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Statement

by

H.E. Gerd Müller

Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

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29th Special Session

**Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and
Development beyond 2014**

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Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany greatly welcomes this Special Session of the General Assembly to follow up on the International Conference on Population and Development. After 20 years, the recommendations of the Cairo Programme of Action are still as relevant as before. More and more people are living on our planet. By the middle of this century, there will be more than 9 billion. They are becoming older and more mobile. This population dynamics is a great challenge for sustainable development.

I want to thank the Secretary-General and UNFPA for the very clear reports that were presented to the General Assembly today. Especially in developing countries, pregnancy and childbirth complications are among the most frequent causes of death for young women and girls.

In 2013, such complications killed about 300,000 women worldwide. And 200 million women in developing countries still have no access to modern means of birth control. There are still girls and women who are forced into marriage. Women suffer violence and genital mutilation. We cannot accept that. We must not accept that!

Gender equality, no violence, not just on paper but in real life – that is what we stand for, that is what we are fighting for.

Germany therefore provided 4.3 billion US dollars over the last 20 years to help implement the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Mr. President,

Human dignity is inviolable.

This means there must be compliance with human rights. Gender equality must become reality. And sexual and reproductive health and rights have to be ensured. Germany supports the Cairo Programme of Action.

Thank you very much.