Statement Made by the United States of America in Response to Presentation by H.E. Sylvie Lucas, President of ECOSOC at the Commission on Population and Development
on April 2,

,Madam Chainnan, our discussion this week has revealed various trends and data about population dynamics and their relation to maternal health and fan1ily planning. While there has been progress in many countries over the past 15 years on many aspects of the Programme of Action, th,is progress has not been universal. A striking fact from the UN's 2008 report on the Millennium Developn1ent Goals is that complications during pregnancy and as a result of childbirth remain a serious cause of death for women of child-bearing age in developing countries. There was little progress between 1990 and 2005. The report says that in Sub-Saharan Africa, a woman's risk of dYing from treatable or preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth over the course of her lifetime is 1 in 22, compared to 1 in 7,300 in developed regions.

This illustrates that we need to prioritize comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, as defined in the Program ofAction and the Key Actions for its further implementation, in our work to strengthen health systems. The cluster of services agreed in the Program of Action is all essential to save women's lives and protect their health as well as protect their reproductive rights. The United States is committed to ensuring, among others:

• access to safe, effective, and affordable, methods of voluntary family plam1ing
through good quality care that provides full infonnation and respects the client's
choices;
• the range of services needed during pregnancy as well as skilled attendants for
delivery and after birth; and
• diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Madam Chairman, reproductive health and family planning programs are an essential part
of maternal and child health, and thus are vital topics for the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review that will focus on Global Public Health. We trust that ECOSOC will recogp.ize the vital importance ofReproductive Health and Family Planning.