



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
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Statement

by

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at the

49<sup>th</sup> Session

of the

Commission on Population and Development

Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of  
the International Conference on Population and Development

(agenda item 3)

Madame Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are honoured to serve this year as Vice- Chair of the Commission.

Last year in September, the world witnessed a historical moment in time. The United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 goals. Our task is clear: We – and this can be said of all countries – want to secure the future wellbeing of our planet and all that live on it. Governments, civil society, industry, academia and the general public all need to work together to ensure that there can be sustainable development for all.

This task obligates us to put the people at the centre of development.

This was already made clear by the Programme of Action (PoA) that affirms a people-centered approach with emphasis on the rights of the individual. Since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, we have focused on people as individuals, particularly their needs and their rights. No longer did we look at populations as mere statistics. The Programme of Action was also the first document to recognise each and every human's right to sexual and reproductive health. This is important – Germany considers sexual and reproductive health and rights a prerequisite for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Today the recommendations of the Cairo Programme of Action are still as relevant as ever, also with regards to achieving the sustainable development goals.

There are more and more people living on our planet. By the middle of this century, there will be more than 9 billion. Population trends, such as growth, ageing, migration and urbanization, are challenges all countries have to deal with in one way or another. These dynamics present a great challenge for sustainable development. Strengthening health and social security systems and investing in education and life-long learning are crucial if we are to address these challenges seriously and effectively.

Improving maternal and child health was one of the key objectives addressed in the Cairo Programme of Action. Over the last twenty years, there has been impressive worldwide progress in this regard. However, a lot of work remains to be done:

- 225 million women still have no access to modern forms of contraception and thus lack the ability to control whether and when they would like to become pregnant.
- Every day, approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Maternal mortality is especially high among young women and adolescent girls. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls in developing countries.

Germany reaffirms its strong support for and commitment to the Programme of Action, as well as to the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action of the ICPD. Realizing sexual and reproductive

health and rights for all, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups is one of the priorities of German development cooperation in the area of health and population policy.

Therefore, we strongly advocate for a rights-based and gender sensitive approach to family planning, comprehensive sexuality education as well as linking HIV/AIDS to sexual and reproductive health strategies.

Since Cairo, Germany has provided more than 3 billion euros for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Through our own initiative on rights-based family planning and maternal health, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development takes action to ensure the acceptability, availability, accessibility and quality of family planning services, including contraceptives. Because of its great success, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr. Gerd Müller has announced the extension of the Initiative until at least 2019, with an annual funding of 100 million euros.

Together with UNESCO and UNAIDS, we support the Eastern and Southern Africa – or ESA – Initiative on HIV Prevention and Sexual Health and Rights for Young People. To strengthen HIV prevention and to promote positive health outcomes, the ESA Initiative advocates for access to quality comprehensive sexuality education as well as sexual and reproductive health services for young people in the region.

Madame Chair, ladies and gentleman

Let me take this opportunity to also address the special theme of this year's CPD which is "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda". Germany would like to stress the importance and

necessity of regularly collecting, analysing and disseminating population data. We support several of our partner countries in strengthening their data systems – an indispensable precondition for evidence-based development planning at all levels of decision-making. Considering population dynamics is key for an efficient and forward- looking allocation of resources and sustainable development.

Madame Chair, ladies and gentleman

Significant challenges persist in the full implementation of the Cairo Program of Action, as the ICPD Review in 2014 has shown. But this does not mean that we give up. On the contrary, it means that we have to intensify our efforts.

Together with our partners, we will work to ensure the preservation of the principles of the Cairo Conference and call upon all development partners to support the further implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action and the preservation of the ICPD beyond 2014.

Thank you for your kind attention.