

The 30-year anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the adoption of its Programme of Action is a momentous occasion.

By placing people and their rights firmly at its centre, the Programme of Action transformed the way we think about population and development.

Today, this people-centred approach is at the very heart of the development agenda, ensuring that we address the needs and aspirations of all people, while giving priority to reaching the furthest behind first.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

**tensions, civil strife and wars risk stalling progress
and, in some cases, even reversing the hard-earned
gains of the past 30 years. That is why it is so critical
for us to reaffirm our commitment to implementing
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We also cannot ignore that the world is changing rapidly. Today, there are more than 8 billion people, compared to 5.6 billion in 1994. Of these, over 3 billion are young people and children under the age of 25. These young people--

behind and meet the needs of present and future generations.

Thank you.
