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**52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development**

**Statement by Reina Buijs  
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- Thank you, Mr Chair.
- Deputy Secretary-General, President of ECOSOC, Chair and Members of the Bureau, Executive-Director of UNFPA, Director of Population Division, Excellencies, Honorable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:
- The Netherlands is pleased to join the consensus in support of the Political Declaration, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- We commend the Chair for his approach for this session, as well as the Bureau members.
- The Netherlands is fully committed to the ICPD.
- We therefore subscribe to the statement read by the EU, and to the cross-regional statement as delivered by xx on behalf of xx states.
  
- The ICPD remains highly relevant, especially now.
  - As the late Dr. Babatunde used to say: “The ICPD is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda”
- To fulfill the promise we made 25 years ago in Cairo, we need to invest even more in gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.
  
- The Netherlands has an even higher ambition level than the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda, domestically and in our foreign policy.
- Our approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights is comprehensive and rights-based, and focuses particularly on adolescents, young people, key populations and other marginalized groups.
- With good results: our national experiences form the basis of our international development policy.

- National successes include some of the lowest rates in the world of teenage pregnancies, abortions and HIV infections.
  - [Example] The City of Amsterdam has already reached the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target, including through harm reduction and tailored policies for key populations.
  
- However we, too, must do better:
  - Our schools teach Comprehensive Sexuality Education, but not always consistently.
  - Sexual violence against women and young people is a problem that we must address better.
  - Women are still under-represented in leading positions, and the gender pay-gap still exists.
  
- We face the challenges of an ageing society; pressure of unpaid care work, especially on women; and rising costs of health services.
  
- During our region's ICPD review last year, we adopted a regional ICPD monitoring framework.
- This will help us, and all other countries in our region, to realize the promises of the ICPD and the SDGs for all.
- Our region coming together to adopt this framework is a major success.
  
- The constructive discussions at the Regional Conferences illustrate that the rights of women, girls and young people matter, and they matter to all of us.
- The success of the ICPD and of this CPD, and the success of Beijing and of the just-ended CSW, proves this yet again.

- 25 years is a long time, a quarter of a century. Some people in this room were born that year, some others not yet. However, despite its age, the ICPD PoA and how it has evolved since 1994, is still highly relevant. And it is urgent today.
- ICPD shows that if we want to realize sustainable development, we must start policies from the perspective of rights and choices.
- Therefore, we, the Netherlands, re-commit to the ICPD.
- I thank you.