

REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“20 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.” NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2014
13:30 – 21:00

CONTRIBUTION OF SANDRA GUEVARA, MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROVISION

MR PRESIDENT, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES,

I GREET YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR.

EL SALVADOR WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS SATISFACTION AT THE DECISION TO ORGANIZE THIS SPECIAL SESSION, IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE ISSUES ADDRESSED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS PROGRAMME OF ACTION, AND THE KEY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS REMAIN FULLY RELEVANT TODAY.

AS A COUNTRY, WE SHARE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ACTION FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING THE ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT SINCE 2014, IN PARTICULAR IN SO FAR AS IT INDICATES THAT THE CHANGE OF PARADIGM MARKED BY THIS CONFERENCE WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE A DEMONSTRATION THAT ASPIRATIONS TO PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE DEVELOPMENT BENEFIT FROM AN EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

INVESTMENT IN INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS, CAPACITIES AND DIGNITY IN ALL SECTIONS OF THE CAIRO PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND THROUGHOUT ITS LIFE CYCLE ARE WITHOUT DOUBT THE BASIS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IN THIS RESPECT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES THAT REVIEWED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO PROGRAMME OF ACTION SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO DISCUSSION OF THE NEW POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

WE WELCOME THE SPACE THAT WAS CREATED TO ENABLE COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REVIEW PROCESS BY MEANS OF A GLOBAL SURVEY, WHICH IN EL SALVADOR INVOLVED MORE THAN 18 NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ALSO PROVIDED A MAJOR INCENTIVE FOR OUR COUNTRY TO DECIDE TO PRODUCE A NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO PROGRAMME OF ACTION, AND WHICH ALSO INVOLVED THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PERMIT ME TO CITE SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE +20 CAIRO ACTION PLAN IN OUR COUNTRY:

1. WITH THE AIM OF MAKING UNIVERSAL, EQUAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH A REALITY, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS IMPLEMENTED A SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY THAT HAS STRENGTHENED THE QUALITY OF MATERNITY AND NEONATAL CARE SERVICES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CARE FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND HIV-AIDS.
2. WE HAVE A NATIONAL PLAN FOR SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY, TO GUARANTEE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL GENDER FOCUS ON PUBLIC POLICY TO SUPPORT WOMEN.
3. CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL COMPREHENSIVE LAW FOR A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE AND THE LAW FOR EQUALITY, FAIRNESS AND THE ERADICATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.

4. A SYSTEM PROVIDING STATISTICS BROKEN DOWN BY GENDER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
5. WOMEN'S CITY PROGRAMME, PROVIDING A RANGE OF INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES TO WOMEN.
6. CREATION OF A WOMEN'S BANK, PROVIDING WOMEN WITH FINANCIAL AUTONOMY.
7. POLITICAL PARTIES LEGISLATION, GUARANTEEING A MINIMUM 30% SHARE OF ELECTED AND DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS.
8. PUBLIC STATE BUDGETS WITH A GENDER FOCUS (LABELLED BUDGET ITEMS).
9. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SALVADORIAN YOUTH PLATFORM TO PROMOTE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.
10. REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AMONG OTHERS.

THERE ARE STILL MANY CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF REAL GENDER EQUALITY, THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, THE ERADICATION OF DIVERSE FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, THE FIGHT TO ERADICATE POVERTY, NON-DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF SEXUAL DIVERSITY AND GUARANTEEING THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.

AS A COUNTRY WE ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THE CAIRO PROGRAMME OF ACTION 20 YEARS AFTER IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED, BASED ABOVE ALL ON PRIORITY MEASURES AND AGREEMENTS THAT WE REACHED AT THE FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND THAT WERE SET OUT IN THE MONTEVIDEO CONSENSUS.

AS WE RECOGNIZED AT THAT MEETING, ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN PROMOTING, PROTECTING AND GUARANTEEING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, THESE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE NOT YET REACHED EVERYONE, MANY OF WHOM CONTINUE TO LIVE IN CONDITIONS OF EXTREME POVERTY, FACING INEQUALITIES AS A RESULT OF DEEPLY-ROOTED HISTORICAL PATTERNS AND NEW FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION, UNABLE TO FULLY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES THAT REFLECT THE EXPECTATIONS OF OUR POPULATIONS AND ELIMINATE THE DOMINANT INEQUALITIES, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON GROUPS THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND WHO LIVE UNDER CONDITIONS OF VULNERABILITY.

NOR CAN WE DENY THAT THE ISSUES OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REALITIES OF COUNTRIES, AND THAT IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THEM WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ALLIANCES AND TO ESTABLISH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

WE CALL ON THE BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) TO INCLUDE IN THEIR STRATEGIC PLANS THE KEY POINTS OF THE CAIRO PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE CAIRO AGENDA POST-2015.

FINALLY, I REPEAT THE COMMITMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR TO APPLY THE COMMITMENTS OF THE CAIRO PROGRAMME OF ACTION, THE KEY MEASURES AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THIS REGARD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.