

Statement submitted by ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together

As a coalition of over 140 churches and faith based organizations working in humanitarian response and human rights-based development in over 100 countries, ACT Alliance affirms our commitment to the Programme of the International Conference on Population and Development,

particularly migrant women and girls, requires urgent resolution. Substantive progress is desperately needed in view of the grave human rights infringements and consequences for population policies by growing numbers of refugees, migrants, and displaced people in the world

the regions where we work with our partners —many are from poor, rural areas, have little or no formal education, and are either semi or low-skilled labourers. These factors make them susceptible to various forms of abuse in countries of origin, transit, and destination. Approximately 60 governments have established health screening, such as compulsory HIV testing, upon application, arrival and renewal of work permits. Limited protection and low pay, and working under harsher conditions and mistreatment is a reality, including risks of sexual abuse.

and their needs and rights largely remain unprotected and unengaged. As faith actors we know of the challenges of religion in ensuring gender equality and the sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. It is however due to the presence and power of faith networks that engaging with faith actors is also crucial.

As faith actors we know that understanding religion and what influences and drives religious and cultural harmful practices is crucial. Religious and cultural practices are not stagnant and do not operate in isolation but are influenced and motivated by their social, economic and political contexts. Migration can entrench and exacerbate traditional roles and inequalities and expose women, girls and boys to new vulnerabilities, such as the significant

the judgment that the girl is safer married. Despite parents' wishes to ensure the safety of their daughter, she can be exposed to violence and abuse within the marriage. Regardless of the rationale,

