

Adoption of the resolution on Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Population and Development

15 April 2016, New York

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States (as delivered)

Dear Madam Chair, Excellences,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We welcome the adoption of the resolution by consensus.

We would like in particular to thank and commend you and the co-facilitators for the tremendous efforts that you have deployed, and that allow us today to agree on this text. We also thank the delegations for their constructive engagement.

The theme of this year's session "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Population and Development" is one that underlines the centrality of population in the design and implementation of development policies and the strong linkages between the Programme of Action, its key actions and the outcomes of its reviews, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We all reaffirm, by adopting this resolution, the need for reliable, accessible, disaggregated data to inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We recognize the importance of capacity building to strengthen national systems for data collection, analysis and dissemination; including health information systems, to link civil registration and vital statistics, to ensure that no one is left behind and that human rights of all are fulfilled.

A lot remains to be done to reduce inequalities and to achieve the empowerment of women and girls. Better data collection will contribute to progress for all, including those most in need.

We remain committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and remain committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights, in this context.

Madam Chair,

With this resolution, you managed to strike an acceptable balance for all, while recognizing the compromises made by all delegations. We acknowledge the leadership that you and the members of the Bureau have shown in conducting this session and in making it a success, paving the way for an equally successful Commission next year.

I thank you.