......._. -:~-.,!.,::.~.....'~~..,.. ;.;,l ., '. . " ." If:

......

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

315 Lexington Avenue, New York. N.Y. 10016. (212) 689-7215. FAX (212) 689-9073

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Ileana Nunez Mordoche,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations.

Commission on Population and Development. 42nd Session.
Agenda Item 4: General debate on national experience in population matters: the contribution of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. New York, 1 April 2009

Madam Chair,

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate you and the rest of the bureau on behalf of the Delegation of Cuba, for your election to lead the works of the Commission.

My delegation also joins the statement made yesterday by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and 11. 1.u0d7ulso

agreed upon in 2000 in the Millennium Summit and the new goals and indicators included in 2005, namely the universal access to reproductive health and HIV/AIDS treatment and employment recognition, particularly of women and youth, as well as the promotion of the Environment to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable development.

In this context, I will briefly summarize the results of my country in achieving the Objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development and the follow-up of the MDGs.

The life expectancy at birth in Cuba is 78 years old. The infant mortality rate is 4.7 per thousand live births and 6.2 per thousand live births for children under 5 years old. The maternal mortality rate is 30.2 per 100 000 live births. These examples of progress in health and reproductive health speak for themselves.

The fertility in Cuba is currently 1.4-1.5 children per woman and the use of effective contraceptive imply a 70% of women in childbearing age. This is another example of the aforementioned, achieved in a favorable framework guaranteeing the consequent exercise of sexual and reproductive rights of female population.

The figures previously given are achieved in a priority context of the interrelations between the population and development. In this regard, Cuba has attained important results in universalization of education, gender equality, infant and maternal mortality reduction, the incidence of AIDS and other communicable diseases" environmental protection as well as international solidarity and cooperation with many countries and peoples in the world,
expressed in:

- The universal State-subsidized social policy enabling the entire Cuban
population, even those with lowest income, to have access to consumer
goods and services, by guaranteeing employment to all. The
unemployment rate in 2008 was 1.6%.

- The illiteracy rate of 0.2% o 5 2 0 T d � t 1 1

l o w T d � c o m r t e

Over 95°A> of the entire population has access to drinking water and 95% of sanitation coverage.

- Twenty-five percent of the territorial surface of the country is covered with forest. Principles of sustainable development are included in the annual policies and programs.
- The vocation for sharing and extending the bonds of solidarity that has, over the years, translated into unselfish collaboration in over 150 countries in areas like health, education, construction, sports, agriculture,
and others. Tens of thousands of foreign students, mainly from
developing countries, have graduated in Cuba in medicine, engineering
and technical studies, pedagogy and others.

Madam Chair,

Cuba reiterates its commitment to the objectives stated in the International
Conference on Population and Development. It likewise will continue to
champion the full implement487 0 Td�(910.0105u832)Tj�-0.01s 056 Tc 15ction.1044 6564.79its pro