

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates and guests,

On behalf of the German delegation, I would like to give a special thanks to you and the two facilitators, Mexico and Indonesia, as well as the other members of the Bureau for your leadership and for taking us through an inclusive negotiation process to reach consensus.

A lot has happened since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. In the last three years alone, multiple crises, war and violence have undone much of the progress that we had made on the way to a fairer world.

It is all the more important that we as a global community keep in mind the goals we set ourselves in Cairo almost 30 years ago and the fundamental values that guide us: protecting the rights of every individual and creating fair opportunities for everyone.

For Germany, this means above all creating equal opportunities for girls and women in all their diversity worldwide. They make up half of the world's population. It is a matter of justice to give them equal rights, resources and representation. But it is also a question of reason: the potential of women and girls is key to achieving the SDGs and the ICPD Programme of Action.

We would like to highlight the following points in particular, which we believe are crucial in striving for these common goals:

Firstly, the realisation of the bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in all their diversity forms the basis for their social, economic and political participation. Only if every individual, including women and girls with disabilities, ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ and

other marginalized groups, are enabled to make strong and self-determined decisions over their bodies, free of violence, coercion or discrimination we will be able to achieve gender equality as a whole.

Secondly, we would like to stress the utmost importance of the realization of everyone's right to education. The right to education is essential to empower women and girls to claim their human rights, and to participate in all aspects of society equally and meaningfully. Gender-transformative education is a powerful approach to challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes that affect the educational paths of children and young people and restrict their imagination and ambitions of what they can achieve in their lives.

Finally, a crucial aspect of education when it comes to the realization of gender equality is comprehensive sexuality education. With a rights-based approach to comprehensive sexuality education we need to equip adolescents with knowledge on their sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy to empower them to lead self-determined and healthy lives and build gender equal, respectful and pleasurable relationships free from violence or discrimination.

With its feminist foreign and development policy, Germany is intensifying its efforts to ensure the rights of every individual, including the most marginalized, and protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Mr. Chair, it is now more important than ever that we, as an international community, come together and jointly strengthen our efforts to protect and fulfil the human rights of everyone. Germany remains strongly committed to the Cairo Programme of Action and the outcomes of its reviews and reaffirms its strong support for its further implementation. I thank you for your attention!