

**CPD52 Joint Statement delivered H.E. Ms. Reina Buijs, Vice-Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, North Macedonia, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia**

Mr. Chair,

It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Governments and people of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, North Macedonia, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia.

Mr. Chair, we welcome and warmly applaud the Commission success in adopting this political declaration. And at the outset, we wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, for your leadership and for taking us through an inclusive negotiation process to reach consensus as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Conference on Population and Development. We also thank the other members of the Bureau and all the delegations that contributed constructively to this positive outcome. We also wish to express our thanks to the secretariat for their support and guidance and recognize the essential support of civil society and young people.

Mr. Chair, twenty-five years ago, 179 government representatives committed to ensure that every individual on the planet be valued, that all women and girls be empowered and supported by their communities in their own decisions and choices. We committed to the full and effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of action, then, and we strongly reaffirm our commitment to accelerated action to promote, defend and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, today.

In many ways, the ICPD Programme of action was groundbreaking in 1994 as a valid and truly transformative agenda that underpins a far-reaching set of goals linking global health, gender equality, human rights, population dynamics and sustainable development for all.

Thanks to ICPD Programme of action and the outcomes of its review conferences over the past two and half decades, progress has been made globally in saving lives, empowering women and strengthening gender equality. Many barriers have been broken down for millions of people allowing them to access better health, higher levels of education, better survival chance at birth, decreased child and maternal mortality, access to quality reproductive health services and more opportunities for

