



**Check Against Delivery**

**Closing Statement by**

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Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, I wish to express our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and to the Members of the Bureau for your leadership of the 45th session of the Commission. We would also like to thank the facilitator and members of the Informal Consultations for all the hard work that went into the negotiations and the drafting of the text. We appreciate the efforts of the Member States on reaching a compromise.

For the first time, the member states agreed to protect the human rights of adolescents and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health; to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age and marital status; and to give the full attention to meeting the reproductive health service, information and education needs of young people.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Distinguished Delegates for the active participation and their continued support for the mandate and role of UNFPA in the areas of population and development. We wish to express also our gratitude to the many Civil Society participants and in particular the young people for their contributions and active participation. Thanks also goes to the Secretariat and our colleagues at the Population Division for their contribution to the 45th Session of the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, this week the Commission addressed the important issue of Adolescents and Youth. We had the pleasure of having the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, address the Commission during its opening session on Monday and he reminded us that the Cairo Programme of Action is one of our most important internationally agreed paths to a better future for the world's youth and that we must be guided by its wisdom and carry out its recommendations.

We heard many success stories pointing to programmes that create a supportive environment for young people as they make the transition to adulthood; invest in young people; promote their rights and gender equality; provide access to sexual and reproductive health information and services; encourage their education and social integration; and support an enabling policy and legal framework for their participation as active citizens. But progress has been uneven, and these programmes need to be urgently scaled up and replicated. Because we also heard of the many challenges that still remain to ensure the rights and needs of young people are met. Young people in many parts of the world continue to face disproportionately high levels of poverty with many experiencing limited access to quality education, health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, decent work and opportunities to participate in society.

Our discussions this week and the experiences shared by the Distinguished Delegates clearly showed that we are aware of the urgency and committed to the cause. Together we must work to

achieve universal access to reproductive health and ensure that all people, including adolescents and youth, can enjoy a better and healthier life.

UNFPA looks forward to continue working with Member States, our sister UN agencies, especially the Population Division, and all stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at national, regional and global levels. In this regard I also wish to also mention that UNFPA, as mandated by GA Resolution 65/234, is leading the Operational Review of the ICPD Beyond 2014, in close cooperation with the Population Division, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts. Here we look forward to the active engagement of Governments as well as civil society. The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review will happen in tandem with the discussions around the Post 2015 development framework, and we need to ensure that the unfinished agenda on population and development will be an integral part of the new development framework.

Preceding this, the world will gather soon for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio. We call on your support to ensure that population and development, including sexual and reproductive health and adolescents and youth, will have their rightful place in Rio+20. And reminding you of the words of the Secretary General at the opening of this commission earlier this week “Let us make sure that young people have their place across the international agenda.”

Let us remind ourselves, that beyond important outcomes negotiated in New York, real progress happens on the ground through commitment, mobilization, engagement and innovation.

Again, let me express my sincere thanks and wish those of you who have travelled from far a good return home.

Thank you.