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In 1994, we set ourselves goals as the international community, guided by our common desire and collective vision to invest in our populations as key to economic development. These goals were recently reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is our global blueprint for development, including safeguards to advance comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all women and girls. These rights have featured prominently in efforts to respond to health challenges such as HIV/AIDS and recently, Ebola and Zika. More needs to be done to ensure that while health challenges affects all populations and need addressing, women and girls are not further disadvantaged due to lack of these rights.

While on the realisation of rights, the South African delegation does not believe in the false dichotomy between human rights and development as

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