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Explanation of position made by Cameroon regarding the Political
Declaration adopted in commemoration of
the 40th Anniversary of the ICPD

Presented by Nelly BANAKEN
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Madam Chair,

Cameroon welcomes the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development while taking note of the adoption of the Political Declaration at the opening of this session.

In this regard, my delegation would like to reiterate hereinafter Cameroon's position regarding the content of this Political Declaration.

Madam Chair,

All references to the term gender for my delegation are synonyms for sex and refer therefore exclusively to male and female.

Additionally, the notion of gender-based violence or discrimination is violence or discrimination against biological women.

Furthermore, my delegation expresses its regrets that the text does not outline the importance of the family as a fundamental unit for development that needs protection. My country is also concerned that the text does not strongly emphasize that the right to development is an inalienable fundamental human right. Therefore, my delegation does invite UNFPA and partners to dedicate active and meaningful resources to ensure that development and not Sexual and reproductive health remains the cornerstone of their interventions. My delegation notes with appreciation that controversial concepts and commitments relating to so-called "sexual reproductive health and rights" did not appear in this political declaration. I take this opportunity to reaffirm that the ICPD Programme of Action specified that abortion in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning. Sexual and reproductive health and all related terminology should not be overemphasized by UNFPA and other partner to the detriment of other health issues critical to development.

Cameroon also understands "the outcomes of the review conferences" as referring only to those conferences and review documents adopted by the General Assembly or Ecosoc.

To conclude, my country reads the present Political Declaration, consistent with its national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people.

Je vous remercie pour votre amiable attention.