

48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
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Statement by Portugal

Delivered by

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Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Develo

Due to recent changes in migration flows in Portugal, the Government adopted, last March, “The Migrations Strategic Plan (2015-2020)”. The plan addresses both the integration of immigrants in Portugal, but also the return of Portuguese emigrants to the country. It entails a large number of measures notably to facilitate and support immigrants and new national citizens’ integration as well as the support to the return of Portuguese emigrants.

Madam Chairperson,

Portugal recognizes that education is a crucial factor for sustainable development. Universal access to education, based on the principle of non discrimination remains a challenge worldwide that must be seriously addressed. We believe specifically that investing in female education contributes to a greater empowerment of women, since there are close relationships between education, marriage age, fertility and mortality.

Recognizing that comprehensive sexuality education is one of the dimensions of education for health, Portugal approved in 2009 a set of principles and rules with regard to sex education in schools. In 2010 the law was extended to introduce sex education in primary and secondary schools and defined the curricula for different educational levels.

As regards sexual and reproductive health and rights, universal access to all types of family planning services, in particular to adolescents, migrants and other vulnerable groups is available; the same applies to treatment of infertility and prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The papilloma vaccine was introduced into the n9(i)-4.58899(t)-4.58899(t)3.97434(e)-1(t)3.974

National maternal and child mortality rates are very low, ranking among the best indicators alongside other European countries.

Madam Chairperson,

HIV infection is internationally recognized as a very serious health problem and a threat to economic and social development. In this context, our National Programme for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS 2012-2016 intends to reduce, inter alia, the number of late diagnoses of HIV infections and of AIDS related deaths and eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection by the end of 2015.

Madam Chairperson,

Portugal is a staunch supporter of the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and is also firmly and consistently committed to the eradication of all forms of violence against women. Violence against women is one of the most cross-cutting and visible expressions of discrimination and inequality, and Portugal will continue to strive for its full elimination at national and international levels.

It this regard, we have strengthened our legal and technifon s114250]vgani aan a3501(a

Sustainable policy planning which takes into account population dynamics, migration, urbanization, and the other pillars of the ICPD Agenda as drivers of change and sustainable growth, will remain very relevant in the years to come. Portugal will definitely continue to defend the importance of the ICPD Agenda throughout this year and beyond.

Thank you.