



land rights, so when my husband died, my in laws came and kicked me out of my home". "My field flooded, and the crop failed, and I could no longer feed my children, and this man came said he knew way he could help me earn money." "My husband made me do this, and beats me if I do not cooperate." "My uncle sold me." The one woman I mentioned, when it was her turn to share her story, just exhaustedly waved her hand in the hot air: Same ole, same old. Her path, she was saying, differed only the details. The root cause was the same. The sexual, reproductive, legal, political, social, and cultural inequality of girls and women. And, of course, all of these women had several children. I was with them in part to see how an NGO was reaching them with contraception and HIV/AIDS prevention and testing and rapid results.

I also remember sitting on a very crowded floor of a UNFPA clinic in South Sudan, where displaced women were chatting and laughing, waiting for their appointments for modern family planning methods. They were so relieved to be freed from the imminent terror of becoming pregnant during armed conflict, in their country so riven by crisis. Their good cheer and smiles made me cry.

In Turkey, where I spent time with the remarkably compassionate and

having more children than their exhausted bodies can bear, care for, feed, find health care for, send to school, protect from child marriage, and male violence. I am profoundly grateful for UNFPA's partnership with me in DR Congo, in the deepest depth of the Central African Rainforest, where we have established the first ever maternal health care clinic. A courageous young woman of the forest has gone to Kinshasa to train as a midwife. When she returns, her villages will pay her salary in goats and chicken, and she will help safely deliver babies. This will accelerate wellness for women, their families, and development for those remote villages,

The ICPD stirs our loftiest imaginings of what can be, what we can do together as an international body and in partnership, especially with youth led and grassroots movements. Cooperation is core to inclusive sustainable development. As is said in Cameroon, "if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Let's take a hint from the Cameroonians, and also the SDGs, and do both, achieving those urgent goals and arriving at full sexual rights and reproductive health for all, and an inclusive sustainable development, swiftly and together.

I appreciate all that has been accomplished these past 30 years, and exhort us all to apply the good lessons learned toward the progress still urgently needed.

Thank you.

