

UNITED NATIONS



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Closing statement

50th session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 7 April 2017

Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding the absence of a consensus outcome on the theme, your statements on national experiences and discussions over the past week were highly informative and very important.

You have highlighted that measurable progress has been made on many of the key objectives of Cairo, including poverty reduction, increased education, improved maternal and child health and increased participation of women in the labour force, among others.

But you also reaffirmed the importance of addressing the unfinished business of the Cairo agenda and the sustainable development agenda.

You reiterated that respect for human rights and dignity must be the guiding principle for advancing the ICPD goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a powerful declaration of interdependence between the nations, making it clear that sustainability cannot be achieved alone or unilaterally.

At the same time, through its commitment to leave no one behind, the 2030 Agenda reminds us that a development that leaves a significant socio-economic group behind is not sustainable development.

In your interventions this week, you highlighted that the progress has been uneven, with many vulnerable and marginalized groups left behind. You made yours the call by the 2030 Agenda to reach out to all vulnerable and marginalized populations, to empower them, to end all forms of discrimination, and to protect their dignity and rights.

Many of you underscored the persistence of gender inequalities and harmful practices, such as child marriage and violence against women. Some of you also mentioned discrimination and

violence against older persons. Such inequalities and harmful practices impede access to services, compromise the health and well-being of the population and violate human rights.

You highlighted the need for sustained investments in women and youth, their education, their health, including sexual health and reproductive rights, gainful employment, access to information and services, and participation in decision-making, to realize their full potential for development.

You underscored the importance of policies that help to balance the demands of work with family obligations, including the support and care for young children and older relatives. Policies that strengthen public support systems for older persons, and ensure financial sustainability of public pensions and social security systems.

You emphasized the importance of anticipating demographic trends and changing population age structures and thus the importance of establishing a solid evidence base through the collection and analysis of demographic data disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant characteristics.

I commend you for your decision to adopt a multi-year work programme for the Commission to align with the main theme the Economic and Social Council and with the thematic focus of the high-level political forum. This will ensure that the Commission continues to play the primary role in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Cairo agenda and of its contributions to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Likewise, I wish to commend your decision to consider the topic of “Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration”. This will allow the Commission to provide important inputs to the deliberations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, in preparation for the 2018 conference on international migration.

Dear delegates:

In closing, I would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Ms. Alya Al-Thani and the other members of the Bureau for your hard work in guiding the preparation of this session of the Commission, and for your part also in shepherding the negotiations.

Let me specially thank Ms. Eleonora van Munster of the Netherlands and Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy of Jamaica for co-facilitating the informal consultations on the resolution, and Mr. Mustapha Kamal Rosdi.

Let me also thank Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin and the United Nations Population Fund for their partnership with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in supporting the work of this Commission.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the insights and valuable contributions of the representatives of the civil society who have participated in this session.

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Madame Chairperson, I wish you, your colleagues in the Bureau, and all the delegates who participated in this session, a restful weekend, and a safe trip home to those who have come from afar.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.
