



**Statement by
Marianne Haslegrave, President
International Federation of University Women**

**Commission on Population and Development
Forty-fourth Session**

**Agenda Item 5: General debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action
of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of its
twentieth anniversary**

New York, 13 April 2011

Thank you Mr Chairman

The International Federation of University Women recognizes the importance of the General Assembly resolution A/65/234 in charting the way forward for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

IFUW is mindful of the need for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action and welcomes the extension of the period for its implementation, together with that of the Key Actions, beyond 2014.

IFUW also welcomes the proposed Special Session at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to assess the status of implementation and to renew political support to ensure the full achievement of the ICPD goals and objectives, as well as welcoming the role that the Commission on Population and Development will play in its preparation.

In this regard, together with other non-governmental organizations, IFUW requests Governments to ensure the fullest possible participation of civil society, both non-governmental organizations in consultative status and others who have been active in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, to engage in the deliberations alongside country delegations both during the preparatory meetings and at the Special Session itself.

IFUW considers the national level reviews of the progress achieved to date and particularly the proposed operational review of the ICPD Programme of Action, that is to be undertaken by UNFPA based on the ‘highest quality data and analysis of the state of population and development’ as intrinsically important parts of the review process. IFUW wishes to emphasize the importance of the availability of data that are, as stated in the ICPD Programme of Action (para 12.1), “valid,

reliable, timely, culturally relevant and internationally comparable” as pre-requisites for such an operational review. We note however, that gaps still remain in some countries and that data, which are available, are not always disaggregated.

With respect to the operational review, IFUW also welcomes the commitment of the UNFPA Executive Director, in his statement at the Opening Session of the Commission, on Monday 11 April, to work closely with “civil society at all levels, particularly at the country level” in order to “capture the voices from the ground where it matters most”.

Since the Cairo conference, a broad range of non-governmental organizations have worked tirelessly for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions from a gender-based and human rights perspective. Civil society, including marginalized populations and young people, must continue to play an important role as full partners for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions, until all their goals are achieved.

Thank you, Mr Chairman