



Closing Statement

Delivered by
Mr. Werner Haug, Director, Technical Division
on behalf of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director of UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund

44TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

New York, 15 April 2011

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentleman,

During this 44th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, the nature of our discussions has shown that the issues of fertility, reproductive health and development are critical to every human being and every society.

The combination of analytical interpretations of data and demographic trends, on the one hand, and heated and passionate debate of human choices and the realities of our lives as human beings, on the other, reflects the complexity and depth of population and development issues.

Mr. Chairman,

These issues of fertility and reproductive health cut to the core of our existence as human beings and they lie at the heart of human development.

It is important, therefore, that the consensus reached by governments in Cairo on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development is safeguarded.

Without this kind of global support and common understanding, our capacity to discuss these deeply important and relevant issues, to mobilize financial resources, to advance implementation, and to unite communities around common objectives will be jeopardized.

As this session comes to an end, I thank all delegations for your hard work until late in the evening, and especially 'til this morning.

I thank Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division.

I thank the Chairman, Ambassador Brian Bowler of Malawi and the Bureau for their excellent leadership and commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action.

I thank the facilitator, Christophe de Bassompierre of Belgium, for the valiant and tireless efforts he has made to foster consensus.

And I reaffirm UNFPA's commitment to work closely with all Member States, the UN system, and civil society in the coming months and years to strengthen support at the national, regional and global levels for the visionary ICPD Programme of Action.

UNFPA looks forward to continued collaboration with all partners to support implementation of the goals and recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions for its Further Implementation.

As we look forward to 2014, let us work together in a positive spirit to ensure that the Cairo consensus does what Member States intended it to do – provide the basis for truly sustainable development—with population trends and dynamics informing policies and investments to meet human needs, and each individual able to live free from poverty, poor health and discrimination, with dignity and rights to make the most of his or her potential.

I thank you.