

55th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Israel Statement at the General Debate

April 25, 2022

Mr. Chair, Excellences,

We wish to thank you, Mr. Chair, and the Bureau for your efforts in guiding the Commission's session. We also take this opportunity to thank the co-facilitators for their efforts in the negotiations on the draft resolution.

Israel aligns itself with the Nexus joint statement, and we would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

The ICPD Program of Action was a defining moment for women and girls, realizing a rights-based approach to human health and reproductive issues with the goal of promoting prosperous and sustainable societies and ensuring the fundamental human rights of every person.

To ensure that humanity can thrive and realize its potential, we must protect and promote our economic needs. Unfortunately, women and girls continue to face unequal access to economic resources, undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and spend less time in paid work, limiting their participation in the social, political, and economic spheres, as well as their empowerment and independence. This also impacts our shared goal of realizing gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

Health, including mental health, is a precondition for economic and social development, and is central to the promotion of economic well-being, lifetime earnings and poverty eradication. To that end, our efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic must be gender-responsive. The pandemic impacted the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health services. SRHR, including family planning, information and education are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of the SDGs. We must protect and fulfil them.

The pandemic has also led to increased danger of domestic and gender-based violence as well as the cutting of important lifelines to social support and civil society organizations. We must ensure that all women and girls have the ability to make their own choices about their bodies and their futures, free of violence, coercion and discrimination.

Israel has made huge advances in economic gender equality. From the chambers of our government, to the boardrooms of our businesses, women play leading roles in Israeli society and economy. The key to Israel's success is the investments we make in engaging and empowering every member of our society.

In the process of recovering from the pandemic, we must not lose sight of our long-standing goals. Sustained economic growth is a key component of these goals, and we believe this commission has a strong potential to promote this.

Thank you