

## **Canada's General Statement on the UN CPD53**

Canada regrets that the United Nations 53rd Commission on Population and Development was unable to reach a consensus on this year's declaration on population, food security, nutrition, sustainable development and COVID-19.

Canada has been, and will continue to be, a strong and vocal advocate for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the outcomes of its review conferences. This Commission plays an important role in the follow-up, revision and assessment of its implementation.

This global crisis will exacerbate inequalities and reverse development gains, in particular for women and children who already experience poverty, hunger, exclusion and marginalization more acutely. While health systems are straining to respond adequately to the pandemic, it is more important than ever to ensure that crucial services are not diverted so that gains to protect comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to safe abortion and contraception, are not curtailed.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global threat that does not recognize borders and will only be overcome through coordinated global action. Canada is committed to a robust global effort to stop COVID-19 and address its devastating health, social, and economic impacts on people around the world. We reiterate our commitment to implement the ICPD Programme of Action and work toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in order to ensure that no one is left behind.