



**50th Session of the Commission on Population and
Development**

Closing statement by

UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin

7 April 2017, New York

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite the hard work of our distinguished chair, Ambassador
Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, the Bureau, our able facilitators and
Member States, for the second time in three years, this

Commission has been unable to come to agreement on a text.
This is something I sincerely regret.

We are clearly in a challenging time for the Commission and the issues under its mandate. I believe that these challenges are emerging partly because population and development has never been more important for our shared progress.

The Chair's text contained most or all of the things that the world needs to see in order to address changing population age structure and its implications for sustainable development. This text reflected the reality on the ground for countries and for their people. Yet not all comments made and positions taken during this Commission reflected that reality.

No doubt, we are all wondering what the implications are of the lack of an agreed outcome this year, so soon after the same situation in 2015.

Let us remember, however, that last year this Commission displayed a commendable spirit of cooperation and constructive engagement – proving the power of collective action and the importance of the CPD for advancing our achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We are called upon to keep trying to achieve that engagement and collective action.

We must remember that millions beyond these walls, in your countries and communities, are depending on real progress.

As population age structures change, we must continue our work to improve the lives of women and girls, young people and old, whose ability to fulfill their potential rests on the decisions and actions we take to protect their human rights and support them throughout the course of their lives. This is something that UNFPA has always been, and will always be, profoundly committed to.

Let me in that regard express my sincere gratitude for the strong show of support by Member States for UNFPA and its life-saving work, following the announcement of the de-funding of the organization by one Member State.

We at UNFPA remain firmly committed to supporting Member States and their communities in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action in line with internationally agreed human rights standards as well as the QCPR.

But I also need to stress the negative impact of the de-funding decision on our support to countries, especially on our humanitarian work in the Middle East.

I urge all Member States to act on their calls for more funding for UNFPA by contributing to UNFPA's core budget or, in the case of those who already contribute, by increasing their commitments, including to our family planning and humanitarian programmes.

Let me thank you all for your efforts and wish those of you who have travelled to be here with us this week a safe journey home.

Over the course of the next year, I encourage you to seek out the intended beneficiaries of our negotiations at the Commission, to understand what they require and indeed deserve from us, and to return to the Commission next year renewed and re-energized to achieve consensus and ensure that no one is left behind.