

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MS. B.O.
DLAMINI , REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE 29TH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The recent 20-year review of the ICPD Programme of Action clearly pointed out the huge gaps as well as the uneven and fragmented progress, that remain in terms of ensuring comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all women and girls.

It is critical during this Special Session to take note of our implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action during the past 20 years. It is necessary to highlight that further actions are required to achieve the goals we set for ourselves, including through the upcoming inter-governmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr President,

South Africa therefore welcomes the thorough review and preparations undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We support the findings and recommendations of the operational review contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/69/62) - "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014".

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- Our Department of Health is improving programmes to eliminate preventable maternal mortality through the provision of comprehensive maternity care;

Other notable gaps and areas that need special attention include the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality at national and international levels, which are aggravated by gender inequalities, lack of empowerment of women and girls, gender-based violence and the continued inequalities within and between countries and regions.

Mr President,

As South Africa we remain committed to continue to cooperate with fellow Member States to celebrate the successes we have achieved thus far, and more importantly to achieve the further measures needed to realise the objectives we set ourselves at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.