



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York

Statement

on

behalf of the

Federal Republic of Germany

at the

55th Session
of the
Commission on Population and Development
25.-29. April 2022

Agenda item 3: General Debate

Thank you Mr. Chair,

On behalf of Germany, I would like to give a special thanks to you and the two facilitators, the Netherlands and El Salvador, as well as the other members of the Bureau for your leadership and for taking us through an inclusive negotiation process to reach consensus.

We trust that our joint efforts and the constructive engagement of delegations will reach consensus on this very important topic.

We would like to highlight the following points:

First, we would like to stress the utmost importance of the realization of girls' and women's rights, particularly their sexual and reproductive health and rights, in the achievement of sustained and inclusive economic growth. Girls and women in all their diversity, including for example women and girls with disabilities, ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ and other vulnerable groups, need to be able to make self-determined decisions over their bodies, free of violence, coercion and discrimination. Only if they are able to freely decide if, when, and who to marry as well as when, with whom and if at all to have children, will they be able to tap their full potential and play their equal role in our societies and economies.

With its feminist development policy, Germany will intensify its efforts to overcome those barriers and structures that exclude women and other groups in vulnerable situations from full, equal, and meaningful participation in all areas of society.

Second, we cannot ignore the urgent need to realize sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth. Adolescents and youth need to have full access to high-quality and affordable youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education in order to make self-determined and informed decisions over their bodies and future. Their empowerment and full, effective, and meaningful participation in society remains crucial, also for the realization of a demographic dividend.

Third, we are confronted with a triple crisis – conflict, climate change, Covid-19 pandemic – and its severe impacts on the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The impact is most severe on those left furthest behind, and this triple crisis threatens not only to reverse hard-won gains in achieving universal health coverage and sustainable demographic transitions, but also poses serious risks in increasing severe violations of girls' and women's rights, including their right to education, health and self-determination. A gender-responsive recovery from COVID-19 and the building of strong health systems that are resilient to crises is hence imperative.

Finally, we also must remember that population issues are deeply inter-linked with sustainable development at the subnational, national, regional and global levels. Therefore, there is a need to foster the use of population data and projections into development planning in order to achieve sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

Mr. Chair, Germany remains strongly committed to the Cairo Programme of Action and the outcomes of its reviews and reaffirms its strong support

for its further implementation. Ensuring the rights of every individual, including the most vulnerable, and protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights for all is a crucial part of this agenda. A lot still remains to be done. Global progress in achieving the sustainable development goals and Cairo Programme of Action in particular, is being threatened by multiple ongoing crises and rapidly changing circumstances. It is now more important than ever that we, as an international community, join forces and strengthen our efforts to protect and fulfil human rights.

Thank you for your attention!