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Fellow Heads of State and Government

Your Excellency Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon

Your Excellency the President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Twenty years ago, in 1994, when the ICPD met in Cairo member states agreed a Program of Action that, it was claimed, would quicken
It was to speed development and secure a better future for generations

yet to come.

But two decades later, the results have not been nearly as expected.

The problem also lies in the rejection of debt forgiveness or at least meaningful debt re-scheduling that would give us a chance to recover the development ground that we have lost.

Unemployment is the most severe of the many challenges that all societies face.

Youth unemployment is the most frightening.

It wastes our human capital, our most precious human resource.

It condemns young people, capable of innovation and creativity, into lives on the margins of society or to lives of crime.

In many countries today, we are witnessing a lost generation as young people come out of colleges and universities with no prospect of employment in the fields in which they trained, if they have a prospect of any sort of job at all.

The nuclear family—the basis of all civilizations—is placed under great stress, as young couples are squeezed out of housing markets, mortgages, credit, and faith in the future.

Is it any wonder that across the global landscape there is youth ~~discontent and frustration with governance systems within their own~~

countries and globally?

And it should be said and noted - with all the seriousness that it is due - that when small states like mine venture into areas of productivity, such as financial services that challenge the dominance

It takes only two or three workers absent from small and medium-sized businesses because they are disabled by chikungunya to cause