



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

# Commission on Population and Development

Forty Sixth Session

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address the opening of this forty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin my remarks by commending you and the Members of the Bureau on the hard work that went into preparing this session. We at UNFPA look forward to working closely with Member States on this very

important issue that is before the Commission. We also look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration with the Population Division. The normative work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the Population Division -- a leader in demographic analysis -- informs the operational work of UNFPA. Indeed, we rely on these demographic statistics to analyse the situation of countries and

in some origin countries, while intensifying population decrease in others. Although immigration can play a role in mitigating population decline or slowing population ageing in destination countries, it cannot in most circumstances reverse those trends.

For your consideration today, I would like to highlight a few key messages that are important to UNFPA's work:

**Human rights of migrants** – migrants are not numbers, they are human beings endowed with inalienable human rights. Respecting and promoting their rights, including their reproductive rights, as well as their contributions to development – has to be high on the agenda of policy makers. Priority actions include: one: promoting the ratification and effective implementation of all core international human and labour rights instruments; two: calling for national action plans to promote awareness of migrant realities and to fight xenophobia and discrimination against migrants and three: implementing the many existing frameworks to enhance migrants' access to social protection and services, such as their access to sexual and reproductive health services including family planning

Building a life in a new country can foster greater independence and self-confidence, and create opportunities for the empowerment of women. However, ~~breaking down established values and practices also creates tension and~~

women and young girls.

UNFPA has submitted two reports that will be introduced by my colleagues this morning. The first is a report on the monitoring of population programmes focusing on the Fund's work on international migration, especially in the areas of global advocacy, capacity development, policy dialogue, data and research, and awareness raising. The second reports on the flow of financial resources to implement the ICPD Programme of Action. I encourage you to review the reports and take note of the many good practices you will find. These practical examples deserve replication and scaling up, particularly in terms of how to mitigate the impact of migration on the sexual and reproductive health of migrants, especially

community is to continue to mobilize the resources required to implement the

In addition to adequate resources, sound policy formulation on migration issues must be based on a solid foundation of knowledge and evidence. To effectively deal with the challenges migration poses, we need to better understand its root causes; its relationship to development; the impact of remittances; how