



United Nations Forty-Eighth Commission on Population and Development

New York, USA
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Statement Delivered on behalf of the World Health Organization

Madam Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to present this statement on behalf of the World Health Organization.

The World Health Organization recognizes the crucial role of sexual and reproductive health on overall health of the populations and sustainable development, and welcomes the focus of the forty-eight session of the Commission on Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable Development including in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

We welcome Secretary General's report on Monitoring of population programmes, focusing on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda. We particularly welcome the experiences of Members States highlighted in the Report in addressing population issues that are central to defining and implementing a post-2015 vision for sustainable development: mobility and urbanization of the human population; the time-bound opportunity to enable demographic dividends; the centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights; and the potential for reaping returns on population data. These experiences provide crucial lessons for the realization of equality and development that progresses in harmony with nature.

Improved sexual and reproductive health is a key pillar of the overall health, empowerment, and human rights of individuals and sustainable development of societies. Ill-health from causes related to sexual and reproductive health, including too many, too early and too frequent pregnancies remains a major cause of death and disability among women and girls particularly in low-income countries. Poor sexual and reproductive health contributes significantly to poverty, limiting socio-economic development. Conversely, achieving sexual and reproductive health empowers individuals and communities to participate in economic development.

Madam Chair, my Department, hosting the co-sponsored Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, HRP, realizes the centrality of issues that the report highlights. HRP, as a global entity for research, research synthesis and capacity strengthening in sexual and reproductive health, responds to the needs of low and middle income settings. By identifying needs, testing interventions, and evaluating mechanisms for delivering evidence-based interventions through implementation research, HRP delivers much needed evidence base for supporting policies, programmes and delivery of health care for accelerated progress in universal access to reproductive health and advancing the ICPD agenda.

To achieve a transformational post-2015 development agenda envisaged by Member States requires a comprehensive approach and address inequalities and inequities between and within the countries. The pathway to realisation of this agenda is embodied in the shared realization of dignity and human rights for all people.

I thank you Chair.