

**Speech by the President of the Republic of Honduras,
Juan Orlando Hernandez.**

29th Special Session of the General Assembly
(Special Session of the General Assembly on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action
of the ICPD Beyond 2014, on 22 September 2014, New York)

Your excellencies,

Honduras would like to take this opportunity to welcome report A/69/62 of the Secretary General, entitled "Framework of Action for the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014", as well as the Index Report on the interactive debate of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Commission on Population and Development for having organised an interactive debate with a view to evaluating the implementation status of the Cairo Programme of Action, in accordance with Resolution 65/234 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 22 December 2010, while it is contributing to this extraordinary period of General Assembly sessions on Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Honduras would like to ratify its support for the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, highlighting the importance and validity of universality, equality, mainstreaming, integrity, social inclusion, solidarity, equity and dignity and human rights in application of the focus on all groups living in vulnerable conditions, as well as the themes related to health, education, community, governance and sustainability for the regional implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the key measures for continuing to implement it, as well as follow-up beyond 2014.

We are very happy to have contributed to the review of the ICPD global survey from 2014, bearing in mind that we have made considerable progress with the application of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. A significant drop in the Gross Mortality Rate, the Maternal Mortality Ratio and the Infant Mortality Rate, the General Fertility Rate and Unwanted Fertility. Improvements in Life

Expectancy and the unmet demand for family planning, covering the cost of anti-retroviral medication and efforts to prevent mother-child vertical transmission of HIV, all achieved mainly by the respective Government institutions.

With regard to the regulatory framework, in the last three 5-year periods the country has made significant progress with the formulation of public policies. The 2010-2022 Country Plan and the National Vision, whose Strategic Approach number 1 establishes the importance of taking demographic dynamics into account in the country's development. The implementation of the National Policy on Human Rights, the Youth Policy, the Social Protection Policy, the Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Policy, the Special Law on HIV and AIDS, the Law on Equality of Opportunity for women, the Accelerated Strategic Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality, the National Strategy for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and the Second Plan for Equality and Gender Equity in Honduras, are some examples which thousands of Hondurans have benefited from.

However, the results of the survey also reveal the persistent inequality that threatens the human rights of many women and girls. We recognise that we are affected by the issue of poverty. Extreme poverty is mainly a rural problem, since 58.7% of the rural population is extremely poor. In addition, some features of the demographic patterns associated with poverty and social inequality still remain, as well as emerging opportunities and concerns that are closely related to the progress achieved by the urban and demographic transition: an ageing population structure, international migration and the persistent duality of concentration and dispersal of the population throughout the country.

While Honduras faces these challenges, among others, at the same time it has an important opportunity: the population structure is in the process of transition due to changes in the fertility and mortality rates. This transition means that between 2015 and 2075, the proportion of the population of productive age (15 to 64) will be greater than the proportion of dependent persons, generating a potential economic contribution that will allow greater wealth creation and greater potential levels of savings and consumption.

Similarly, increasingly diverse family structures and lifestyles require the

planning and construction of sustainable cities and the strengthening of urban-rural links. The impact of the population dynamic at micro and macro levels also requires the integration of this dynamic into development plans at national, regional and international level.

That is why it is so essential, when we are developing a new framework for sustainable development, to ensure that marginalised and vulnerable women and children are at the heart of it. Under the priorities of the new Government and the social programme of the Better Life for Everyone Plan, attention is focused on 800,000 households, particularly those headed by women. Through the office of the First Lady of the Nation, within 100 days, the Government of Honduras launched a plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy, taking the following as an action framework for educational investment: ensuring the right to comprehensive sex education, encouraging men to participate in solutions, empowering teenagers and guaranteeing health services for the prevention of pregnancy. Employment generation, as well as investment in young peoples' education to take advantage of the demographic dividend, will also contribute to reducing the 23% of the juvenile population who are neither working nor studying, with women at a particular disadvantage. We hope to continue strengthening efforts to ensure that our young people neither participate in nor become victims of violent behaviour.

This reaffirms our political will and commitment to adopting immediate measures that meet the expectations of our populations and eliminate the prevailing inequalities, with particular emphasis on groups living in vulnerable conditions. We also recognise that the themes of population and development are closely linked to economic, social and environmental realities, and that to address them we need to strengthen international cooperation, as well as global, regional and sub-regional alliances.

Today we would like to use this venue to call for joint responsibility to resolve the situation of the thousands of children and teenagers who are unaccompanied migrants, seeking hope without borders when they flee from the violence caused by organised crime, which accounts for 70% of this migration; seven out of nine children who cross the border come from Honduran cities located on the drug trafficking routes; children and teenagers who emigrate as a result of the lack of opportunities and the desire for family reunification.

This day is a good moment to make our promise to the women and girls of Honduras into a reality. The pathway established by the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the global report of the Secretary-General make it clear that the Programme of Action will be extended beyond 2014. We consider that the actions identified in the report are essential for the future application and achievement of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its connection with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, particularly in light of the challenges raised by the national results of the post-2015 consultation.

The Government of the Republic of Honduras is firmly committed to contributing to the achievement of dignity, equality, empowerment and the right to sexual and reproductive health for all women, with an emphasis on the most marginalised groups, particularly women living in urban marginal areas, indigenous women and Afro-Honduran women.

We express our support for the ICPD Beyond 2014, and for its monitoring framework as a basis for national and global information on the progress that could improve the review and evaluation for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the functions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development.

We ratify the full force of the commitments to the Quito Consensus of 2007 and the Brasilia Consensus of 2010, particularly those related to the promotion and protection of women's human rights, the eradication of discrimination, the elimination of violence and the strengthening of state structures to promote women's advancement and equality.

Guaranteeing equality of opportunity for women in education, the right to dignified employment, to positions of power in all sectors of public life, as well as the adoption and implementation of laws, policies and measures to avoid, sanction and eradicate violence within and outside of the home, improving our capacity to recognise and prevent violence, guaranteeing the provision of services that can mitigate the consequences of violence and the full rehabilitation of those who experience it, are not only justified by the human rights framework but are also essential for development.

Honduras would like to thank the United Nations System, particularly the United Nations Population Fund, for its contribution to the development of the actions mandated under Resolution 65/234 and those related to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you very much