



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

UN General Assembly 22nd Plenary Session

International Conference on Population and Development

Statement by Ambassador Jim McLay, Permanent
Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

9 October 2014

Check Against Delivery



Mr Chair -

New Zealand welcomes this special session to review progress towards implementing the ICPD agenda.

The *ICPD Review* acknowledges significant progress since 1994, but there is more to be done if the vision of the *Programme of Action* is to be realised, particularly for women, young people and marginalised groups.

The ICPD commitments are the critical foundation for a universally relevant sustainable development agenda.

Mr Chair -

Globally, women remain subject to violence and harmful practices that negatively affect their health and human rights.

In New Zealand, and in our Pacific neighbourhood, we face high rates of violence against women, and must ensure all survivors of violence have immediate and safe access to critical services.

We must also focus, even more, on reducing violence, by involving men and boys in violence prevention initiatives.

Mr Chair -

220 million women worldwide still have unmet contraception needs.

All women should be entitled to accurate information and counselling on a range of affordable, accessible and high-quality contraceptive methods.

In New Zealand, new contraceptive technologies have resulted in significantly improved access.

In 2010, for example, our Government increased access to long-acting reversible contraception by fully subsidising contraceptive implants.

Mr Chair -

Despite progress, a key challenge still facing New Zealand is the persistence of ethnic disparities; with Māori and Pacific populations disproportionately affected by negative sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

We must ensure that indigenous people receive appropriate services – and, importantly, address the social and economic factors that disadvantage indigenous people.

Mr Chair -

New Zealand is also focused on assisting the Pacific region, to make progress under the ICPD.

This includes supporting key multilateral organisations that work in the region, such as UNFPA, IPPF and UNAIDS.

We endorse the findings of the *ICPD Beyond 2014 Review*, and believe the actions it identifies are vital to achieving inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable access to services, education and information.

For those reasons, Mr Chair, New Zealand remains firmly committed to working with member states to ensure that the post-2015 and *ICPD Beyond 2014* processes promote inclusive development, and to ensure that no one is left behind.