

ALGERIA

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29th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
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Mr. Chairman,

I am delighted to see you preside over this Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which Algeria had the privilege of presenting on behalf of the G-77 and China in Cairo twenty years ago.

The extension of the Programme beyond 2014 serves as confirmation, if it were needed, of the long path that has yet to be travelled if we are to make irreversible progress towards sustainable development that will benefit the wellbeing of our peoples.

In this regard, the Algiers Declaration that was adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement during the 17th Ministerial Conference held in May 2014 served as timely confirmation of the relevance of the right to development and the imperative need to eradicate poverty, which has been identified as a global challenge and a central goal of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN Climate Summit.

Within this perspective, access for all to high-quality healthcare and education services and scientific and technical knowledge can greatly contribute to the effective consolidation of fundamental human rights.

Algeria's commitment to the Programme of Action on Population and Development is illustrated in its national policy on population growth management. The prize awarded by the UN to the National Population Committee rewarded Algeria's efforts to reconcile fundamental human rights with cultural and religious values. The significant decreases in the poverty index and mother and infant mortality have contributed to the increase in life expectancy, which now stands at 77 years.

The Government's action plan for the 2014-2019 period, which was adopted following the presidential election of April 2014 in which the people of Algeria renewed their confidence in President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, forms part of efforts to consolidate socio-economic progress. Young people and women, who are drivers of social cohesion and future wealth, are among the priorities.

Meanwhile, the situation of women is continuing to improve, and this improvement is confirmed by the parity between men and women that has been achieved in the education, justice and health sectors, combined with the implementation of a proactive policy according to which 30% of seats in the elected assemblies are reserved for women, raising the rate of women's representation in parliament to nearly 32%.

Mr. Chairman,

To make the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development a reality, vigorous efforts must be made to secure the funds necessary to continue with the efforts beyond 2014. It is a matter of strengthening the capacities of developing countries and our ability to mitigate risks and threats to peace and international security such as poverty, pandemics, economic inequalities, terrorism and climate change.

The Ebola virus epidemic, which has been described as a global health emergency by the World Health Organization, requires us to redouble our efforts to help the affected African countries to come through this ordeal, which is undermining their development efforts. Algeria takes this opportunity to urge the international community to speed up its provision of the assistance and support necessary to defeat this deadly scourge.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, Algeria reaffirms its commitment to working towards achieving the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014 as contributions to a safer, fairer and more united world.

Thank you.