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Economic Commission for Europe Regional Conference on International  
Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) +25

**«Enabling Choices : Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development»**

Genf, 1.-2. Oktober 2018

Déclaration de la Suisse

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Madam Chair,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ICPD Programme of Action reflected a remarkable consensus that increasing social economic and political equality and reinforced women's and girls' human rights is a fundamental basis for sustainable development.

The **2030 Agenda**, by embracing this comprehensive and integrated approach, is THE opportunity to advance the work that started in 1994 and is today more relevant than ever. We are keen to see the results of the ICPD+25 review inform the upcoming review of the 2030 Agenda at the High-level Political Forum in September 2019. This will be the first

opportunity to review progress on the 2030 Agenda over its first four years and the data and lessons learned, collected as part of the ICPD review process must also inform the review of progress of the SDGs.

We know that complications in pregnancy are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls in developing countries, and the second cause globally, and we know that reproductive health and rights are fundamental to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Switzerland remains fully committed to the continuous promotion of **gender equality, women's empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights**. We stress particularly the importance of a people-centered approach that enables individuals to have continued access to comprehensive information and services and thus *enables choices and leaves no one behind*.

While coming together here in Geneva for discussing the regional achievements, challenges and experiences, we would also like to emphasize the value **Geneva** offers to the issue of *population dynamics and sustainable development* by its **variety of international actors**, notably in the **health-human rights-humanitarian nexus**. It is an opportunity to strengthen intersectoral approaches, which are at the heart of the ICPD and 2030 Agenda.

We are looking forward to interesting discussions and enriching exchanges within the next two days.

Thank you for your attention.