

FOREWORD

Twenty years ago, from 5 to 13 September 1994, the International Conference on Population (ICPD) and Development convened in Cairo, Egypt, and adopted by consensus the ICPD Programme of Action. This landmark document put people at the centre of sustainable development and emphasized that protecting human rights, investing in health and education, advancing gender equality, and empowering women are crucial to improving the quality of life of all people.

On 22 September 2014, the General Assembly will hold a special session to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support and high-level commitment to its goals and objectives. The meeting will help to guide the work of the United Nations in the field of population and development for years to come.

Since 1994, the Commission on Population and Development has been tasked with monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels, and with advising the Economic and Social Council on matters related to population and development.

On the occasion of the twenty-year anniversary of the Cairo Conference, the Population Division has produced a *Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development: Commission on Population and Development, 1994-2014*, which is a compilation of all substantive resolutions adopted by the Commission on Population and Development since 1995, mapped to corresponding chapters of the Programme of Action. These resolutions are presented in the Compendium in their entirety. They reaffirm the principles, goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and provide a record of progress made in intergovernmental agreements since the Cairo conference, including responses to new and emerging population trends.

I recommend this valuable resource to all who seek a better understanding of the work of the Commission on Population and Development over the last twenty years. It provides an important record of both achievements and remaining obstacles. The goals and commitments of the Programme of Action remain valid, and the work of the Commission in monitoring, reviewing and assessing its implementation continues to provide crucial guidance to member States and the international community in addressing fundamental development challenges facing the world today and in the years to come.



(Signed) **Wu Hongbo**
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
Secretary-General for the International Conference on Small Island Developing States