



Excellencies

**Mr. Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Twenty years ago, at the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, our Governments affirmed that population is not about numbers; it's about people. They reached consensus on a Programme of Action to transform the quality of life for all, to expand human choices, and to achieve economic growth and sustainable development.

Today we recall and reaffirm the historic goals and objectives of the

Poverty, discrimination, as well as income and wealth inequality threaten economic growth, the well-being of individuals, societies, and our planet, and are relevant to the discussions at tomorrow's Climate

We must build on lessons learned and maintain the momentum. Together with the Millennium Development Goals, the ICPD agenda helps pave the way for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the achievement of sustainable development.

This special session provides the international community with a crucial and timely opportunity to share ideas and reinforce its commitment to

improving the lives of people, fostering equity and dignity, and ensuring sustained, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, let us commit ourselves to stronger action, guided by the ICPD beyond 2014 review, to fully implement the Cairo agenda on population and development. I look forward to your statements sharing your governments' visions for implementing the ICPD beyond 2014.

Thank you for your attention.