Cairo Declaration of the Arab Civil Society Organizations in Support of the ICPD Agenda Beyond 2014 in Preparation for the International Development Agenda Post 2015

We, the member organizations of the Arab Women Coalition, Youth Coalition and Media Network in Support of the ICPD Agenda Beyond 2014, met in Cairo on the 26th and 27th of March 2014, under the umbrella of the Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research (CAWTAR) in order to consult in order to support the population and development issues in the region and to ensure their integration in the progressive development agenda post 2015.

Based on the results of the national, regional and global reviews of ICPD Programme of Action (PoA), the content of the comprehensive report to be submitted to the UN Commission on Population and Development during 7-11 April 2014 and the vision of UN Secretary-General on "The Future We Want for All" with its fundamental principles of human rights, equality, sustainable development including its social, economic and environmental dimensions, peace, and Security, we:

- Underscore the great consistency and the obvious integration of the Arab Region issues and priorities into the forward looking agenda of the ICPD PoA Beyond 2014, which consists of the following five themes:
  - Dignity and human rights
  - Health including sexual and reproductive health and rights
  - Place and mobility
  - Governance and accountability
  - Sustainability

- Recognize the achievements made over the past two decades in most Arab countries; in strengthening human rights, endorsement of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we appreciate the stance of the Arab Governments in support of such programmes, that was manifested particularly in the Cairo Declaration of the ICPD regional conference held in Cairo in June 2013 and the fifteenth meeting of the national population councils and commissions, which was held in Cairo in March 2014. We appeal to the Arab Governments to: adopt more realistic positions that rely on evidences, in accordance with the present and future priorities of the Arab region; develop policies, institutions and mechanisms; and allocate sufficient budgets to secure the comprehensive development for all segments of the population based on the principles of human rights and gender equality.

- Invite all components of Arab civil society and the media that are concerned with the issues of population and development to intensify efforts in order to advocate for the
ICPD agenda Beyond 2014 and to contribute to finding solutions to the tremendous challenges facing Arab countries which are witnessing transitional stages characterized by multiple civic unrest and instabilities. These emerging situations have great impact on women and girls which increase their exposure to poverty, disease and risks of gender-based violence. Besides, these situations have placed more pressure on the relevant stakeholders working to integrate the ICPD beyond 2014 agenda in the post 2015 international sustainable development agenda. We, therefore, call particularly for the incorporation of the following goals:

- Gender equality and woman empowerment
- Comprehensive coverage and access, for all, to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Enhancement of and investment in the potentials of adolescents and youth for sustainable development
- Enhancement of the national capacities to generate, provide and analyze social, demographic and health data classified across various components of population dynamics

* Invite civil society representatives who will participate in the 47th session of the UN Population and Development Commission and its parallel activities to work closely with Arab official delegations for the adoption of positions that guarantee the realization of gender equality and enhancement of women’s and youth’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, combat poverty, secure social solidarity and all dimensions of sustainable development.*

* Call on all national and regional actors from government institutions, civil society organizations, media and others to continue their efforts in order to devise practical and effective methods that capitalize on the achievements made during the past two decades and learn from previous lessons and experience to protect rights, eliminate all forms of discrimination, maximize opportunities for everyone's participation, and ensure good governance and social justice.*