

## **CANZ Statement to the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

### **Agenda item 3: General debate on national experience in population matters: “Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration”.**

Thank you Madam Chair and good morning, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of New Zealand, Australia, and my own country, Canada.

We are happy to be with you today, on the eve of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. In 1994, 179 Member States adopted the landmark Cairo Programme of Action, including commitments on urbanization and migration, universal education, reducing maternal and child mortality, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Programme of Action represents, both then and now, a remarkable consensus among diverse countries on the importance of human rights and individual dignity as the basis for achieving sustainable development, including the equal rights of women and girls.

Madam Chair, we know how important it is to protect the achievements of the ICPD, and acknowledge that the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation will continue to contribute significantly to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand have been, and continue to be, strong and vocal advocates for the full and effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the outcome documents of its review conferences.

We back up this commitment through our policies in our own countries and through our support to sustainable development efforts abroad. Our countries strongly believe that the full realization of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, the eradication of poverty, and the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, are central to building a more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous world.

We are also committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we move forward with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, our countries are committed to actively working with a broad range of partners to support achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The negotiations on the special theme of this session are a tool for us to move this Agenda forward and ensure that urbanization, human mobility and international

migration contribute positively to development. Our countries strongly believe that diverse perspectives will continue to be essential as we move forward with our work.

With this context in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight a few of the principles that we would like to see guide our negotiations this week.

First, as reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda, the achievement of full human potential is not possible without the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights for all. This will involve meaningfully addressing discrimination, violence, and continued human rights violations, including against women and girls.

Then, a valuable lesson from our MDG experience is that development cannot be sustainable if it is not equal and inclusive.

As we know, inequality undermines social cohesion, empathy and shared responsibility.

Collective action and strong partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders, including civil society, will have the greatest impact on our efforts to achieve sustainable development.

All of this is why our countries are committed to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as agents of change in their communities and countries.

Madam Chair, as we move forward with negotiations on the special theme, we encourage Member States to consider how our responses to urbanization, human mobility and international migration will work toward achieving the sustainable development goals, including for marginalized groups and groups in vulnerable situations, such as migrants and refugees, and LGBTIQ2 persons.

In this regard, the partnership between the UN Population Division and UNFPA is key, and their effective collaboration is central to the success of the CPD.

We would also note the ongoing discussions toward the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the importance of avoiding duplication in our negotiations.

Madam Chair, Canada, Australia and New Zealand look forward to making a positive contribution to negotiations this week, and count on your strong guidance as we work towards a successful outcome at this year's session. We also look forward to celebrating together the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Programme of Action next year.

Thank you.