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STATEMENT
BY

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DURING THE 47TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE 20-YEAR REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD) PROGRAMME OF ACTION (PoA)

AGENDA ITEM 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Check against delivery

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

The South African delegation would like to thank you and the Bureau, along with the Secretariat for the preparations for this, the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

My delegation looks forward to participating in this important session of the Commission. Our deliberations this week will not only be critical to assess our implementation of the ICPD PoA during the past 20 years, but also to determine the further actions required to achieve the goals we set for ourselves in 1994 and beyond, including through the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

South Africa welcomes the thorough review and preparations undertaken by the UNFPA, as well as the Secretary-General's report on the Framework of Action for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014, which guide our deliberations.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset South Africa would like to acknowledge the progress and huge strides that have been made over the past 20 years since our governments met in Cairo to adopt the ICPD.

We, however, note with great humility that much remains to be done despite our efforts, especially on our Continent and in my own country. We have not yet realised our commitment to provide comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights to all women and girls and to give them the opportunities that we as States have committed to.

As has been clearly pointed out in the Global Review report, huge gaps remain and progress has been uneven and fragmented.

Mr. Chairperson,

A key element of our preparations for this session has been the various regional consultative processes that assisted Member States to assess their national and regional implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

For our region these consultations culminated in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, which African Member States negotiated and our Ministers responsible for population and development adopted, in September last year.

Even more significant was the fact that our Heads of State and Government endorsed the Addis Ababa Declaration at the African Union Summit in January this year.

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Mr. Chairperson,

This mandate provided by our Heads of State will be fully utilised during this session of the Commission to:

■ Ensure our commitment a African States to sexual and reproductive health
and rights for women and girls;

■ Reaffirm our commitments to universal access to sexual and reproductive
health services, especially for vulnerable groups, including adolescents;

■ Eliminate preventable maternal mortality through the provision of
comprehensive maternity care;

■ Expand access to post-abortion care and safe abortion services, the latter
in accordance with national laws and policies;

■ Provide access to "information, technologies, commodities and services
including emergency contraception," to enable people to make decisions about reproduction;

■ Expand access to information & education on, as well as diagnostics &
treatment for HIV, STIs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and other reproductive tract infections;

■ Integrate Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV and family planning
services;

■ Provide Universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;
and

■ Confirm our commitment to "comprehensive sexuality education" and to
involve youth, in addition to other stakeholders, in comprehensive sexuality education programs.

Mr. Chairperson,

If we are to move ahead as a global community we need to discuss, debate and resolve these issues in order to achieve the objectives that we agreed to at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

Thank you

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