



**Check Against Delivery**

**Closing Statement by**

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Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Executive Director of UNFPA, Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, I wish to express our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and to the Members of the Bureau for your leadership of the 43rd session of the Commission. We would also like to thank the facilitator and members of the Informal Consultations for all the hard work that went into the negotiations and the drafting of the text. We appreciate the hard work of the Member States on reaching consensus on the decisions and are pleased with your choice of the theme of Adolescents and Youth for 2012. This topic is of crucial importance for our common future and closely related to UNFPA programmes.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Distinguished Delegates for the active participation, the fruitful discussions and their valuable contributions to the work of the Commission. We thank them for their support for the mandate and role of UNFPA in the areas of population and development. We also thank our keynote speakers for the excellent presentations which sparked interesting discussions. Thanks also go to the Secretariat and our colleagues at the Population Division for their contribution to the 43rd Session of the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, this week the Commission addressed the important issue of health, morbidity, mortality and development. Health is crucial for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

We heard many success stories pointing to declines in mortality rates and increases in life expectancy. But we also heard that these successes were not realized in all countries and that there were disparities within countries. In some countries, life expectancy has stagnated or even decreased due to the prevalence of AIDS. Some countries experiences decreases in life expectancy due to alcohol consumption, violence and accidents. Others are faced with the double burden of addressing infectious and non-communicable diseases.

Maternal mortality and morbidity in particular remain unacceptably high in many countries. In fact, MDG 5 is the target that is lagging behind the most. This is one of the greatest moral and human rights challenges. No woman should die giving life.

Mr. Chairman, despite recent increases in funding for population activities, the resources mobilized are not sufficient to meet the needs in developing countries. We must renew our commitment to mobilize sufficient resources, nationally and internationally, to ensure full implementation of the Programme of Action.

Our discussions this week and the experiences shared by the Distinguished Delegates clearly showed that we are aware of the urgency and committed to the cause. Together we must work to achieve universal access to Reproductive Health and ensure that all persons everywhere can enjoy a longer and healthier life.

UNFPA looks forward to continue working with Member States, our sister UN agencies, especially the Population Division, and all stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at national, regional and global levels.

Thank you.