

**Closing Statement by
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**Commission on Population and Development
Forty-fifth session**

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,

During the past week, you deliberated on how to address the needs of adolescent and youth populations, and to harness their great potential for a better life for themselves and their communities.

Your statements on national experiences were rich and illuminating. You explored diverse approaches on providing access to health, education, and decent work for young people. You informed us on ways to ensure they exercise their rights. And we heard how countries involve young people in the design of programmes that serve them and shape their futures.

The evidence shows that, although considerable progress has been made in many of these areas, more must be done:

- Too many young people, especially girls and young women, face barriers to complete their education.
- Many young girls enter marriage and childbearing coerced and uninformed.

- Young men and women suffer and die from needless injuries and risky behaviour, when preventative measures could have been taken.
- Due to a slow economic recovery, a large number of young people are encountering great difficulty in finding decent employment, and are thus not able to fully participate in society.

Your work this week has made an important contribution in assessing how to address these issues. You have laid out actions necessary for progress, and to accelerate achievement on the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action that affect adolescents and youth.

By pursuing the objectives for adolescents and youth outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action, we will also contribute to attainment of many of the internationally agreed development goals, including those on poverty, education, gender equality, and health, including universal access to reproductive health.

Furthermore, the priorities and proposals articulated in your deliberations will help provide inputs to the preparation of Rio+20 and the post-2015 UN development agenda.

I congratulate you for coming to consensus on these priorities. You persevered through negotiations that were difficult at times and you respected each other's differing views.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you and other members of the Bureau for guiding both the preparation and the deliberations of this session of the Commission.

Your hard work and, especially, that of Mr. Wennubst in facilitating the informal consultations, have paid good dividends. You can all be proud of what has been achieved.

I wish you, your colleagues in the Bureau and all the delegates who participated in this session, a restful weekend and I wish a safe trip home to those who have come from afar.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.