

Check against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my honour to speak today on behalf of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

UNFPA has always been and remains a champion of increased investment in women and girls. We are very glad that financing for gender equality and women's empowerment is the priority theme for this year's session. We need to do all we can to reverse the feminization of poverty and to unleash the full potential of half the human race to advance peace, development and human rights.

We hope that a year from now, we will look back at this session as the ripple that became a wave.

A wave of increased investment in the education, health and empowerment of women and girls. A wave that carries hope, freedom and opportunity. A wave that washes away violence and discrimination against women.

In families and communities around the world, women are making their children a

At UNFPA we know that investing in women creates ripples that bring about waves of

positive change. And we know that change is essential to the world we want to see.

Poor sexual and reproductive health is a leading killer and disabler of women, which robs them of their potential and productivity and reinforces poverty.

Today one woman dies every minute from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. More than 200 million women have an unmet need for family planning. And in every region of the world, HIV prevalence is increasing among women and adolescent girls, threatening the fabric of society and the development and stability of entire nations.

