

Closing Remarks to the Forty-Third Session of the
Commission on Population and Development

By
Ambassador Daniel Carmon
Chair, Commission on Population and Development
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Distinguished delegates, colleagues; ladies and gentlemen,

We all agree that health is essential for a good life. Both on a personal basis and as members of Governments that want the best for their people, the discussion of how best to achieve better health for all is of great interest. I have personally found this session of the Commission very enlightening and useful. It has increased our understanding of the challenges that different Governments face and provided us with important guidelines about actions that we can take, both as individuals and as policymakers.

I have been impressed by the quality of the reports, statements and presentations made during this week. The Commission on Population and Development is known for the rigor and quality of its work and this year has not been an exception. Indeed, the Commission has proven again that it is a useful forum for the in-depth discussion of issues that matter greatly for development as well as for the exchange of experience. [I regret that, despite the solid foundation that the work of the Commission provides, the guidance that it is our duty to provide could not be free from the influence of extraneous considerations].

This year's theme has been particularly relevant because it has permitted us to focus yet again on actions to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We will therefore be better prepared to contribute to the High-level Plenary Meeting that the General Assembly will have in September. And it is important to remember that this session is only one small step toward reaching the health-related goals that we have set for ourselves. We have ample information on what needs to be done. We need to redouble our efforts to do it.

Now, if you permit me, I would like to thank all those who have helped in the work of this session. My deep thanks go to my colleagues of the Bureau:

Ms. Agnieszka Klauska, Mr. Eduardo Rios-Neto, Mr. Lizwi Eric Nkombela and Mr. Shoji Miyagawa. Shoji deserves special recognition for his role in guiding the negotiations with patience, understanding and ability. [The success of this session owes much to his hard work.]

I also wish to thank the Secretariat of the Commission. First, the Department of Conference Services, where the team directed by Ms. Emer Herity provided us with excellent support, and then the Population Division of DESA, which, ably directed by Ms. Hania Zlotnik, provided substantive input and support to this session. Among the staff of the Population Division let me single out Mr. Philip Guest, Assistant Director, and his team who worked tirelessly to support the Working Group. I am also grateful for the collaboration of UNFPA.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of all the other support personnel that has facilitated our work, both during the day and at nights, and especially for the interpreters, without whom our deliberations would not have been possible.

[Colleagues, let me end with a personal observation about our work this week: this session has shown that it is possible to address daunting challenges and sensitive issues from a diversity of perspectives in a professional and goal-orientated manner. Ultimately, only by reaching common ground is progress possible.]

I wish you all a good weekend and a safe trip home for those who come from afar.

I now declare the 43rd Session closed.