

USUN PRESS RELEASE # 083(07)

April 13, 2007

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*Explanation of Position by Nan Kennelly, Director, Office of Population and International Migration, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration on Resolution: Changing Age Structures of Populations and their Implications for Development, to the 40th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, April 13, 2007*

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues on the Commission, in the Secretariat, and to all of the involved staff at the UN for their hard work during the course of this week, which has benefited us greatly as we consider the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development. We would like to offer a special thanks to our facilitator, Mr. Thomas Gass of Switzerland, for his dedication and commitment in guiding us through our deliberations on the two documents adopted by this Commission. We are especially proud that the CPD was able to conclude its business in a timely and productive manner during the course of the week.

Mr. Chairman, the United States is pleased to join consensus on the resolution of the 40th Commission on Population and Development entitled "Changing Age Structures of Populations and their Implications for Development" with the following Explanation of Position.

The International Conference on Population and Development Program of Action expresses important political goals that the United States endorses. We reaffirm the goals and objectives of the ICPD Program of Action and its Key Actions for further implementation based on the understanding that, while these documents constitute an important policy framework, they do not create international rights or legally binding obligations on states under international law.

Our reaffirmation of the goals and objectives of these documents does not constitute a change in the position of the United States with respect to treaties we have not ratified.

The United States further understands that references to reproductive health and all associated terms do not create any new international human rights and cannot be interpreted to constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion.

We request that this Explanation of Position be included for the record in the report of this meeting.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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