



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

Commission Population and Development 52nd Session: Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Tēnā koutou katoa,

I greet you with a traditional welcome in Te Reo Māori, one of New Zealand's official languages.

Mr Chair, I am honoured to be here with you and our esteemed colleagues from around the world to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

New Zealand is delighted that we begin the session with an agreed Political declaration and is pleased to reaffirm its commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action, key actions, and outcomes of the follow-up reviews as well as the need to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD agenda in order to advance progress.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and women's empowerment are key to these commitments. Evidence shows that universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is essential to realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such access saves lives. It must be prioritised for all, without discrimination of any kind, to enable a broad range of positive outcomes, including good health, education and economic opportunities for individuals, families, communities and societies.

New Zealand is committed to providing information on and access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services including the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning and access to safe and legal abortion.

We recognise that access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services is a vital component of positive development for young people including their ability to make informed decisions.

New Zealand is proud that sexuality education is part of our national curriculum yet more work is needed. The New Zealand government last year released recommendations to better meet the needs of our young people including the diverse needs of Māori and Pacific students, students with additional learning needs and students with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.

New Zealand is committed to empowering women to lead independent and self-determining lives. This includes the ability to decide freely whether and when to have children. When women have reproductive autonomy they are better able to continue their education, earn an income and participate in political life.

Mr Chair, to conclude, we thank you, the Commission and UNFPA for bringing us together on this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of ICPD, to reflect on our work to date and the work still to come.

New Zealand is committed to working in partnership with our esteemed colleagues from around the world, UNFPA, civil society, academia and the private sector to effectively implement the Programme of Action and realise sustainable development for all.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

Thank you.