

The State of Qatar  
Draft Speech of the State of Qatar

to be delivered before

The Meeting of the Extraordinary Session of the General  
Assembly on the Post-2014 International Conference on  
Population and Development (ICPD)  
Programme of Action

During the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

22 September, 2014  
1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations  
809 UN Plaza, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10017 - Tel: 212-486-9335 –  
Fax: 212-758-4952

Honorable Mr. President of the UN General Assembly,  
Honorable UN Secretary-General,  
Esteemed ministers, monarchs, and other heads of state,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow us to congratulate Mr. Sam Kutesa on his accession to the presidency of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and to wish him all success in the fulfillment of his duties.

Mr. President,

Despite the progress and achievements the world has witnessed on the economic, social and development planes since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was convened in 1994, it is clear that there remain numerous gaps in implementation in a variety of areas of the ICPD programme of action. Many countries continue to encounter difficulties and to suffer social and economic disparities, while many individuals throughout the world still live in abject poverty. These realities pose a major challenge for development efforts.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of the ICPD programme of action, which affirms that a guarantee of human rights and individual dignity is a precondition for the achievement of sustainable development, and which addresses many challenges within a comprehensive, integrated framework.

Mr. President,

Following a careful reading of the report on follow-up procedures to the Post-2014 ICPD Programme of Action, we would like to register certain reservations concerning some controversial issues raised by the report, and in connection with which the report goes beyond what was agreed upon in the Cairo programme of action. Specifically, the Cairo programme of action contains no agreed-upon definition of terms such as "sexual orientation", "diverse sexual identities", "abortion services", "sexual and reproductive health and rights", and "comprehensive sex education." Hence, I would like to reaffirm one of the essential principles of the Cairo programme of action, namely, each nation's sovereign right to implement ICPD recommendations in a manner consistent with its own national laws, and with full respect for peoples' varied cultural backgrounds and religious and moral values in keeping with internationally recognized human rights.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar has approved and adopted a population policy which it began implementing in 2009. This policy aims to achieve a balance between population growth and the requirements of sustainable development in a manner

consistent with the millennium development goals, the ICPD programme of action, sustainable development goals, and the basic features of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Plan.

Mr. President,

There is still a great deal to be done. So let us work together, governments and individuals, to achieve the aims and goals of the ICPD programme of action, to improve the quality of life for all people by adopting suitable population and development policies and programmes which aim to eradicate poverty, achieve economic growth, develop human resources, and guarantee all human rights.

In conclusion, we would like to reemphasize that the State of Qatar will spare no effort to carry out its vital responsibility to respect, promote, and protect human rights. We would also like to affirm our commitment to the ICPD programme of action, which we view as the authoritative point of reference for addressing population issues, which we will continue to view as such even in the post-2014 period, and which we seek to implement with full respect for both our own national laws, and for peoples' diverse cultural backgrounds and religious and moral values.

Thank you.