



# BRAZIL

**Commission on Population and Development**

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**Statement by**

**H.E.**

**Ms. Eleonora Menicucci**

**Minister of the Secretariat of Policies for Women**

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*(Check against delivery)*

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you and the Members of the Bureau on your election and wish you a successful 47th CPD. I would also like to ensure you the constructive engagement of my Delegation in the debate to come.

On the occasion of the twentieth Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, Brazil welcomes the Global Review Report on the implementation of the Program of Action of the ICPD, prepared by the UNFPA Secretariat for ICPD Beyond 2014. The Global Review Report is a comprehensive and sound document, the result of more than two years of intense work, research and consultations. 176 Members took part in this process, by providing data and information within the Global Survey on how they have implemented Cairo's Program of Action.

The report captures our countries' successes and shortcomings over the last 20 years. The statistics and figures underscore some remarkable achievements, with gains in gender equality, education, population health and life expectancy, and an estimated 1 billion people moving out of extreme poverty.

The report sadly points out, however, that our greatest challenge is inequality, which is a threat to inclusive development. Progress on this front has been uneven and fragmented, posing difficulties for sustained and increased development for all. The Global Review has undergone a positive shift to reflect the development debate as it is now taking shape at the UN from the perspectives of sustainability and inclusion.

Two years ago, at the Rio+20 Conference, we - Member States - agreed that eradicating poverty is an essential requirement for development. We also agreed that development would require Governments to promote inclusive and equitable economic growth, create opportunities for all and reduce inequalities. In Brazil, we would not have succeeded in lifting tens of millions out of poverty and virtually extinguishing extreme poverty without programs that empower women and promote gender equality.

Through an evidence-based approach, the Global Review corroborates that we still have a long way to go in many areas. Governments continue to struggle with discriminatory laws and in guaranteeing equality for all citizens before the law, as well as a life free from prejudice, stigma, and violence.

The Global Review also demonstrates that maternal deaths from abortion-related complications can be reduced by expanding access to quality and non-discriminatory post-abortion care for all women suffering from the complications of unsafe abortions.

It further shows, based on data provided by member states, that adolescent pregnancy poses high risks to the mother and child's health. It is a leading cause of school evasion in Latin American countries, drastically limiting education and job opportunities for adolescent girls and the potential for economic growth. It is a lose-lose situation for young women, their children and society.

Different countries have made progress at different paces in implementing the Program of Action of Cairo. As we celebrate this year ICPD's twentieth anniversary, special attention must be given to some key issues, which are directly linked to women's health and autonomy, such as comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

It is important that we engage all Member-States in a constructive debate at the UN with a view to broad understandings that take into account Member-States' sensitivities while preserving the existing commitments.

The implementation of the Program of Action is a priority for the Brazilian Government. The Brazilian National Committee on Population and Development (CNPD) is under direct supervision of the Presidency of the Republic and its main objective is to contribute to national policy formulation and implementation of integrated actions relating to Population and Development issues, as recommended by the ICPD Program of Action.

The Committee has recently discussed its work-plan for 2014, guided in particular by the Montevideo Consensus, adopted in Latin America and the Caribbean last August during our regional conference under the ICPD review process.

In addition, the Committee on Population has carried out studies on priority issues for the Brazilian Government, such as the relationship between population and development, deepening of the agenda on sexual and reproductive health and rights, strengthening of a specific agenda for youth, poverty eradication, challenges posed by aging population, strengthening of an agenda for early childhood, confronting racism, promotion of racial equality and international migration.

We also acknowledge the decisive role of national strategic policies in promoting access to justice and services, which, in turn, play a major part in the empowerment of the poor, the marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women victims of violence. Improvements in rights, in the plural, being capable of protecting those rights and promoting equal access, including access to justice for all citizens,

regardless of their origin, sex, creed, political affiliation or race, is essential for achieving the results expected of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Brazil strongly supports the mandate of the ICPD Beyond 2014, as well as the inclusion of population issues in the post-2015 development agenda, in particular the promotion of gender equality, population dynamics and trends, as well as international migration, among other issues included in the Cairo Program.

In concluding, I would like to wish us all a successful 47<sup>th</sup> CPD under your guidance, with the adoption of a Resolution by consensus.

Thank you.