

Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Madam Chair, my delegation is pleased that the Commission was able to adopt a Political Declaration by consensus. I would like to commend your efforts at ensuring a consensus after the hot debate during the informal negotiations meetings.

2. The Fifty-seventh Session of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is of extraordinary importance due to the 30 years anniversary after its adoption. The Cairo Programme of Action remains notable for its conciseness, clarity, and continued relevance. The text reflects a consensus joined by 179 Governments on critical issues related to population and development, issues that are as critical today as they were back in 1994.

3. The Programme of Action provides a comprehensive overview of the multiple linkages between population and development, including the rights that are inherent to everyone through different phases of their life, from birth through death, marriage, childbirth, and migration.

4. It is important to express my delegation view with regard to the reference to “outcomes review conferences” in paragraph 1 of the Political Declaration should only be understood in line with intergovernmental outcomes adopted by the General Assembly. Only these norms should guide the UN system’s effort to assist countries in implementing the ICPD.

5. My delegation understands this political declaration and the agreements endorsed in it, as voluntary political commitments, and its implementation to be the sovereign right of States. The adoption of this declaration does not alter the current state of conventional or customary international law. Moreover, the UN system must implement such

agreements in full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities, as stated in the ICPD Programme of Action.

6. The use of the term **gender** in this declaration is to be understood according to its ordinary usage as referring solely to the two sexes, male and female, and has no other meaning beyond that, in line with Annex IV of the Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Thank you.