



**United Nations General Assembly High-Level Plenary
Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the
International Conference on Population and Development**

**Statement by
Dr. Natalia Kanem,
Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund
(5 min)**

*Tuesday 16 July 2019 | 15:00-17:00
United Nations Headquarters, New York*

Stories of indigenous, rural and marginalized communities; of Afro-descendants; of those living with disabilities, or with HIV; of young people; of refugees, of all who face barriers to life-saving services and information.

Excellencies,

It is in our power to end these stories of injustice and inequality.

Thankfully, in April the Commission on Population and Development reaffirmed the ICPD Programme of Action. All nations declared that its full and effective implementation is part and parcel of the 2030 Agenda. UNFPA stands tall in agreement: There can be no SDGs without ICPD.

In over 150 countries, UNFPA works in partnership to deliver on that world that was promised 25 years ago. Through your advocacy, your determination and your relentless support, we will be certain to realize this transformative vision at last:

zero unmet need for family planning;
zero preventable maternal deaths; and
zero gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

All based on a solid foundation of high-quality data to ensure that we leave no one behind.

Excellencies, Distinguished Friends,

For the past 50 years and certainly in the 25 years since Cairo, UNFPA has been there, unwavering, every step of the way. With your support, we ensure that women can exercise their right to make their own decisions over their lives and their bodies. May I pay tribute to those whose work we build upon: champions for the ICPD Programme of Action around the world!

We thank Member States for your leadership and partnership, and with civil society, the thousands of dedicated staff of UNFPA look forward to continuing to work shoulder to shoulder with you to complete the unfinished business of the ICPD.

This year, the road from Cairo leads to Nairobi for the ICPD25 Summit in November. Co-convened by the Governments of Kenya and Denmark together with UNFPA, the Summit will mobilize political and financial commitments – from governments, communities, financial institutions, private companies and individuals, all of us – to fully and finally deliver on the promise of Cairo.

