

Statement by Spain on behalf of the European Union on Agenda item 2

Thank you Mr. President,

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your election as President of the 43rd Session of the Commission of Population and Development, as well as the rest of the bureau.

The European Union has taken good note of all the reports that have been presented to the Commission on Population and Development. We feel that they contain very valuable information, both on general issues concerning the implementation of the ICPD-agenda and on the theme of this CPD. We look forward to discussing the important issues that are raised in the reports further within the course of this week.

Mr. Chairman, we have also read the report of the intersessional meeting of the bureau with great interest. We attach great value to the discussions that took place within the bureau. The suggestions and recommendations that have been made by the bureau are thought-provoking and I am happy to provide a few thoughts of our own on the issues that are raised.

We believe that the issue of a possible review of the ICPD in 2014 merits further reflection and consultation. We feel it would be too soon to put the issue of the 'future of the ICPD' on the agenda of next year's Commission. It would seem best if the discussion on the issue of what needs to happen in 2014 would take place within the context of the General Assembly, the body with the authority to take the final decision on this matter, and which will reflect the will of all Member States on such a crucial matter.

We also look forward to exchanging views with other delegations on the themes for the CPD in 2012 and in 2013. We are most interested in themes that have not been discussed in the CPD before, or have only been discussed once. Although we see merit in having a long term work programme for the CPD, it would seem too far ahead to already fix the theme for the CPD in 2013 now, considering that we are now only in 2010.

Thank you Mr. President.