



E-mail [australia@un.int](mailto:australia@un.int)

150 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 [www.unny.mission.gov.au](http://www.unny.mission.gov.au)

## **Fifty-third Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

### **Australian General Statement**

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The Australian Government thanks the Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development for their efforts to secure a consensus statement during this challenging global pandemic.

The world is facing a crisis of immense magnitude. Global cooperation is more important than ever as we work to stop the spread of the virus and its impact. COVID-19 is detrimental to health systems, economies and lives as it spreads across regions and populations.

Australia remains firmly committed to implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This commitment was restated during the Nairobi Summit to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICPD.

The special theme of the fifty-third session, 'Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development' is of critical importance to Australia at all times but even more so as the world faces a pandemic and responds to unprecedented pressures on supply chains. The Australian Government is working to maintain an essential services and humanitarian corridor to the Pacific and Timor-Leste to allow for the movement of essential expertise, supplies and food to the region.

Australia recognises the need for sexual and reproductive health services for populations in emergencies is particularly acute and commits to continue support through our foreign policy and aid program during this current global crisis.

We ask the Commission to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights remain firmly at the centre of its work throughout and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.