

# **Canadian Statement to the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

## **Agenda item 4: National experience in population matters Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including the Post-2015 development agenda**

### **Check against delivery**

Madame Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission at this important session on the integration of population issues into the post-2015 development agenda.

The International Conference on Population and Development and the Cairo Program of Action were important landmarks in advancing population and development over the past twenty years.

They recognized that eradicating poverty, achieving gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and improving the health and well-being of all requires an inclusive, integrated approach focused on human rights, dignity and non-discrimination.

Canada remains committed to these goals. They remain relevant today as we look beyond 2015 to tackle the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and new development challenges.

One thing continues to be true - women and children must remain at the heart of any agenda. Our shared experiences show that investing in women and girls is one of the best ways to achieve our goals.

Societies where women and girls enjoy greater equality and empowerment are societies that are more educated, healthier, peaceful and prosperous.

We have an opportunity to use proven and cost effective interventions to reduce maternal and newborn deaths, and to increase the economic and physical health of women and girls.

While significant progress has been made, there is still much to do to realize a world without poverty and hunger, without inequality and deprivation, and without violence and conflict.

Canada believes that a top priority must continue to be improving the health of women and children.

The 2010 G8 Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, and The Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health galvanized the world around this issue, and we have witnessed remarkable progress in these five years.

Despite our efforts, far too many women and children continue to die from preventable causes.

This is why Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper hosted the Saving Every Woman Every Child Summit in May 2014, mobilizing the world once again around the common goal of ensuring that no woman or child unnecessarily dies from a preventable disease or condition.

The event demonstrated the high priority that partners place on women's and children's health, recognizing that the realization of any set of goals depends on ensuring every woman and every child can prosper.

Canada is, therefore, pleased that the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health will be renewed, and we are committed to working with all partners to advance this effort.

By using the Canadian approach, which emphasizes evidence based, cost effective interventions, we can go the final mile to ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

Education and skills development must also be a priority. We know that education is positively linked to better health, future employment, higher incomes, and children's overall growth.

An investment in education is an investment in a country's long-term prosperity.

The safety and security of children, particularly girls, must also be addressed. Hundreds of millions of children are at risk of being victims of violence, exploitation, and abuse, including trafficking.

Canada is working with partners to strengthen child protection systems and to create environments where girls and boys can learn, grow, and develop without fear of violence and exploitation.

We are also committed to working with partners around the world to end child, early and forced marriage – a harmful practice that has a profound effect on the lives of millions of

girls and women, that prevents the realization of their full potential, and hinders the development of communities.

Ensuring that women can contribute to and benefit from the growth of their countries is key to improving child health. When women have the means to participate in the economy they invest in their families and children who get better health care, education, and economic opportunities.

Le programme pour l'après-2015 doit donc continuer de viser à améliorer l'accès des femmes aux ressources productives et leur contrôle sur ces dernières, de sorte qu'elles disposent de chances égales de posséder des terres ou une entreprise, d'obtenir un salaire juste et d'occuper un bon emploi.

Nous soutenons les conclusions du rapport sur le *suivi des programmes de population*, qui recommande de renforcer la collecte de données, la diffusion de l'information et la reddition de comptes. Le rapport traite aussi du besoin d'utiliser des cadres de suivi particulièrement robustes, et de l'importance de compter chaque personne.

À cet égard, le Canada est heureux de collaborer avec plusieurs partenaires dans l'effort mondial visant à renforcer l'enregistrement civil et la collecte de statistiques vitales. Ces initiatives contribuent non seulement à améliorer la reddition de comptes, mais aussi à soutenir une gouvernance efficace, à protéger les droits des personnes et ceux de leurs enfants, et à assurer un développement économique et social inclusif, où personne n'est laissé pour compte.

Le Canada souhaite encourager les États membres et tous les partenaires à soutenir le Mécanisme de financement mondial à l'appui de l'initiative « Chaque femme, chaque enfant », qui permettra de réaliser des progrès dans le domaine de la santé des femmes et des enfants, ainsi qu'à renforcer les systèmes d'enregistrement civil et de collecte de statistiques vitales.

Madame la Présidente, le Canada est déterminé à mettre en œuvre un programme de l'après 2015 axé sur les personnes, qui s'assure que les femmes et les enfants restent au cœur de nos efforts conjoints. Seule une telle orientation nous permettra d'atteindre nos objectifs de prospérité commune et inclusive.

Je vous remercie.