



**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

**Closing statement by**

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Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are pleased that the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development has come to such a successful conclusion.

On behalf of all of us at UNFPA, I would like to thank Ambassador Mwaba Kasese-Bota for her able and wise stewardship, which was instrumental in bringing us to a positive outcome of this session.

I would also like to thank the rest of the Bureau for their commitment and able leadership in steering the affairs of the commission in the past year. Allow me to thank the facilitators for their excellent skills in leading us to successful resolutions.

I want to thank you, distinguished representatives and delegates of the Commission for your hard work and active participation in the deliberations and negotiations. All of you have displayed a commendable spirit of cooperation and constructive engagement – proving the power of collective action.

Civil society organizations were integral to the success of Cairo and have continued to be stalwart partners in advancing the implementation of the ICPD agenda, improving the lives and wellbeing of all people. Their contribution to this session has been critical for a positive outcome.

The two forward-looking and important resolutions adopted during this session are a reminder that multilateralism is alive and well in this Commission.

In the Methods of Work decision, you have reaffirmed the centrality and the need to fully utilize the Commission to support countries in the further implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014.

You have taken measures to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission, streamline its agenda, while ensuring due opportunity for Member States to share lessons and challenges, and make recommendations needed to fully implement the ICPD Beyond 2014.

By adopting the resolution on the special theme you have emphasized the need for strengthening capacity for population data to fulfill the ICPD Beyond 2014 and 2030 Agendas.

You have underscored the crucial importance of population data, such as civil registration and census, health information systems, surveys, and even big data to advance development. It is such data that allows us to identify our shortfalls, locate inequalities and understand the vulnerabilities that hinder fulfillment of the aspirations of each individual no matter where they live.

We are pleased that countries are committed to ensuring:

- The urgency of ensuring that every birth is registered, granting legal identify and rights to every child
- The importance of a census to the functioning and public service of every government
- The need for death registration and cause of death data to enable a health system to provide for its people
- And that national data systems are a cornerstone of development in each and every country.

The cooperation of government, academia, civil society, the private sector, and development partners will be needed to fulfill these commitments, and ensure that future generations of young people have the data skills to build the knowledge economies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Women's empowerment in this context is critical if we are to succeed in leaving no one behind and expand the opportunities and capacity of every young person, including adolescent girls.

All these commitments require partnerships

If it feels crowded in national statistical offices because SDG interest groups are compiling indicators, 2020 census teams are afoot, birth registration campaigns are underway, and experts are mapping the district maternal health needs across the country – let us celebrate the activity, and align and integrate these efforts. And let us keep our focus on young people and make sure that they can use these data for a better world.

And when we may feel a moment's frustration about the need to align this work with that of multiple partners, and across the UN system – let us remember the proverb that says,

If you wish to go fast, go alone

But if you wish to go far, go together

The world has great hopes that this Commission will continue to provide leadership to fulfill the rights of every woman and girl, assure universal sexual and reproductive health, and realize a vision of development that leaves no one behind.

Madam Chair person

Distinguished delegates, civil society partners, let us go far together.

Thank you.