

CPD51 Joint Statement

[This statement was made on behalf of Australia, Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Cambodia, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Uruguay.]

Mister Chair,

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to you, Mister Chair, and we would like to thank the facilitator for her tireless work. We would also like to thank the other Bureau members and the secretariat for their support and guidance. Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the presence of civil society groups and youth, for bringing important voices to these discussions.

Our countries have been, and continue to be, strong and vocal advocates for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of its review conferences. We know that it saves and improves millions of lives. We therefore place great importance and value in the role of the Commission on Population and Development to follow-up, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), especially in view of its upcoming 25th anniversary next year. We would also like to emphasize the important mandate and invaluable work of UNFPA in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We back up this commitment through our policies in our own countries and through our support to sustainable development efforts abroad. We firmly believe that the full realization of all human rights for all including sexual and reproductive health and rights, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are essential for addressing sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration, and in general for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development for all.

We deeply regret that for the third time in the matter of a few years only and in view of the upcoming review of the Programme of Action 25 years after the ICPD, this Commission was unable to reach a consensus on this very important topic, despite our joint efforts and constructive engagements of delegations to reach an outcome throughout this week.

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women's and girls' economic empowerment, poverty reduction and sustainable development. Ensuring SRHR for all will have a direct impact on the possibilities of achieving many of the targets in the 2030 Agenda.

Our group notes with concern the lack of reference to sexual and reproductive health and