



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
315 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 689-7215, FAX (212) 689-9073

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CUBA, H.E. MR. BRUNO RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA
AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014.

Mr. President,

The validity of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 20 years after its adoption proved to be unquestionable.

World population growth has been essentially registered in developing countries. However, world wealth is even more concentrated in industrialized countries.

The systemic and multidimensional crisis generated in developed countries is more critical in developing countries, where there is greater poverty and the majority of the world population lives.

The prevailing international relations system is unjust and unequal; the gap between developed and developing countries, rich and poor has been widened.

Millions of human beings, particularly from South countries who are victims of hunger and illiteracy, cannot access elementary health services and proper housing. Poverty prevents them from a decent living.

Humanity would disappear if a minimum portion of the huge nuclear arsenals blew out. The mere existence thereof is a serious threat.

The richest countries plunder the non-renewable resources of the planet and impose unsustainable production and consumption patterns, which worsens climate change and endangers the preservation of our species.

Mr. President,

The Cuban Revolution ensured the exercise of all human rights to its people, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, which encompasses family planning, sexual education, abortion legalization and equality between women and men.

The guidelines of the country's economic and social policy continue to attach paramount importance to the sexual and reproductive rights of the whole population and to demographic dynamics, particularly focusing on boosting birthrate and response to population ageing.

The implementation of the National Programme to follow up Cairo agreement and the complete national strategy in terms of population dynamics are seriously affected by the genocidal economic, commercial and financial blockade sustained and worsened by the consecutive United States administrations against the Cuban people.

Mr. President,

We ratify our will to continue turning into a reality our commitment to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and to the Montevideo Consensus, which is a referent to attain the goals and targets adopted in Cairo.

Thank you very much.