



**PRESS RELEASE**

**World leaders reaffirm their commitments to placing people at the centre of development**

poverty, and more people are living longer, healthier lives. More girls are in school. Fewer women are dying in pregnancy and childbirth. There are more laws to protect and uphold human rights.

Yet many of the promises of the ICPD remain unfulfilled. Progress has been unequal, and often hampered by discrimination and inequality.

We must confront the fact that some 800 women still die each day from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth . An estimated 8.7 million young women in developing countries resort to unsafe abortions every year. They urgently need our protection.

In addition, new challenges have emerged, including those linked to rapid urbanization, environmental change, economic transformation, and increasingly complex migration trends. The emergence of new flows of refugees and displaced persons demands greater efforts to ensure the security and dignity of all.

### **New population shifts and challenges emerge for future development planning**

The world population increased from 5.7 billion in 1994 to 7.2 billion today. By 2050, it is projected to reach 9.6 billion, with most of the future growth concentrated in Africa and Asia.

increased in size, scope, complexity and impact over the last 20 years. At the same time, the world population is growing older as the number of younger people stabilises