Statement by the United States at the
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Mr. Chairman,

The 1994 ICPD consensus forged by 179 member states was, and remains,
truly transformative. It reframes the way we view population and development challenges, and provides a far-reaching set of goals linking global health, gender equality, human rights, population dynamics and sustainable development.

Those who were in Cairo in 1994 — including our exceptional colleagues Dr. Nafis Sadik , Mervat Telawi, Nick Biegman + others and those of us who work to sustain that consensus today — such as Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin +others,— can be proud of the direction we forged some twenty years ago

The Secretary General's reports to this year's Commission show that
significant progress has been made and many lessons have been learned that pave the way to the future we all desire. One billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, the average life expectancy has increased from 65 to 70, the number of maternal deaths has been reduced by nearly half, child mortality has declined by 40 percent and many more children, especially girls, now complete their primary education.

Yet, as far as we've come, progress has been uneven and slow in some
critical respects. The Program of Action aims for nothing less than universal access to quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, and it promised to promote and protect reproductive rights; reduce infant, child, and maternal mortality; and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls so that all individuals, and all nations, have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

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lives and the future. Much more is needed to ensure that adolescents and youth, have the opportunities for education and employment they require to reach their full potential; complemented by access to information, education and skills-building to make wise and informed decisions about their health, now and in future, including through access to comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly health services that take into account the distinct and often unique needs of young men and
women.

This meeting of the Commission is an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to fulfilling the ICPD Program of Action, to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to ensuring this agenda remains central to the next generation of development goals. We look forward to working with all of you to accomplish this shared mission.

Thank you.

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