

**Statement of the Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations
after the Chair withdrew her proposal for a resolution on the theme of
“Realizing the Future We want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable
Development, including in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

**Forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development
(not delivered)**

New York, 17 April 2015

Madame Chair,

In our National Capacity, the South African delegation would like to express its appreciation for your tireless efforts along with your able Bureau. We appreciate the hard work that has been done towards preparing a text based on negotiations by member states that would reflect the issues that the international community and countries needed to focus on in order to meet the challenges identified in the Review report and the concerns that emerged from the regional conferences in 2014. We extend our gratitude for the informed and skilled facilitation by Ruben Hasbun.

At the outset of these negotiations, South Africa signalled its intent to engage in these negotiations with a view to bridge the gap between the often artificial divide between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. It is in the light of this that we introduced language emanating from the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Declaration on the Right to Development. It is the Declaration on the Right to Development that has ensconced the Right to Development as a human right and it also the Declaration on the Right to Development that explicitly seeks to integrate fully social, political, social, cultural and economic rights. Together with like – minded countries from the G77 we negotiated with delegations normally do not support the Declaration on the Right to Development. We appreciate the efforts by all towards getting the Declaration to the Right to Development within this text. It is a great pity that the document was not agreed to by consensus and that this important precedent will not now see the light of day. We will remain committed to working with all delegations that see value in pursuing agreements in the multi-lateral sphere that is concerned with the holistic development of people.

The Delegation of South Africa’s negotiations brief was informed by the Constitution of South Africa, the Country’s White Paper on Population and Development, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development and other relevant regional instruments.

While we had significant concerns with the final document, we would have aligned ourselves with the consensus of this document.

In terms of process, South Africa has negotiated in part with the G77, in part with the Africa Group and in many areas we negotiated in our national capacities. We thank the coordinators of both those groups for the cooperation. We extend our gratitude to

all delegations who sought to negotiate on issues openly and respectfully even when they differed on the substance of some of the issues on the table.

That being said, it is a great pity that Nigeria as the coordinator of the African Group distanced itself from the consensus without consulting South Africa. We are therefore not party to the decision by the group in this regard. It is our wish that this be put on the record of proceedings of the conference.

Thank You