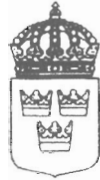




SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Märten Grunditz
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Commission on Population and Development
44th Session

General Debate on national experience in population matters: fertility,
reproductive health and development

United Nations
New York

12 April 2011

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the important opportunity this Commission represents for a follow-up of the ICPD Program of Action and Key Actions for Further Implementation. The ICPD Program of Action remains as relevant as ever. We welcome the decision to extend both of them beyond 2014.

Mr. President,

Sweden aligns itself with the statements made by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

We welcome the theme of the 44th Session of the CPD on “Fertility, reproductive health and development”. There is a clear link between access to reproductive health services, reduced fertility and positive and sustainable development. Promoting gender equality and meeting women’s rights to, and need for, modern methods of contraception and reproductive health care services lead to lower fertility rates and enable women to increase their education and participate in the labor force.

The rights and choices of the individual must remain in focus in our efforts to promote sexual and reproductive health and sustainable population growth. Sweden believes that every woman and man must have the right to choose when, how and under which circumstances they have children. Individuals must be able to make informed choices and have access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including contraceptives, to delay or limit births. Recognition of and respect for such rights result in healthier children and mothers. If children are wanted and planned there are better chances that the parents can afford to care for them, give them education and what is otherwise needed for a healthy and prosperous future.

Since Cairo, progress has been made in moving the ICPD agenda forward. Universal access to reproductive health has become part of the Millennium Development Goal’s. More women and men have access to means to plan their families, space pregnancies and limit the number of children they have if they so wish.

Despite progress made, there is still a large unmet need for contraceptives. Many of those who are denied the right of access to are young. More than 1,5 billion people are young women and men who already are, or soon will, be sexually active. Young people must be meaningfully involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives and futures, and

In order to meet existing and future sexual and reproductive health needs, more financial resources are needed. The Secretary-Generals report on fertility, reproductive health and development states that an additional 3.6 billion USD for family planning is needed annually to satisfy the current level of unmet need. As the number of women of reproductive age increases this funding must increase.

Equally important, however, is political dedication. I hope that we during this session of the CPD can agree on an outcome that contribute to the overall objective of the ICPD – giving people the freedom and opportunities they need to grow, take responsibility, make informed choices and fulfill their dreams.

Thank you!