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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS AT THE 57TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Monday, 29 April 2024

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

As we take stock of progress and lessons learned, we must also seize the opportunity to look ahead and set priorities for the next 30 years.

In 1994, the world

Many countries still fall short of life expectancy targets, and many developing countries face significant challenges in reaching the SDG target for child mortality.

Around the world, 164 million women of reproductive age 8 per cent have no access to family planning services.

While all countries are on the path towards longer lives and smaller families, some continue to face the challenges of rapid population growth.

Others are grappling with the consequences of population ageing and sometimes population decline.

Excellencies,

We must fully recognize the megatrends that are reshaping our world climate change, demographic shifts, urbanization, digital technologies and inequalities as well as their critical connections to the Sustainable Development Goals.

We must remain vigilant and continue to address situations where sexual and reproductive health and rights are being rolled back.

We must respond and push back when are being eroded, and when migrants and other vulnerable populations are mistreated.

We must continue to uphold the dignity of all people, ensuring that no one is left behind.

And we must support rights-based approaches in our population and development policies.

Major population trends for the coming decades are clear: continuing gradual reductions in fertility and mortality, the progressive ageing of populations, and their ongoing concentration in urban centers both large and small.

Population ageing requires a life course approach to health and education.

This means focusing on preventive care and lifelong learning to enable everyone to remain active and integrated in their communities.

The inevitable rise in demand for long-term care calls for new policies and public funding that ensure decent conditions for care providers – most of whom are women.

Ensuring universal access to reproductive and health-care services and the unimpeded exercise of reproductive rights will help meet needs for family planning.

At the same time, we must anticipate and provide for a growing need for assisted reproductive technologies, for the increasing numbers of women and men who are having fewer children than they desire.

As we also approach the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025, we must accelerate progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life.

We cannot achieve our common goals if we leave half of humanity behind.

Looking ahead to the Summit of the Future, we must prioritize the needs of future generations.

This means pursuing a green and sustainable development pathway so that they inherit a livable planet.

In a mobile and interdependent world, the international community must cooperate at all levels to facilitate an inclusive and rights-based approach.

Youth, women, civil society, local communities, and small and medium size enterprises must be part of the process.

The Local 2030 platform supports the delivery of the SDGs on the ground and can help bring the transformative change that is needed.

A strong Political Declaration by this Commission would galvanize action towards the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Together, we can contribute to safeguarding rights and choices, accelerate SDG progress, and support a sustainable future for people and planet.

Thank you.
