

Thank you very much Madame Chair,

I would like to deliver this statement on behalf of the following Latin American countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and my own country, Argentina.

First of all we would like to express our deep appreciation for your hard work and your tireless efforts in trying to reach a consensus outcome. We also express our thanks to all the members of the bureau; the co-facilitators and our appreciation to the Secretariat for their professional work.

Our group of countries was ready to adopt the text as you had proposed it this morning. It was not our preferred outcome but we believe the first Chair's text was able to strike a balance in the topics where we have divergent views. We are deeply disappointed with the lack of consensus and the inability of this Commission in moving forward the crucial agenda of population and development.

We would also like to express our strong concern with the working methods of the Commission and with the fact that we weren't able to reach an agreement through an effective intergovernmental process.

The Commission on Population and Development aims to follow-up on the implementation of the Program of Action of the ICPD. In this sense, we are concerned with the tendency that during our negotiating process we were heavily anchored on agreed language and even more, that some countries weren't able to accept agreed language from previous sessions. In this sense, we did not manage to have a proper negotiating interaction that would enable the advancement on new language. We are therefore disappointed that we did not progress on our agreements reached 10 years ago, when the Commission last considered this theme.

Our group of countries reaffirms their commitment to the Consensus of Montevideo adopted in 2013 during the First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In that vein, we would like to have seen an outcome document with progressive language on sexual and

reproductive health and rights. We also reiterate our understanding that family policies are based on the recognition of the families on its various forms, as it was recognized on the principles of the ICPD Program of Action in 1994.

Once again, we reiterate our deepest appreciation for your hard and committed work.

We would like to ask that this statement be included in the official records of this meeting.