



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 May, 2014

Excellency,

While the Secretary-General will officially notify you later in the year of the special session of the General Assembly on the follow up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014, I wish to draw your attention, at this point in time, to paragraphs 1 and 3 of General Assembly Resolution 65/234 on *The follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014* and paragraph 3 of Resolution 67/250 on *The organization of the special session of the General Assembly on the follow up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014*, which address representation at the special session at the highest political level.

The special session will provide an important opportunity for world leaders to discuss the findings of the review, which show that, despite significant gains in poverty reduction and economic growth since the International Conference on Population and Development, many have been left behind, lacking fulfilment of basic needs, meaningful work, access to social protection, or public services in health or education, and that there are still significant barriers for many people to enjoy their human rights. These issues, as well as the conclusion that the current state of income and wealth inequality is unsustainable and threatens future economic growth, the cohesion and security of societies, and the capacity of people to adapt and innovate in response to changing environmental conditions, are also relevant to the discussions that would take place during the Climate Summit on 23 September and the general debate that follows.

In this regard and in view of the importance Member States attach to high-level participation in the special session, I wish to encourage you to work with your capitals to ensure that arrangements are made for your Heads of State and Government to attend the special session, which will take place in the General Assembly Hall from 1-9 PM on 22 September, 2014.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York