATIC FOCUS AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ARFSD THEME:**

As per World Bank 2023 policy brief, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has unique demographic characteristics with great opportunities. Its population is growing rapidly; it remains the only region where the youth and working age populations continue to grow; and it is the region where mortality and fertility rates are declining although at a modest and uneven pace. With the right policies in place, this unique demographic profile is the greatest strength in the region, presenting the greatest opportunities for developing human capital for harnessing economic growth, and promoting resilience and social cohesion. To reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, SSA needs to invest in its human capital. This means investing in education, health, skilling and job creation to ensure that the growing youth and working-age population is well-educated and healthy and contributes to economic growth of the region.

Teenage pregnancies have serious health, education, socio-economic and developmental consequences through immediate and long-term effects on the teen parents and their children. Although a decline in adolescent birth rates (ABR) has been observed globally, ABR in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) continues to be more than twice of the global average. The SSA region accounts for close to 50% of global adolescent births with around 15% of global population share.

Furthermore, the SSA has a higher proportion of youth with over 35% of adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years compared to any other parts of the world, who also record high prevalence of early sexual debut, high child marriage and high unmet need for contraception among young people. With the current fertility rate and drivers, the region will not be able to harness the demographic dividend and achieve 2040 and 2063 agenda, if immediate and effective programme, policy and political actions are not taken.

**OBJECTIVE:** to share experiences, best practices and innovative perspectives on what is working well to prevent teenage pregnancies for harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa.

**Moderator:** UNFPA ESARO RD

**Key note address:** Chairperson National Planning Authority Uganda

#### **PANELISTS:**

- **African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) Chair**
- **AUC CARMMA+**
- **Zambia Government (DD)**
- **IPPF Regional Director**
- **Nigeria Government (DD)**
- **AFRIYAN President**