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## **TUNIS DECLARATION**

### **FOURTH AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE**

#### **Population and Poverty in Africa**

We, Africa population experts and members of the Union for African Population Studies, guided by the scientific study of African population, met at the Fourth African Population Conference in Tunis, 8-12 December 2003. The theme of the conference was Population and Poverty in Africa: Facing the Twenty-First Century Challenges. The most important challenges include the following: HIV/AIDS, conflict and crisis situations, gender inequity and inequality, and maternal mortality. Having thoroughly deliberated on these issues and other multi-dimensional aspects of poverty in Africa, we adopt the following declaration:

1. We recognize and strongly affirm, based on our long record of research and dialogue that population programmes are indispensable to economic development and poverty reduction in Africa.
2. Based on evidence, we declare that investments in population are fundamental to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
3. We strongly urge governments to enhance efforts to fulfil their commitment to the Dakar/Ngor Declaration to achieve sustainable balance between population and resources as well as improvement of the welfare of the people of Africa.

4. We strongly support the International Conference on Population and Development and note that 2004 is the tenth anniversary of its consensus Programme of Action. Notably it was a more holistic and rights-based approach to population. We urge African governments to honour their commitment vis-à-vis the ICPD Programme of Action.
5. We strongly support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted by Africa's leaders. Commending their dedication to NEPAD, we strongly appeal to them to increase its chances of success by more closely integrating population into the NEPAD agenda and mobilizing adequate local resources for its implementation.
6. Among the many challenges facing Africa for its poverty reduction, and sustainable development efforts, HIV/AIDS is among the highest priorities. The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues not only to take the lives of millions but also undermines social and economic development and poverty reduction efforts, particularly in southern Africa. Therefore, we strongly urge all African governments and their development partners to execute an urgent, coordinated and sustained response, including increased contribution to the global fund.
7. Responses to HIV/AIDS include prevention, the ABC approach, access to afforded medicines and care, as well as strengthening social safety nets for orphans and affected people. These interventions should be underpinned by deliberate gender policies.
8. We express profound appreciation for the widely acknowledged leadership role the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has played in supporting African countries to integrate population issues and reproductive health into development agenda and resources mobilization.
9. We note with appreciation the African countries' efforts to mobilize domestic resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development. At the same time we express concern over the declining trend in official development assistance (ODA) in recent years, which reached a low of 0.22 per cent of gross national product (GNP), representing less than one third of the United

Nations target of 0.7 per cent. The issue of farm subsidies in developed countries and its adverse impact on African economies is also of great concern to African Governments and people.

10. We express appreciation for the assistance Africa's bilateral and multilateral partners in population and development have rendered the continent. We urge them all to accord to population the priority it deserves in decisions related to international cooperation for poverty eradication and sustainable development.
11. We reaffirm that poverty reduction requires active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, and the private sector. We recommend that partnerships among the government, civil society and the private sector should be strengthened within countries.
12. We thank our partners: first of all the Government and the people of Tunisia, for accepting to host this conference, the Tunisia's National Board for the Family and Population for co-organizing and the United Nations Population Fund and other partners for their contributions.