



52nd Session

Commission on Population and Development

Closing statement by

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Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Civil Society friends,
Youth participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Congratulations to all on the successful outcome of this 52nd Commission. On the 25th anniversary of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, this historic Political Declaration serves as a direct, powerful reaffirmation of the ICPD Agenda and its centrality to the 2030 Agenda. It recognizes how far we have come and how far we have left to go. And it delineates what is needed to get there: resources, partnerships, innovation and data.

We know the path forward, therefore let us use this Declaration to scale up and push faster.

On behalf of all of us at UNFPA, I thank our distinguished chair, His Excellency Ambassador Courtney Rattray, for his vision, leadership and engagement, which were instrumental to a positive outcome this week.

Let me also thank the other members of the Bureau for their commitment over the past year to making this result a reality. I thank the UN Population Division for their stewardship of the Commission, and I acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of dedicated UNFPA colleagues to the success of this year's session.

And allow me to thank all of you, distinguished representatives and delegates of the Commission, for your hard work and active participation in the deliberations this week, and indeed over the past year as this process built from national to regional to global.

We should all be heartened by the number, depth and breadth of the national statements delivered during the general debate. Your discussions this week were rooted in the foundational message of the ICPD Programme of Action: that the rights, health and well-being of individuals and especially women and girls, are at the heart of our collective aspirations.

You pronounced clearly on:

- The continued centrality of the ICPD Programme of Action, including for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;

- The critical importance of the empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of gender based violence and harmful practices;

- The need to achieve universal health coverage that includes access to essential sexual and reproductive health services;

- The potential of harnessing the demographic dividend and expanded access to family planning and investments in young people and the work that must be done to achieve it;

- The reality and diversity of ageing and low fertility. This (e)32 (h) 67) 286 r(-0.46 r(-e3.9)1174 > BDe6(x)1e

Our joint achievements to date demonstrate what's possible. Five years after the founding of UNFPA and 25 years after Cairo, we can claim unprecedented successes for the population and development agenda. The more than 40% decrease in maternal mortality over the past 25 years is just one marker of world progress.

Yet the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action remains millions upon millions of women and girls are still waiting for world promises to be fulfilled.

It's time for urgent action to fully realize this vital agenda which is so integral to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Nairobi Summit in November will call all of us —the United Nations, governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, young people —to work in concert as partners committing political and financial support to accelerate the promise of ICPD at the 25-year mark. Thus, we make hope and history rhyme.

I trust that you join me in leaving re-invigorated with a renewed energy and collective spirit that recognizes the urgency of action now, today

Thank you once again. I wish all who are traveling safe journeys home.

¡Adelante! Onward to the Nairobi Summit in November!