

**UN Commission on Population and Development**  
**Statement by the United States**

**Agenda Item 5:**

**General Debate on the Further Implementation of the ICPD in Light of its  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
April 13, 2011**

In 1994, the landmark Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (ICPD) established the principles that form the basis for our global discussions and actions on population issues. 179 governments adopted by consensus a 20-year framework that links family planning, global health, and economic development and explicitly recognizes the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

While the world has made measurable progress in these areas, it is widely recognized that the goals related to maternal health will not be met by 2014. Far too many women in the developing world still have little or no access to reproductive health services, including family planning and maternal healthcare.

Secretary Clinton, in her remarks commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICPD, said “There is no doubt in my mind that the work that was done and the commitments that were made in Cairo are still really the bulwark of what we intend to be doing and are expected to do on behalf of women and girls.” . . . “Remember what was expected of us. All governments will make access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services a basic right. We will dramatically reduce infant, child, and maternal mortality. We will open the doors of education to all citizens, but especially to girls and women.”

In December 2010, the General Assembly acknowledged the importance of the ICPD and extended the Program of Action and key actions for further implementation to “ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives.” The resolution calls on governments to recommit themselves to achieving the goals and objectives of the Cairo consensus. The U.S. government fully supports efforts to further the implementation of these ICPD principles.

2015 marks the culmination of the Millennium Development Goals. We know that ICPD goals are integrally linked to our efforts to reduce global poverty. With the extension of the Cairo consensus, we must now renew political and financial support for the full achievement of its goals and objectives and ensure the inclusion of reproductive health targets in any succession to the MDGs so that they can be fully integrated in national development agendas.

Thank you.