

STATEMENT BY NORWAY FINAL SESSION 49TH COMMISSION POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Let me join other delegations in congratulating you Madam Chair and the other members of the Bureau for having guided our work so efficiently this week , with a particular mention of the co-facilitators for the way they conducted the negotiations in the two drafting groups. The climate of friendship and willingness to understand each other's positions, which prevailed in both groups, owe much to their leadership. Patience combined with a good sense of humor made wonders and helped us overcome the occasional moments of tension and move on to get where we are today: the owners of two very good resolutions. None of us got all that we wanted but enough to enable us to join the consensus.

There were times when we asked ourselves whether the decision to have an outcome document for every session of the CPD was not a mistake. The risk being that we might not be able to protect the gains of the ICPD program of action and their review conferences, let alone take the ICPD agenda further. Today we are relieved and confident that the next CPD session, under the leadership of Qatar, will be as successful as this one.

Thank you Madam Chair.