

Abvme

continued commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Key Actions for its further implementation, as well as the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014. We regard the ICPD Programme of Action as one of the fundamental building blocks for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We would also like to take note of and appreciate the reports that were prepared for this session, and that will be presented to us during this week. We wish to thank the Secretary General and the relevant entities that produced them, including for continuously updating us on the financial flows that support the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. These reports remain essential to measure progress, and to address identified gaps and challenges.

whilst young people between the ages of 15 and 25 make up the largest age cohorts.

This population age transition informed the population policy priorities of our current term of government, which have been incorporated into the overall government work programme. The priorities are the following:

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) with a particular focus on adolescents;

Gender Equality, Equity and the Empowerment of Women;

Dynamics of a Changing Population Age Structure: Causes and Consequences; and

Migration and Urbanisation.

These priorities also contribute to our ongoing efforts to reduce persistent economic inequality, which has age, race, gender and geographic dimensions, amongst others.

Since 1994, the South African Government has pursued a number of strategies aimed at better equipping young people to become economically independent. The fundamental principles of this approach are contained in the National Youth Policy (2015-2020), which recognises the vital role that young people play in building South Africa, and seeks to ensure that there are processes and opportunities that allow young people to develop and realise their potential, and for our society to reap the demographic dividend.

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson and distinguished colleagues. The International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (the IUSSP) will be hosted by Statistics South Africa later this year, on 29 October to 4 November, in Cape Town. It is our pleasure to invite all distinguished delegates and observers present here to the conference. It presents an important

more substance into the matters that we are deliberating on this week. Off course it also presents an opportunity to visit my beautiful country!

I thank you