

**Statement: 48<sup>th</sup> Commission on Population and Development**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which works to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in 172 countries around the world.

We commend Member States' commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action, the Key Actions for its Further Implementation, and the outcome documents of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review process. However, more than twenty years after the adoption of the Programme of Action, progress in its implementation has been insufficient. We do not want to stand here again in fifteen years' time asking for the next development agenda to complete the work begun at the ICPD in 1994.

It is not right that in 2015, young people aged 10- 24 account for nearly half all new HIV infections. It is not right that in 2015, every day 37,000 girls enter into child, early and forced marriages. It is not right that in 2015, 2.5 million adolescent girls are dying from unsafe abortions annually.

This must end.

We currently have the largest generation of young people in history. If young people are to be the 'torch- bearers' of the next development framework, they must be able to protect themselves, and they must be trusted to make decisions about their own lives, bodies and futures. The human rights of adolescents and young people, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, are not optional. Young people need full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including to comprehensive sexuality education, if they and their societies are to prosper.

Governments must ensure that the ICPD Programme of Action and the outcomes of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review are integrated into the post-2015 development framework, including a rights- based monitoring and accountability framework. The new framework must fulfill the Programme of Action by promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, advancing gender equality and by ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls. It must ensure that the human rights of all, particularly of adolescents and young people, are respected, protected and fulfilled.

We call on Member States to ensure that sexual and reproductive rights, in their entirety, are recognized by the Commission on Population and Development. And we call for sexual and reproductive health and rights to be strongly reflected in the Post-2015 development agenda.

Our future, and that of our world, depend upon it

Thank you.