

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by

H.E. Dr. Hala Youssif

State Minister of Population

Before the 48th Session of CPD

Agenda item 4: 'General debate on national
experience in population matters'

(New York, 13 April 2015)

Check against delivery

EGYPT

CANDIDATE
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
2016 – 2017



EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to join you today at the 48th session of the Commission of Population and Development, where we are all here gathered to assure our full commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) forward- looking agenda, and to emphasize its centrality within the Post- 2015 development agenda, and its relevance to its means of implementation in a way that accommodates the principles and the objectives of the ICPD Program of Action (POA). Within this prospective, Egypt reassures that the full understanding of the population dynamics is a necessary precondition for achieving the sustainable development goals.

In 1994, Cairo hosted the remarkable conference of the ICPD which constituted a major turning point in the history of the international cooperation linking the population issues and development. And its Program of Action provided a foundation for the Millennium Development Goals, and contributed to significant improvements in poverty eradication, health, education and gender equality over the past two decades. It's worthy to mention that the accomplishment of Cairo Conference remains the available consensual international reference on population and development issues to this day.

In the framework of our commitment the ICPD and its legacy, Cairo hosted in 2013 the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development for evaluating the state- of –play of the ICPD and the implementation of its recommendation in the Arab region. Cairo Declaration of 2013 was adopted unanimously, constituting then the Arab unified position regarding the ICPD Beyond 2014 and its further implementation

In that vein, Egypt will remain committed to the ongoing process for reviewing the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action assessing the best practices for addressing the remaining gaps. And we will continue in future rallying support for the ICPD, and for pushing the population issues to the forefront of the international development agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On the international level, countries agreed in 2014 on the common way forward articulated in 'ICPD+20 Beyond 2014'. We managed hereunder to outline the proposed framework for the ICPD Program of Action Beyond 2014 thus highlighting the pathway to its sustainability in future. In the light of the ongoing negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda, it is now evident the crucial interlinkage between population and sustainable development for the eradication of poverty and

EGYPT

C A N D I D A T E
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
2016 – 2017



EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

reducing inequality, improving the standard of living, and mitigating the impact of population on resources and environmental degradation.

On the national level, we are keen to translate this interlinkage as a fact on ground. In this regard, Egypt has accomplished thus far remarkable achievements during the previous years of the ICPD implementation. Progress was especially evident in the areas of developing relevant policies and putting in place programs for their implementation. These efforts were recently crystallized by launching the new national strategy for population in 2014 and the national strategy for reproductive health and the establishment of state ministry for population in 2015.

Progress has fallen below the targeted level, however, in some issues relevant to population dynamics. Hence, our efforts are currently concentrated on filling the gaps, especially pertaining to controlling population growth, early marriage, and female genital mutilation (FMG/C). Furthermore, many challenges still remain related to other issues that were not adequately addressed through the previous national policies and programs, amongst are the negative, ripple effects of poverty on young people, a problem in itself that is multi-dimensional and cumulative in nature.

Consequently, we emphasize that one of the thorniest issues that should receive our utmost attention in the region at this moment is the "youth bulge" and the phenomenon of "brain- drain". For this, Egypt as the most -populated Arab nation and one of the most densely- populated African nation with 88 million inhabitant considers population as the cornerstone of our national sustainable development strategies that count on young people, who constitute about two- third of the Egyptian population. We work on implementing efficiently these strategies by directing youth as the primary vehicle of demographic dividends and the key engine for fostering development at all levels. Our ultimate target is to have young people shaping their future and creating "brain- gain" for the coming generations.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, what we need today is a concerted approach for articulating a shared vision on the best way for completing the unfinished agenda of the ICPD, and for linking the ICPD Beyond 2014 priorities within the context of the Post-2015 development agenda. This pursue entails endorsing adequate means of implementation for our new ambitious international development agenda, in conformity with the report of the Open Working Group for sustainable development, in order to assist the developing countries in implementing effectively the Program of Action of the ICPD, thus mainstreaming the relevance of the ICPD Agenda to the wider global society.

Thank you for your attention.

EGYPT

CANDIDATE
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
2016 – 2017

