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Opening statement at the

year's theme, the Commission was responding to the call by the General Assembly for Member States to contribute to the preparatory process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as one of the United Nations bodies with a mandate to address migration-related issues (A/RES/71/280, paragraph 22b). This Commission has been challenged in recent years to achieve consensus around a resolution on its special theme. This year, by keeping a focus in the negotiations on the theme itself and by working together closely in a spirit of collaboration and compromise, I feel certain that the Commission will achieve a successful result for its current session.

Dear delegates,

As you know, the Commission's primary mandate derives from the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994 (A/RES/49/128). The Programme of Action includes two chapters on migration: one on internal migration and urbanization and another on international migration.

Consistent with its mandate as an expert body that examines population issues, the Commission has considered topics related to internal and international migration periodically since 1994. Of the 24 special themes chosen for the annual sessions of the Commission from 1995 until today, five have contained the word "migration", including the theme of the current session. This observation underlines the fact that migration has

have been framed, at least in part, as questions about the sustainability of current human activities, taking into account the current size and characteristics of the population, as well as the anticipated trajectory of population change.

In 2016, you may recall that the Commission undertook a deep reflection on its methods of work. One of the key issues was the role of the 2030 Agenda versus the Programme of Action from Cairo in providing the mandate for the work of this Commission. It is worth recalling that there was, overall, a strong reaction against the suggestion that the 2030 Agenda might become the primary focus of the Commission's work.

efficiency of key work streams, to enhance the quality, relevance and dissemination of its outputs, and to enable the Population Division to service more effectively the Commission on Population and Development and other intergovernmental processes.

I will gladly share some more information about the Population Division's proposal for restructuring and reform on Thursday morning as part of agenda item 4 on the future work of the Secretariat in the field of population. As we reflect on the challenges ahead, I invite you to express your views under that agenda item on how the Population Division can improve its work and strengthen the support provided to Member States.

Mister Chairperson,

In closing, I wish to thank you for your leadership in steering the preparatory work of the Commission in its 51st session. Your personal commitment to convening and leading two rounds of consultations by regional group has been critical. Those consultations brought Member States together for early and frank discussions around the special theme for this year and have helped to set the right tone for the deliberations taking place this week.

The consultations also provided a mechanism for the Secretariat and UNFPA to receive early inputs from Member States about how to frame, and how not to frame, the discussion on the special theme. Such inputs were extremely valuable as we worked to prepare the reports of the Secretary-General and other documents that are helping to shape the discussions of the 51st session.

I hope that, over the next year, as we approach