

GFF consultation at the 12th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development ICPD and Beyond

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Over 20 participants at the 12th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development ICPD and Beyond: Investing in health and Rights 2014 engaged in a parallel session discussion on the Global Financing Facility (GFF). Participants, many hearing about the GFF for the first time congratulated the GFF for its aims to increase financing for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH,) scale up domestic financing for RMNCH and streamlining financing for RMNCH. Partners present at the meeting, many sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) advocates also commended the World Bank, Norway and Canada on the strong inclusion of human rights in the concept note.

Despite this enthusiasm partners remained cautious, noting that while human rights are prominent in the concept note, a focus on results based financing might prioritize investments in more measurable outcomes. Participants congratulated the need for increased and streamlined financing for women's and children's health but noted that the GFF might through its application and reporting processes increase the burden on already overstretched staff in the public sector applying for funds from vertical mechanisms. This being said partners noted that to date there exists no mechanism that finances the entire spectrum of interventions reflected in the ICDP and expressed their hope that the GFF might take on a cross sectoral approach to SRHR. Strong calls were also made to ensure financing for civil society and strong collaboration of the private sector in the development and implementation of the RMNCH plans.

This was the first of a series of CSO consultations organized by PMNCH members around the GFF.