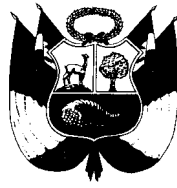


**Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly**

As written



**MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

STATEMENT BY

DR. EDUARDO YONG MOTTA

**HEAD OF THE PERUVIAN DELEGATION TO THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL
PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

New York, March 25, 1999

(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Peruvian Delegation, I would like to offer our congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Period of Sessions of the General Assembly on the application of the Plan of Action of the World Conference on Population and Development. We extend these congratulations to the members of the Bureau.

Mr. Chairman:

The Peruvian delegation wishes on the threshold of the arrival of a new millenium to invite all of us to profoundly and fully reflect on the tasks that remain pending with regard to the Cairo Action Plan after the evaluation that was made last February during the Forum in The Hague. In this sense, we have a clear notion of what we have done, what remains to be done and, at this time, we believe that it will be necessary to debate the measures that will be needed to resolve the problems that still remain to be resolved.

We see that all the regions have progressed in achieving the Cairo Action Plan, each in its own way and facing its own problems and barriers. Latin America and Peru have significantly advanced in this process and with their active presence at this time renew their steadfast pledge to their goals.

Peru has taken the firm political decision to continue working in sustained manner within the sphere of population and development. One expression of this decision is its 1998-2002 National Population Plan which includes and embraces the recommendations adopted in the International Conference on Population and Development.

The goal of this Plan is to reinforce the incorporation of the demographic and population dimensions in the formulation and execution of the development plans and the social and economic programs, in the national strategy for poverty eradication, the promotion of women and of human development while emphasizing maternal and infantile health and family planning.

We believe that it is important to promote the use of statistical and demographic data banks to focus on the population that should receive priority in the programs and projects of the struggle against underdevelopment and thus make easier the impacts.

The integration of the sexual and reproductive rights within the population and development programs deserves special emphasis. This is an aspect that has been regarded as basic to achieve the goals of reduction of the gaps that divide the population by its economic and educational situation through the IEC and the promotion of the couple in the self-care of their health.

The population policy in Peru, particularly with regard to reproductive health and family planning, is based on an unlimited support for the rights of the individuals, taking as a strategic line, the IEC actions on sexual and reproductive rights. In addition, efforts are being made to forge strategic alliances with the civil society and with NGOs for follow up and evaluation and thus to achieve an improvement in the quality of the services.

The coverage and quality of these services have been expanded within this line so that the reproductive ideals of the population can become a reality and the maternal mortality can be reduced through a reduction of the unsatisfied demand for family planning.

One of the goals of the National Population Plan is to emphasize sexual education measures and the promotion of healthy lifestyles amongst youths and adolescents, particularly for the prevention of undesired pregnancies and the promotion of gender equality.

As strategic lines within this field, we propose to strengthen and expand the differentiated programs and services of sexual and reproductive health, family education for adolescents and youths, as well as the strengthening of the Public Defenders of Children and Adolescents Offices.

Another important aspect is to ensure effective access to family planning as well as to sexual and reproductive health services, guaranteeing their adaptation to the needs, culture, beliefs, living conditions and social organization of the individual.

Additionally, we propose to update and train human resources in family planning and in sexual and reproductive health, above all in the programs that seek to prevent maternal deaths since this remains a task to be fulfilled.

As for HIV AIDS, Peru continues with preventive measures through a suitable policy of updating, training and making the human resources more sensitive to the problem. It is also developing dissemination campaigns to prevent STD's, HIV/AIDS within the population, emphasizing in the youths population.

Mr. Chairman:

To conclude, please allow me to offer the following reflections aloud:

- Has enough been done for human being within this century?
- What is pending to be done?
- Has the application of the communication sciences as well as all our knowledge and intelligence been suitable for the promotion of women and of human development?

If we want literate, respectful, responsible citizens that are democrats in the street, at home and at work, the way to achieve this is with EDUCATION.

It is a challenge to convince at all the levels of our society that the concepts of demography, population, sexual health, reproductive health, family planning, gender prospects are the same thing as family, pregnancy, children and, ultimately, development.

We believe that we should speak of what is known, what has been done and what is not now being done, without our space and compare it or offer a contrast to other models of society, so as to seek our own solutions and better options without any recipe whatsoever. Please allow me also to share an experience I had with the university students in college Lima: when they analyzed the figures in the speech given by the Director General of WHO, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland at the Hague Forum, in which mentioned the 120 million undesired pregnancies, more than 20 million abortions a year, the 330 million new cases of STDS which is increasing among adolescents, the 5.2 million cases of HIV every year, of which more than half the cases are of youths and the 450 thousand new cases of uterine cervix cancer every year.

Education is more effective than any other measure within this panorama. We strongly advocate EDUCATION on the subject of family, pregnancy, children, reproductive health, family planning, concepts that are within the Cairo Action Plan and that we all have the commitment to develop.

We trust that the debate that we have undertaken will lead us to positive results that reflect a truly cooperation within the international community.

Thank you very much