

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

**By
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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

We have come to the end of a fruitful session of the Commission. As we expected, the theme for this session has been of considerable interest and the subject of lively debate. Clearly, all agree that urbanization has a major impact on many aspects of human life, some positive and other detrimental. Furthermore, deciding how best to ensure that the potential benefits of urbanization are realized while at the same time combating its detrimental effects is a challenge because of the diversity of situations that exist not only among the countries of the world but also within countries.

Nevertheless, despite the difficult task you faced, the Commission has proven again that it can make progress and provide useful guidance for the way ahead. It is undeniable that the debates held this week have been rich and enriching and that we all leave this session having understood a little better how the spatial distribution of the population conditions development and is shaped by it. In particular, we will all remember that urgent action is necessary to combat poverty in both rural and urban areas, so that the ills that accompany urbanization in a context of poverty can be minimized if not avoided.

This session has also been very useful for us, the Population Division, because the Commission offered useful guidance regarding our regular programme of work. I reiterate my thanks to all those delegations that made interventions on that item of the agenda and all those who made comments on the contents and quality of our reports. Be assured that we will keep your comments and suggestions very much in mind in striving to improve our work.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, allow me to thank our colleagues from Conference Services, from UNFPA and from the Department for ECOSOC Affairs for supporting our work. My thanks also go to the able staff of the Department of Public Information who helped disseminate the messages coming out of this session, as well as to the interpreters and translators, to the précis writers, and to countless other persons who ensure that our work proceeds smoothly.

And, of course, special thanks go to you, Mr. Chairman, for conducting the deliberations so ably, and to each of your colleagues in the Bureau, especially to Mr. Fredrick Matwang'a, facilitator of the Working Group and to Mr. Hossein Gharibi, rapporteur; and also to Ms. Pauline Eizema and Ms. Alicia Melgar.

Thank you all very much.