

**Remarks by Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King,
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations
and seventy-fourth President of the Economic and Social Council**

Fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development
1 April 2019, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Your Excellency Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Chair of the 52nd session of the
Commission on Population and Development,
Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed,
UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem,
Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano,

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in the opening of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development.

I am especially happy to be able to join in this special occasion, as we mark the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Congratulations also to Dr. Kanem and all the staff of the United Nations Population Fund. We join you in celebrating 50 years of the Fund's important work on population and reproductive health.

Excellencies,

Soon after the Cairo conference in 1994, the General Assembly took the important step of renaming this Commission, which had been known as the Population Commission since its first session in 1947. As a result, since 1995 this body has been known as the Commission on Population and Development.

The new name recalls the name of the conference itself, whose 25th anniversary we are now commemorating. It also serves as a reminder that the Commission's mandate is to examine topics at the intersection of population and sustainable development.

Indeed, the Programme of Action from Cairo integrated many features that would eventually shape the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda recognizes, just like

the Programme of Action, that the eradication of poverty is one of the world's greatest challenges and an indispensable ingredient for achieving sustainable development.

Distinguished Delegates,

This is also an important year for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In July the high-level political forum will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC, with a theme of *“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.”* In September, the forum will meet for a second time under the auspices of the General Assembly, to take stock of progress in implementation over the past four years and to chart a course for the next four years.

As President of ECOSOC, I welcome the review and appraisal of the ICPD Programme of Action that you are undertaking in this session. The review will be especially valuable thanks to its focus on the contribution of the Programme of Action to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

I am heartened by the good news that significant progress has been made in many areas covered by the Programme of Action. This success shows the importance of sound policies and effective programmes that can be scaled up for the benefit of all.

It is important that you, as members of this expert body, work together to advise ECOSOC and the General Assembly about necessary actions to achieve the population-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

I look forward to receiving your inputs to the July meeting of the high-level political forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ECOSOC Bureau is fully committed to helping to guide the work of its subsidiary bodies to enhance their contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. More broadly, ECOSOC is committed to strengthening the role of all functional commissions, including the Commission on Population and Development, in the work of the United Nations as part of the development pillar.

During the July session of the HLPF, 50 countries are planning to present Voluntary National Reviews. I am urging all countries who will present reviews to include a focus on interlinkages between population issues and sustainable development.

I wish you much success in your work this week, and I thank you for your kind attention.