

Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly

As written

Statement by Robin Teurlings from the Dutch Council on Youth and Population from the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the Youth present at PrepCom.

Thank you mister chairman for giving me as representative of youth at this PrepCom, the floor. I'm Robin Teurlings from the Dutch Council on Youth and Population from the Netherlands.

A little bit more than a month ago, a lot of people, who are now present in this room, were at the ICPD+5 Forum in The Hague. At the same time there was the first ever Youth Forum in combination with a UN-Forum. At this Youth Forum young people from all over the world, discussed about reproductive and sexual rights and they did put together a final youth document with the most important points in it.

Now we are here again with a group of young people. We're here to get the points of our document, into the final PrepCom document. Therefore, we have made a purple piece of paper, with eight proposals, which we would like to see copied in the final document and which I would like to read out now. Our proposals are:

- Governments and civil society must ensure that youth representatives are elected to all levels of governing bodies and school and university boards to advise on youth issues and to ensure youth participation at all levels of policy and decision-making processes.
- Governments and civil society must establish and facilitate youth councils and include youth in program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- National plans for investing in young people must be developed and implemented with the full involvement of young people. Such plans must include education, income-generating opportunities, and sexual and reproductive health information and services. Special attention must be given to gender equality and equity and to youth who are disadvantaged due to poverty, race, ethnicity, residence or disability.
- At least 20 percent of donor allocations to reproductive health programs must be earmarked to meet the information and service needs of adolescents. These programs must involve youth in their design, execution and monitoring.
- Governments, youth organisations and NGOs must promote and protect sexual and reproductive health rights for young people which are the same rights as those for adults, and inform young people about their rights and give the tools to exercise them.
- Sexual and reproductive rights are human rights and therefore also apply for young people.

- **Sexual and reproductive health services, including emergency contraceptives, must be provided for all young people and these services must be: confidential, accessible, free, non-judgmental, and most of all designed, composed of and evaluated by young people in collaboration with trained professionals.**
- **Comprehensive sexual education must be included in school curricula at all levels. Teachers must receive adequate training in this area.**

Some of you have already told us that you think these are good proposals and that you would support these proposals. That's why I ask all of you here on behalf of the young people present here at PrepCom to adopt these proposals in your final document. For some of these points you already did so in The Hague. Please show us now that you were really serious in The Hague and in Cairo where you stated in the ICPD Programme in paragraph 7.47: "Governments, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, are urged to meet the special needs of adolescents and to establish appropriate programmes to respond to those needs...". Please do the right thing now. Thank you for your attention.