



**EGYPT**

**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

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لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**STATEMENT**

**OF**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR MAGED A. ABDELAZIZ**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

**BEFORE**

**THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**44<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**(11-15 APRIL 2011, NEW YORK)**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
**THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT**  
**IN LIGHT OF ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

New York, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Check against Delivery

## **Mr. Chairperson**

**Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs**

**Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director & Under-Secretary-General**

## **Distinguished delegates**

At the outset, allow me Mr. Chairperson to congratulate you on your election to preside over this Session, and to commend you on your successful leadership of the CPD Bureau throughout the past few months... We look forward to continue working with you, and with the other Bureau members, in the days to come.

Being the most populous country in the Arab world, and the most densely inhabited nation in North East Africa, Egypt places population issues at the heart of its development policies...With one birth every 24 seconds, our population is expected to reach 100 million by 2025... yet only 6% of the total area of the country is inhabitable land... It is thus easy to see why population is a national priority of utmost importance.

Even though we view each & every one of our people as a crucial asset in our efforts to achieve sustained economic & human development... this continued high level of population growth hampers our developmental ambitions by creating pressures on our limited natural resources... To remedy this situation, strategies with bold, yet realistic goals are now being implemented... they focus on improving the quality & accessibility of reproductive health services... changing attitudes by encouraging smaller families... and further integrating population dimensions within sustainable development frameworks... so that instead of putting a strain on development & its resources, our population is able to fully unleash its potential...and in the process spur developmental gains. We have been greatly encouraged by success stories in other countries... some with circumstances comparable to Egypt... that is why we are keen to benefit further from the expertise of UNFPA & of the CPD in this domain... and look forward to deepening our cooperation with them in the future.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Three years from now we will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference on Population & Development... Even though 2014 will be a landmark year in the ICPD lifetime, it is by no means the end of the road... for its objectives are still valid and many of its goals have not been yet achieved... That is why we are very pleased that the General Assembly adopted last December Resolution 65/234 which injected in the Cairo Programme of Action another breath of life by extending it beyond 2014... We look forward to the GA special session to be held in 2014 to assess its status of implementation as well as the preparatory process leading up to it... including the debates to be held in the context of this esteemed Commission.

Renewed political will is instrumental to achieve the Cairo Agenda beyond 2014...but it is not sufficient...given the persistent funding deficit... as highlighted by this year's Secretary General's report on the "Flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action"... and the situation is not expected to improve given the current economic climate... Facing such uncertainties, I find it timely to underline that GA Resolution 65/234 recalled that "adequate mobilization of resources at the national & international levels, as well as new additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms" are required for the implementation of the Programme of Action... I urge our development partners to act accordingly.... not only in relation to the ICPD goals but also the Millennium Development Goals... for the nexus between them is obvious... particularly in relation to the implementation of the MDGs pertaining to poverty eradication, gender equality & empowerment of women, child mortality, maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, especially in Africa, the continent most lagging behind.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

It is crucial to ensure that population issues are fully integrated in all global processes related to development... I just mentioned the MDG process... but that is not the only one.... Next year the world will be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of a watershed event: the 1992 Rio Earth Summit... As an African member of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20, I find myself compelled to emphasize the interlinkages between population issues & sustainable development... and to stress that the road to Rio must pass through Cairo.

Let me also take this opportunity to highlight the importance we attach to achieving the three objectives of the Rio+20 Conference... which are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date & the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new & emerging challenges... We will also continue to strive to ensure that the Conference & its preparatory process give equal focus to its two designated themes... which are a green economy in the context of sustainable development & poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

One cannot tackle population & development issues without mentioning those who constitute in most developing countries its majority... I refer here to young people... they account today for almost a third of our 7 billion world ... and in Arab countries they make up around 55% of their total population ... this in itself is a strong enough incentive to fully integrate youth issues in the development agenda of each & every country.

Yet, young people are more than just a percentage... they are, as the Cairo Programme of Action eloquently put it, “the world’s future human resources”... Recent events in Egypt & the region have shown that young people are the voice of the nation...they carry its dreams & aspirations... yet suffer the most from the challenges it faces... they are the driving force behind transformational change in society... and thus should be given the opportunity to lead. To consolidate further the Cairo Agenda implementation, we must fully integrate youth in all developmental processes... that is why we salute the focus the UN system is giving to them... in particular UNFPA as well as the Population Division of the Department of Economic & Social Affairs... and very much look forward to positively engaging in next year’s CPD session which will be held under the theme of “adolescents & youth”... as well as the events running up to it.

**Thank you Mr. Chairperson.**