

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Forty-fifth session, 23-27 April 2012

Statement of the United States in closing 45th session CPD

The United States is pleased to be able to join consensus on this resolution on Adolescents and Youth. The issues it addresses are ones we believe are extremely important. My delegation expresses gratitude to the delegations, to the Chairman, to our very conscientious Facilitator and secretariat, for, in the end, keeping foremost in our minds the young persons whose lives and futures are at stake.

We are, however, concerned about a number of statements regarding human rights law in this resolution. Among them are the following:

- The resolution should not purport to ascribe particular content to certain human rights, such as the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.
- For example, while we recognize access to medicine is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, a wide array of policies and actions are available to realize that right. Accordingly, the United States believes it is inappropriate and, in fact, incorrect for this resolution to try to define the content of this right.
- The resolution uses the word “rights” for some things that are not human rights, but may be very important rights under some domestic legal systems.
- Human rights generally can only be violated by state actors.
- We would strongly disagree with any interpretation, based on the use of the word “incitement” in the resolution, that this Commission is urging States to limit individuals’ human rights, such as the right to freedom of expression.

The United States does not consider this Commission to be the most appropriate forum for discussing financing for development or for making additional financial commitments. The United States continues to stand firmly behind the principles and focus of Financing for Development as articulated in the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration. We strongly urge that discussions related to this important matter remain in the appropriate channels.

We would also stress that any transfers of technology or know-how should only occur on mutually agreed terms.