

United Nations Commission on

Health, Morbidity, Mortality and Development

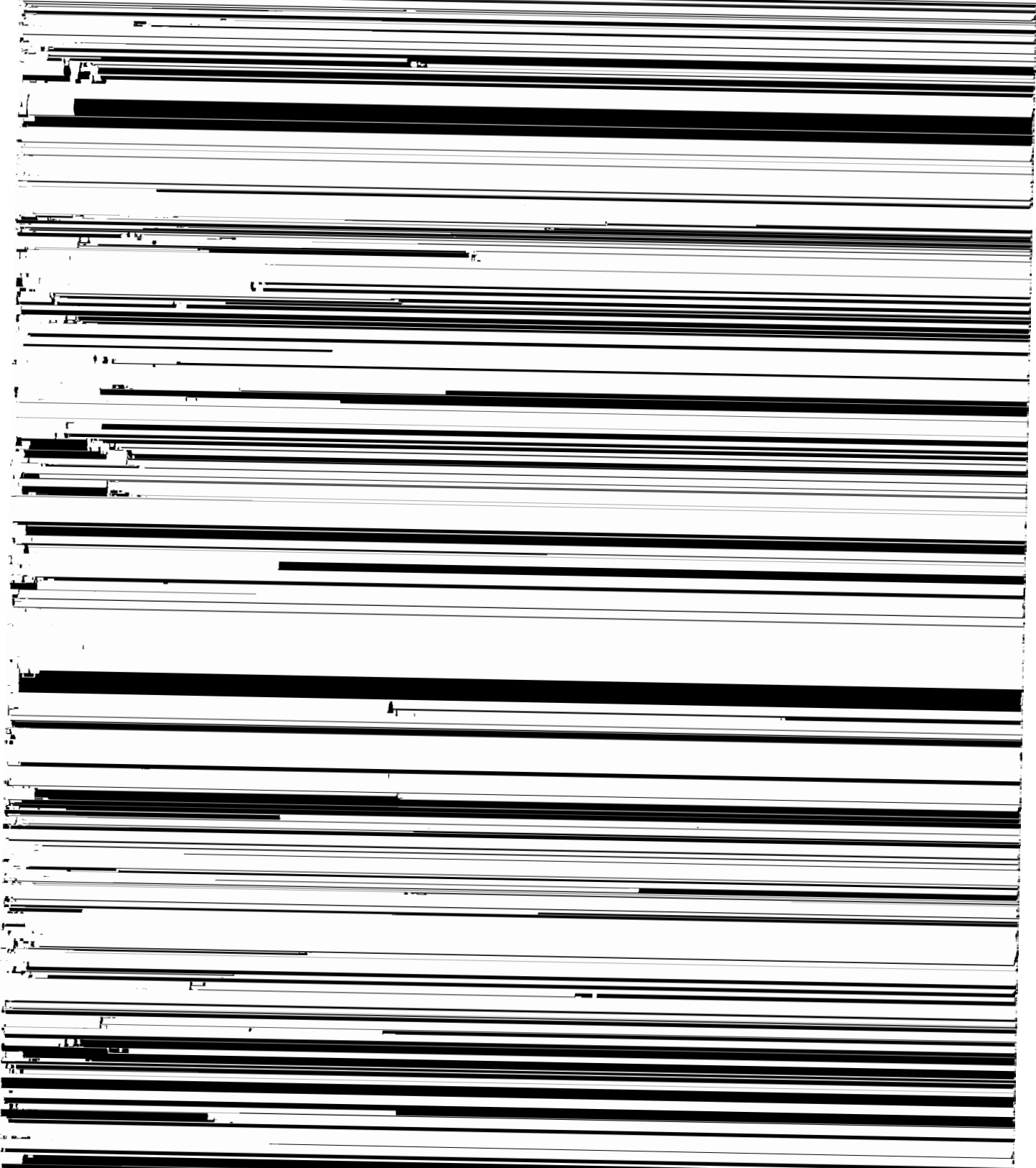
Statement

Mister Chairman,

Members of the Commission,

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address the opening of this forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development on behalf of the UNFPA Executive



Today we know that shortages of skilled health workers represent a major barrier to the achievement of the health development goals and make it difficult to develop and sustain the primary health infrastructure needed to reduce inequities in access to healthcare. We also know that the health worker crisis is compounded by demographic trends. With longer life expectancies and ageing populations, governments must prepare for rising

health care costs and rising demand for healthcare providers. To tackle the shortages of health workers, international cooperation is urgently needed to increase investment in the

development of health workers and to address the brain drain and health worker

... of the world depleted of the human resources they need

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It is time to renew our commitment to the cost-effective and visionary ICPD agenda.

This year, as we prepare for the 10-year review of the Millennium Development Goals, let us move forward with renewed energy and commitment so we can achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves. Only a quantum leap in our investments and going beyond rhetoric to action will make that critical difference for success.

Thank you.