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Commission on Population and Development

Australian Statement on adoption of resolution

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Minister Counsellor

(Check against delivery)

I wish to thank the Chair, the Secretariat and colleagues for their efforts to adopt this outcome today by consensus.

I wish to register several points for the record.

First, it is regrettable that we were unable to expressly welcome this year's ICPD review report entitled ICPD Beyond 2014, or to incorporate many of its important elements which are directly aimed at contributing to sustainable development. The report identifies and provides compelling evidence on why and how we need to move forward with implementing the program of action. There are major challenges, and important work to be done, and we really need to make progress and make a difference.

Second, in any discussion about population, it is fundamental to reflect the rights of individuals to control and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and their sexual and reproductive health and rights without coercion, discrimination or violence. The resolution falls short of this - it is

deeply regrettable that we were unable to agree to the inclusion of this centrally important human right.

Third, we have concerns about inclusion of OP2 in this text. No State should view this paragraph as an opt out clause from its commitment to act in accordance with the other paragraphs of this resolution, or as a basis for not taking action in respect of meetings the commitments in the other paragraphs of this resolution.

Lastly, I wish to reinforce the important outcomes reflected in the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Bangkok outcome document contained very important statement about the region's focus on population and development. Over 20 countries from the region spoke with one voice during this CPD session – and that voice was eloquently delivered through the statement made by Vietnam. We will continue to work with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region to promote those key outcomes in the UN to promote human rights and sustainable development.