



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Haiti to the United Nations

Statement by

Her Excellency Ms. Sophia MARTELLY

First Lady of the Republic of Haiti

to

the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly

entitled

“Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International  
Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014”

New York, 22 September 2014

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General, A/69/62, entitled “Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014”.

Mr. President,

Haiti is pleased to have contributed to the ICPD global survey for beyond 2014. Our country is happy to report significant progress regarding the four main initial objectives that the Conference set out 20 years ago, particularly regarding rights and universal access to care and reproductive health services.

Two figures summarize this positive progress: the maternal mortality rate, which has decreased from 350 per 100,000 live births to 157 per 100,000 live births in 2013, and the fertility rate, which has decreased from 4.8 children per woman in 1994 to 3.5 today. Furthermore, the President of the Republic and I, both directly involved and committed, consider family planning a priority.

Similarly, Haiti has recorded satisfactory results in its fight against HIV/AIDS; its prevalence rate in the 15 to 49 age group is currently 2.2 per cent, compared with 6.0 per cent at the height of the epidemic.

Regarding neonatal health, it is important to note the effects of our aggressive public health policy, which has increased the number of qualified midwives and increased deliveries by trained staff by 29 per cent, of which 37 per cent took place in a health-care centre.

With regard to gender equality, the actions carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the ICPD are also noteworthy. Among the most recent are a quota of 30 per cent for women’s employment in all public services, enshrined in the amended Constitution; the law on responsible fatherhood and the establishment of parentage to protect the rights of children and women; and the bill on AIDS to combat the exclusion and stigmatization of HIV-positive persons and those affected by the illness.

Mr. President,

Despite this significant progress, we are aware of the many challenges and obstacles hindering the full and successful implementation of the Programme of Action. This is particularly true for matters relating to reproductive health which affect, for example, child mortality and early pregnancy rates, which remain too high. More broadly, it also concerns

measures to reduce and mitigate the economic and social impact of urbanization, migration and climate change on the population.

In this context, our country is anxious to highlight how much the material, technical and financial aid from the relevant United Nations agencies, especially UNFPA, has been, and will be, vital in continuing those efforts; that aid is greatly appreciated.

Haiti is also committed, once more, to working in close cooperation with all its partners in the international community and the private sector in order to meet the objectives defined by ICPD+5. It will act to ensure optimal coordination with the post-2015 development agenda, an essential tool in achieving our common aspirations regarding sustainable development and the wellbeing of our populations.

Thank you.