



Kingdom of Morocco

Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco

At

The Special Session of the General Assembly on the Follow-up to the
Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and
Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014

New York, 22 September 2014

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund,
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I speak to you at this special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the attention that they have given to this issue, through numerous organized events, published reports, and the support provided to developing countries so that they might benefit from the best experience in population and development policies.

Mr. President,

Since adopting the Cairo Programme of Action in 1994, considerable progress has been made, which has been reviewed periodically in 1999, 2004, 2009, and lastly at the complete review of the ICPD Programme of Action, held in April 2014 at the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development.

My country, the Kingdom of Morocco, welcomes the numerous consultations and surveys carried out with the support of UNFPA, which have allowed for progress to be measured and for difficulties to be identified that continue to hinder the achievement of the objectives set by the Cairo Conference.

Similarly, the reviews carried out in 2013 during the Regional Conferences in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Commissions, have allowed for a transparent and inclusive consultation at the regional level on the subject of the follow-up to the Programme of Action Beyond 2014 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

Morocco has made progress in numerous areas relating to universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, among other things. Contraceptive prevalence has increased considerably, and child and maternal mortality has dropped significantly over the last twenty years, from 76.1 per mille in 1991 to 30.5 per mille in 2011, and from 332 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1992 to 112 deaths in 2010. Use of antenatal care and skilled attendance at delivery has also progressed considerably, reaching 77.1 per cent and 73.6 per cent respectively in 2011.

Furthermore, in addition to the Reproductive Health Strategy and the National Family Planning Programme, Morocco has set up the Youth Health Strategy to meet the specific needs of youth and adolescents, particularly in terms of information, education and medical services for preventing

unwanted pregnancies, risks linked to unsafe abortions, and preventing and dealing with sexually transmitted diseases and gender-based violence (GBV).

In democratic terms, Morocco has brought about bold reforms that are both institutional and legislative. These include the revision of the Constitution, reforms of the Criminal, Electoral, Family, Nationality and Labour Codes, and the adoption of advanced regionalization. Together with these reforms, the Kingdom has set up institutions tasked with ensuring regulations for good governance, the protection of rights and freedoms, and the strengthening of participatory democracy.

Furthermore, whereas Morocco used to be a sender and transit country for migrants, it has increasingly become a host country in which migrants settle. On account of this new status, a new migratory policy has been introduced in Morocco, following the Royal Decree to establish an asylum system recognizing international refugees and migrants.

This sure-fire step towards realizing a social project guaranteeing the effectiveness of rights and freedoms is strengthened by the efforts of the Kingdom to harmonize national law and bring public policies into line with ratified conventions at the international level. Lifting reservations to CEDAW and approving its Optional Protocol falls in line with this.

Mr. President,

The results achieved in the twenty years since the Cairo Conference are encouraging, but remain uneven between regions, and between and within countries. In addition to these difficulties, there are new challenges in an ever-changing context, marked by accelerated globalization and consequent changes, particularly in terms of family organization, the emerging needs of the youth, an ageing population, accelerated urbanization of developing countries, and growing disparities.

In addition, resource mobilization continues to be a cause for concern. Domestic resource mobilization should certainly be encouraged and diversified, but without an effective contribution from the donor community, it would be difficult to achieve the objectives of the Cairo Programme of Action, which remain valid beyond 2014, as highlighted in General Assembly resolution 65/234, adopted in 2010.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco strongly supports this process, which reaffirms the validity of the objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014, and supports their inclusion in the new Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you.