

CLOSING STATEMENT AT THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

FORTY-NINTH SESSION.

On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, by Mr. Zane Dangor, Special Adviser to the Minister of Social Development.

Madame Chair, Ambassador Dr. Kasese Bota, the South African delegation would like to thank you and the facilitators, Ms. Oana Rebedea (Romania), Iara Beekma (Bolivia), Nadine Skale (Germany) and Franklyn Brima Fawundu (Sierra Leone), of the two resolutions that have been negotiated over the last few weeks and as concluded today. The negotiations at CPD 2016, were open, robust and professional. In addition, it was done in a manner in which all delegations engaged with respect and tolerance. The manner in which the process was managed laid the basis for this, and we are grateful for that. We trust that all delegations here at this closing plenary will share our gratitude and show appreciation through respecting the outcomes of this process. For our part, the South African delegation accepts the documents without any reservation.

We do, however, need to clarify a few issues. The text in the outcome document represents the minimum basis for an agreement. We interpret the references to non-discrimination in the text to include all people in line with of existing international human rights law. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the International Bill of Human Rights that is inclusive of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights-UDHR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights-ICCPR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights-ICESCR make specific provisions for non-discrimination to protect all people regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Section 9(3) of the South African constitution makes more explicit references and provides that the state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly

against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.

Guided by the principle of supremacy of the South African constitution and the rule of law, the South African government, through section 8 of our constitution is enjoined to promote and respect these rights of all people without distinction, at all times. We therefore interpret the texts of both resolutions in a manner that is not contrary to the South African Bill of Rights. Similarly, we interpret the term Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in a manner that does not limit any rights for any persons.

Madame Chair, the 2030 Agenda has been undergirded by the ideal of 'Leave No One Behind'. The 2030 agenda was dubbed the '[people's agenda](#)' by the UN Secretary General, who also stated that the Global Goals were to be met "for all nations, all peoples and for all segments of society". Madame Chair, delivering an inclusive agenda requires data that is broken down by a wide range of social groups. This was addressed in the goals and targets with a clear commitment to disaggregate data by age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

The ICPD and the key actions for its further implementation and especially its regional review conferences and the global review provides guidance for the member states, civil society and other stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The thematic resolution provides a starting point for member states to use data to advance in particular, the issues of importance to this Commission. This includes as stated in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, the need for member states to strengthen national statistical capacities to undertake evidence-based analysis and to increase investments in the collection, analysis and utilization of population based data.

In conclusion, Madame Chair, the South African delegation wishes to re-emphasize the importance of the Commission on Population and Development. Given that its primary mandate revolves around the implementation of the ICPD, which has at its core the development of the person, and by extension, communities and societies. The South African delegation, as is the case with many others believes that people centered development requires that all people are able to access political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights. It is for this reason that we are particularly pleased that this resolution makes explicit reference to Declaration on the Right to Development. The Commission on Population and Development is perhaps, the only functional commission in the UN system where a core part of its deliberations includes discussions on the normative issues pertaining to people centered development. It is for this reason that we sought to protect the integrity of this commission and the reports that inform our deliberations.

I thank you.