



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Session title	Parallel Session #4 – Continually improving youth engagement	Room name	Ballroom 3
Session length	1 hr, 45 min		
Background and Rationale	<p>Developing countries with young populations and declining fertility rates could benefit from the demographic dividend, thus experiencing a fast and sustained economic boom, if they dedicate themselves in a sustainable and significant way to family planning and education of youth (UNFPA 2014). With over one-third of its total population aged between 10 and 24, Sub-Saharan Africa has a unique opportunity to capitalize on the potential of its young population to strengthen economic growth and national development. The Ouagadougou conference in February 2011 and the FP2020 global initiative have attracted increasing attention to the essential role of family planning (FP) in economic and social development, especially for women, in reaching sustainable development goals.</p> <p>Although significant advancements have been made in the Ouagadougou Partnership countries, there is a need to improve youth and adolescents' access to RH/FP services that respect their rights in terms of sexuality and reproduction. Youth often have an inadequate understanding of their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. They face numerous obstacles accessing services and support that would allow them to prevent or postpone pregnancy and engage in healthy and responsible sexual relationships. Poverty and lack of education lead to a high birth rate among adolescents. According to the United Nations 2014 report on MDGs, the number of births for young girls aged 15 to 19 in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2011 was 117 per 1,000. Among young married girls aged 15 to 19, use of contraceptives in Niger and Benin is only 1% to 3%. It is essential for youth to have access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health programs adapted to youth that will protect their health and promote healthy behavior for their entire lives.</p> <p>The goal of this parallel session is to highlight initiatives for youth in FP repositioning efforts, and to share experiences that put youth at the heart of the action. These initiatives take their actual needs into consideration, in terms of rights, services offered and training that will allow them to prevent unwanted pregnancies and promote responsible sexuality.</p>		
Expected results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share proven approaches to engage youth in promotion and practice of family planning activities 2. Discuss the role of religious and community leaders and political stakeholders in the promotion of youth sexual responsibility, and methods to optimize positive results observed in the OP countries 3. Propose several approaches and methods to accelerate FP integration and emphasis initiatives in socio-educational and socio-professional activities. 		
Equipment and materials needed	Projector, easel, blank sheets, stickers and markers, laptop computer for writing the report		
Other needs to consider	Simultaneous interpretation, interpreting equipment and headphones for approximately 70 participants, one or two interpreters		

PROPOSED FORMAT



Time	Leader	Activities/Components	Description
5 min	Romarc Ouitona , Benin Youth Ambassador	Welcome	Introductions, presentations, presentation of the context and the challenge, description of format and session instructions, introduction of speakers.
12 min	Margaret Bolaji , FP2020 RG Youth Group	Feedback from the FP2020 RG in Abuja in 2017	How does the global agenda incorporate youth's needs?
3 min	Romarc Ouitona	Question to the presenter	Allow Margaret Bolaji to answer a prepared question based on her presentation
12 min	Aurélie Gal-Regniez , EquiPop	Young girls' reproductive rights	How to better take young girls' reproductive rights into consideration
3 min	Romarc Ouitona ,	Question to the presenter	Allow EquiPop to answer a prepared question based on their presentation
12 min	Dr. Abram Agossou , MoH Togo	Comprehensive sexual education	Comprehensive sexual education for youth in Togo
3 min	Romarc Ouitona	Question to the presenter	Allow EquiPop to answer a prepared question based on their presentation
12 min	Cheikh Saliou Mbacké , WFDD	Recent position of religious leaders	Religious leaders' position on adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and the contraceptive revolution: how can we reach a consensus?
3 min	Romarc Ouitona	Question to the presenter	Allow the religious leader to answer prepared question based on his presentation
30 min	Romarc Ouitona ,	Q&A and discussion	Open a debate/discussion session to meet the expectations for the session.
5 min	Romarc Ouitona ,	Conclusion	Present key lessons and recommendations for the session, and conclude the session.