

# UNECE ICPD@25 Regional Conference Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development

Interventie namens Nederland in High-Level plenary session

maandag 1 oktober 2018

Salle XVIII, Palais des Nations

Programma onderdeel: ICPD 25 years later: Recommitting to the vision of Cairo  
Agendapunt: Member States' statements on national progress towards implementation of ICPD Programme of Action

- Thank you, Madam Chair.
- Executive Secretary of UNECE, Deputy Executive-Director of UNFPA, Excellencies, Honorable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:
  
- The Netherlands reconfirms its commitment to the ICPD. The ICPD remains highly relevant, especially now.
- As the late Dr. Babatunde used to say: “The ICPD is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.”
- We support the Report, its Recommendations, and the Monitoring Framework.
- I hope this will be reflected in the Summary of this session.
  
- Today, like in 2013, our delegation consists of Government officials as well as NGO partner Rutgers. We believe in engaging all stakeholders.
  
- Regarding the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people, the Netherlands has a higher ambition level than the 2030 Agenda, and the ICPD. Our approach is holistic and open, throughout the life cycle, and includes adolescents and young people.
- The results are good. Science supports this, and the Conference report reflects this as well. The Netherlands international development policy is based on successful national experiences.
- Clear examples of successes in the Netherlands are the low teenage pregnancy rate as well as the low abortion rate.

- I also recall the recent AIDS2018 Conference in Amsterdam. Amsterdam has already reached the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target, by implementing harm reduction policies and recognizing the rights of so-called 'key populations'.
- However we, too, must do better. Our schools teach Comprehensive Sexuality Education but not always consistently. We need to improve on reaching certain vulnerable groups. And sexual violence against women and young people is a problem that we must address more comprehensively.
- The Netherlands, too, has political dilemma's. Like ageing and increasing the pension age. The pressure on women and young people of unpaid care work. How to keep our health system affordable while offering up to date care? How to increase the number of women in management positions? How to encourage resilience and at the same time avoid inequalities? Migration, sustainability, the report reconfirms that many of our countries face similar challenges.
- To address these challenges, the starting point must be rights. Therefore, we re-commit to the ICPD.
- Finally, congratulations to UNECE and UNFPA. The Netherlands supports your vision to use this Conference as an opportunity for a constructive exchange of policy experiences. We are ready to share our best practices, and the less-than-perfect ones. We look forward to dialogue with you, and to learn from you all. Because together, we can realize the ICPD in our Region.
- I thank you.