

**Closing Remarks to the Forty-third Session of the  
Commission on Population and Development**

**By  
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**Mme. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,**

**The work of this Commission reminds me of the saying: “Some people dream of worthy accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them.” We know that most of you have been awake for the best part of the past three nights [trying to ensure/ensuring] that the Commission accomplished what it had set to do: provide guidance on actions that will improve global health and, in particular, health outcomes for the most vulnerable. Your efforts have been commendable even if you have not managed to achieve all you wished.**

**As we expected, the theme of this session has provided much food for thought and, thanks to the variety of experiences recounted in national statements, it has enriched our views about the diverse challenges that countries face and the innovative strategies being used to address them.**

**Clearly, life and death issues cannot but generate passionate debate. But to develop strategies and fine tune approaches, cool heads and persistence are necessary. We, at the Population Division, remain ready to assist you all in assessing how that persistence may pay off in lower numbers of deaths and longer and healthier lives for all.**

**Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by thanking our many colleagues from the Department of Conference Services, the Department of Public Information and UNFPA for supporting the work of this session. They collaborate with us in providing support to the Commission, disseminating the messages coming out of this session, and allowing us to communicate seamlessly. My special appreciation goes to the interpreters and translators, the sound engineers, the précis writers, those servicing our conference room, those supporting the video equipment and countless other persons who ensure that our work proceeds smoothly.**

**And, of course, special thanks go to you, Ambassador Carmon, for conducting the deliberations so ably, and to each of your colleagues in the Bureau, especially to Mr. Shoji Miyagawa, facilitator of the Working Group and to Ms. Agnieszka Klauska, rapporteur for the session; and also to Mr. Lizwi Nkombela and Mr. Eduardo Rios-Neto.**

**It has been a pleasure working with you all. Many thanks!**