

**ICPD80 Nasjonalt innlegg Til generalkonferansen (510 ord)**

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**However, despite progress, there is still enormous pressure on SRR. It is paradoxical that many countries acknowledge rights - and SRR - to protect family values, while in fact, access to SRR enables individuals and families to thrive.**

**As I mentioned yesterday, Gro Harlem Brundtland, our prime minister at that time, also attended the ICDF in Cairo.**

**I would like to quote from her speech: "This conference is really about the future of democracy, how we widen and deepen its forces and scope. Unless we empower our people, educate them, care for their health, allow them to enter economic life, - on an equal basis and rich in opportunity, poverty will persist, ignorance will be pandemic and people's needs will succumb under their numbers. The themes and issues of this conference are therefore not merely themes and issues but building blocks in our global democracy".**

**Whether we work in government, civil society, are young or old, in all our diversity - let us continue to use these building blocks of the global democracy to the best of our ability. The ICDF Programme of Action is there to guide us, and we will all be better for it.**

**Thank you**