

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

As written

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

Tel. 212-415-4050
FAX 212-415-4053

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Statement of the United States of America, delivered by
Julia V. Taft, Assistant Secretary of State for Population,
Refugees, and Migration, at the 32nd Commission on
Population and Development; United Nations, March 24, 1999

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to be here today as we continue the
important five-year review of the Program of Action adopted
in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and
Development. I want to first thank the UN Population Fund
(UNFPA), the UN Population Division, and the Secretariat
for their leadership of the ICPD+5 review process, and
particularly for making non-governmental organizations
(NGOs) and young people integral parts of this process.

This week, as we seek agreement on key future actions
needed to implement fully the Cairo agenda, let us remember
the commitments we made in Cairo five years ago, and in
Beijing the following year -- and which we reaffirmed in
The Hague last month.

In Cairo, we -- 179 governments in all -- committed
ourselves to ensuring a better quality of life for all
people, by building on the principles of basic human
rights, gender equity and equality, and sustainable
development.

We affirmed that women's rights are human rights, that
women's rights are inextricably linked to their right to
the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health,
and that it is a violation of human rights when women are
denied the right to plan their own families. And we
committed to encouraging men to respect the human rights of
women.

