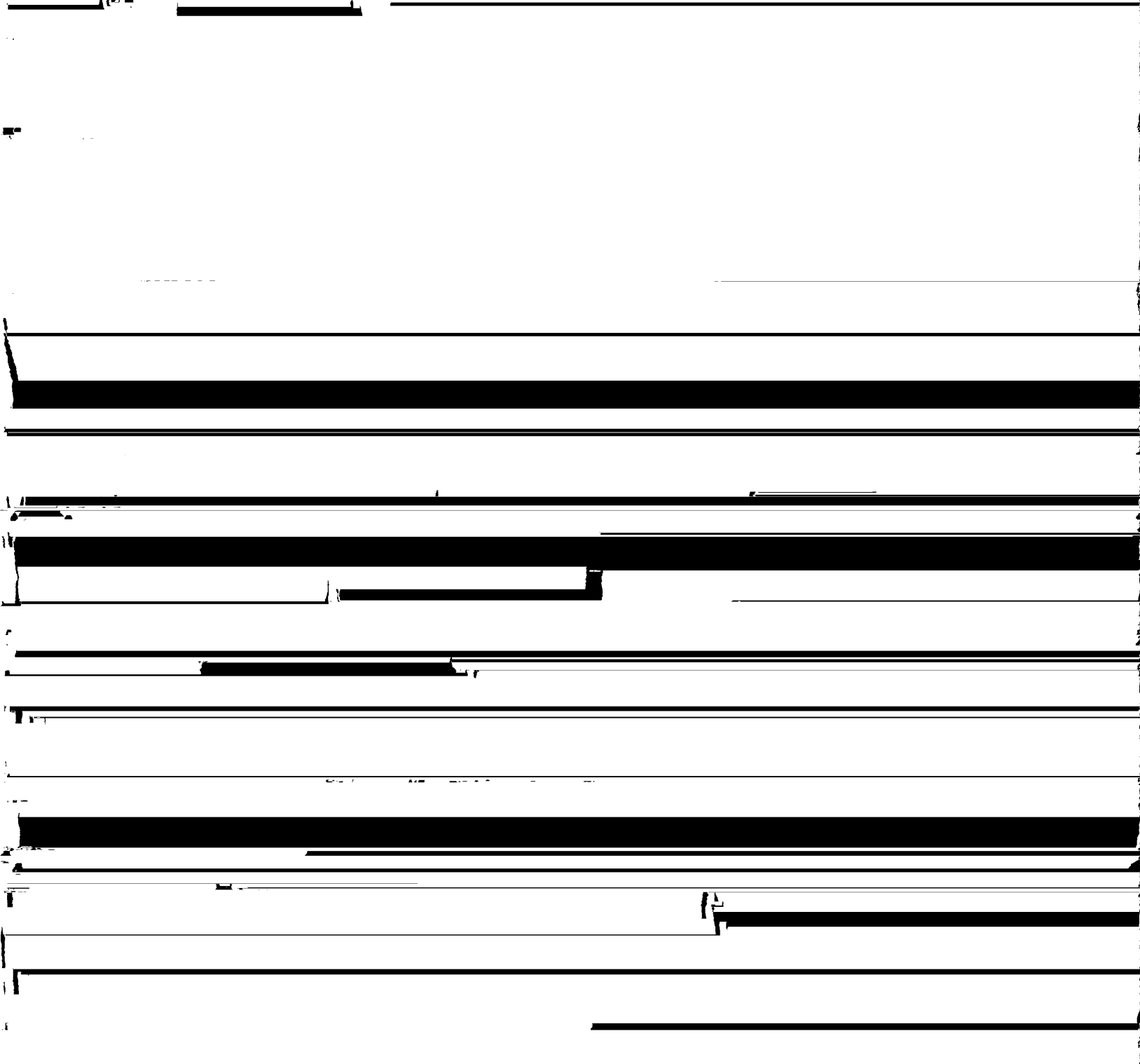


# REPUBLIC OF MALTA

PERMANENT



Mr. President,

Malta welcomes the holding of this special session celebrating the 20th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action

The International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994, and the 20 year Programme of Action adopted therein by the International Community changed the perceptions on how to handle population and development issues.

This conference presented a paradigm shift whereby the international community agreed that population is not just about people but about making people count. Through the Programme of Action

Furthermore, any development agenda that aims at individual and collective well-being and sus-

opment and human rights are intrinsically interrelated, to this end Malta considers a move towards a human rights-based approach to development cooperation as a positive development. Such an approach helps respect, protect, and fulfill human rights universally.

Malta continues to hold the view that any discussion of rights and services in connection with

human rights – the right to life. Malta strongly believes that the right to life extends to the unborn child from the moment of conception, and that therefore the use of abortion as a means of resolving health or social problems is a denial of that right.