

Finland

National statement at the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development

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Madame Chair,

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action, let us reaffirm their centrality to sustainable development and the enjoyment of human rights for all.

Finland remains firmly committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. We see this occasion as a celebration of the ICPD agenda - the progress that has been made, and the lives of millions of women and girls that have been saved so far. Let us work together to ensure that we sustain and fulfill the commitments we made in Cairo 30 years ago.

Madame Chair,

We all want to build a better and more prosperous future for the world, for our countries and for future generations. Investing in people, in particular young people and adolescents, is key to achieving this and the Agenda 2030. As the Secretary General's report on the status of ICPD Programme of Action implementation notes, improving access to education, as well as sexual and reproductive health services, benefits economies and helps fight extreme poverty.

My country Finland has come a long way from a low-income, poverty-ridden country, to what it is today. This progress was made possible through significant investments in education, maternal and newborn health, and ensuring health and rights for all

ultimately key to making sure that women can participate in economies and contribute to a sustainable future. Women have the right to bodily autonomy – the right to decide when and whether to have children.

To conclude, Madame Chair, I want to underline the following: realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights is about ensuring girls' opportunity to finish their education and contribute to their societies and economies as well educated adults. SRHR is about preventing child pregnancies and child marriages. It is about development and stronger economies. It is about a better B o 6r0000i about