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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.

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We must also recognize the decisions of parents to educate their children, especially girls about the full and effective enjoyment of all their human rights, and to foster an environment of equality between their hard department of their highest retartion

and live in dignity free from violence and discrimination. So in recognition of the progress made, lives transformed and saved, we can celebrate our collective efforts.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Population Fund for its important support of national efforts to implement the Cairo agenda.

But the journey that began with national surveys and included regional ministerial conferences and a global intergovernmental meeting in April of this year does not end today.

The remarkable progress the world has seen since the historic United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and the 2000 Millennium Summit still falls short of our ambitions and needs. A lot

more must be done to improve the quality of life of all our peoples.

It is therefore essential to address, with urgency, the findings of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review, which show that despite significant gains in

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 apportunity to share ideas and reinforce its commitment to	_
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	improving the lives of people, fostering equity and dignity, and ensuring	
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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.