

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

**By  
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**Mme. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,**

**Victory, as the saying goes, is a matter of staying power. Clearly, the work the Commission has accomplished during this session is a victory and not only because of the staying power of the negotiators but, in my view, because of the crucial importance of the issues addressed. What could be more fundamental than reproduction and the quality of human life? It is appropriate that, on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action, the international community should, once more, reaffirm the principles, goals and objectives of Cairo, especially with respect to the centrality of sexual and reproductive rights for the wellbeing of every individual and, especially, for that of women the world over.**

**As we expected, the theme of this session has been challenging and the subject of considerable interest and debate. Clearly, all those engaging in this session agree that population issues matter for development, but the pathways through which they operate are varied and views differ on their importance. Nevertheless, despite the different perspectives, the Commission has reached consensus on measures that can contribute both to reach the goals set in Cairo and accelerate the attainment of several other internationally agreed development goals.**

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

**Mme. Chairperson,**

**To conclude, allow me to thank our many colleagues from the Department of Conference Services, the Department of Public Information and UNFPA for supporting the work of this session. They collaborate with us in providing support to the Commission, disseminating the messages coming out of this session, and allowing us to communicate seamlessly. My special appreciation goes to the interpreters and translators, the sound engineers, the précis writers, those servicing our conference room, those supporting the video equipment and countless other persons who ensure that our work proceeds smoothly.**

**And, of course, special thanks go to you, Madame Chairperson, for conducting the deliberations so ably, and to each of your colleagues in the Bureau, especially to Mr. Raja Nushirwan, facilitator of the Working Group and to Ms. Ivanka Tasheva, rapporteur for the session; and also to Ms. Yera Ortiz de Urbina and Ms. Irene Tembo.**

**Thank you all very much.**