

**Closing Remarks to the Forty-First Session of the
Commission on Population and Development**

**By
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Chairman, Commission on Population and Development**

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Distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

As previous speakers have said, this session of the Commission has been productive and enlightening. I have been impressed by the quality of the reports, statements and presentations made to and by the Commission. This Commission is known for the rigour of its work. It has proven again that, with the engagement of all parties, it can produce useful guidance for future action.

The theme that the Commission considered this year is particularly important because there is almost no aspect of life that is not influenced by where we live. Although the term “population distribution” seems very dry, it in fact encompasses some of the most dynamic, engaging and sometimes troubling aspects of development. This session has touched on all those aspects and has endeavoured to find ways of mitigating the negative aspects of urbanization and city growth, particularly in a context of poverty. In doing so, the Commission has underscored that population dynamics are fundamental for the development process.

It has been a pleasure to lead the proceedings of the Commission this week and to work with my colleagues of the Bureau in organizing this session. I wish to thank each of them for their support and their commitment to this task. Pauline Eizema, Hossein Gharibi, Alicia Melgar have all made important contributions to our work. But let me single out especially the achievement of Fredrick Matwang’a, who with great ability, patience and good cheer, guided the negotiations in the Working Group. The success of this session owes much to his hard work.

I also wish to thank the Secretariat of the Commission: first, the Department of Conference Services, where the team directed by Mr. Gustafik provided us with excellent support, and then the Population Division of DESA, which ably directed by Ms. Hania Zlotnik, provided the substantive inputs and support to this session. Among the staff of the Population Division, let me single out its Assistant Director, Mr. Thomas Buettner and his team who worked tirelessly to support the Work Group.

Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation for the collaboration of UNFPA and, especially, that of Ms. Jana Simonova who took the lead in the organization of a very successful side event for this session of the Commission.

My thanks also go to all the support personnel that facilitate our work, particularly the interpreters, without whom our easy communication would not be possible.

Congratulations to all for a job well done!

I now declare the 41st session closed.