

Permanent Receipt of M 14

Wednesday, 1st April 20

(Please check against delivery)

Madam Chair,

Forty-seven years after the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on the Population and Development in Cairo, considerable progress has been made. In this regard the Government of Malta attaches special importance to the implementation of this Programme of Action which is an important step forward in the achievement of a holistic social and economic development. During this International Conference of 1994, it has reviewed and adopted the Programme of Action which sets out a series of recommended actions within the context of development, including those that lead to sustained economic growth and employment, sustainable development, primary health care, the integration of family planning, and the protection of the environment. All these issues are protected and related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have become the main framework for development in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chair,

My delegation would like to present several proposals for discussion and debate. Before my delegation would like to refer to the statement delivered by the Maltese Delegation at the 64th Session of the Commission on Population and Development last Monday. While the statement originally referred to

Malta firmly continues to maintain that any position, taken or recommended by this Commission or any other forum regarding women empowerment and gender equality in relation to population and development, should not in any way create an obligation on any party to consider abortion as a regular method of human population regulation. Human rights, including the right to life, are not commodities.

The national legislation of Malta considers the termination of pregnancy as a medical procedure of women's health and does not consider it as a means of population regulation. In the context of their adoption of the International Instruments, Malta reiterates and upholds its reservation to the

In this regard, Malta also wishes to recall its position as articulated during the ICPD Conference, in particular the reservations expressed by Malta on Chapters VII and VIII at the time of the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action of the ICPD. Furthermore the delegation of Malta reiterates the reservation made at the time of the working session should be safe, simple, and free of medical and other psychological risks, while upholding the rights of the unborn.

Malta also wishes to reiterate that the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action should be in accordance with its national legislation.

We therefore request that this position be included in the records of this meeting.

Chair

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