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Programme of Action and have pledged their unwavering support to continue working towards its full and effective implementation. The number of high-level representatives that joined us this week is a testament to the continuing relevance, vitality and urgency of the ICPD agenda.

Please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the Chair of the 57th session, Ambassador Noemi Espinoza Madrid of Honduras, and to the four vice-chairs for organizing a very stimulating session. You have shown exemplary leadership in paving the way for the successful adoption of the political declaration. I understand that the negotiations were at times difficult, and I thank all delegates for your diligent and innovative work and for your commitment to achieving consensus.

I sincerely thank all speakers and panellists for their insightful contributions. The interactive segments of all panels were quite lively, and I thank all delegates for their constructive engagement.

Let me also acknowledge the valuable contributions of representatives of civil society who actively participated in the session. The number of registered NGO representatives and the number of oral statements by NGOs have exceeded by far any session of the Commission in recent memory.

There were also a record number of side events this year, and I thank the organizers of those events for enriching the session and creating an rich variety of events for all participants.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our close collaborator and ally, Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, and to her team for their helpful collaboration in the preparation of this year's session.

I also wish to acknowledge the expert advice and hard work of our colleagues from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, which allowed the session to run smoothly throughout the week.

And, last but not least, I wish to express sincere gratitude to my DESA colleagues, in particular the staff of the Population Division, led by Director Mr. John Wilmoth, for their professionalism and dedication to supporting the work of this Commission.

Let me end by emphasizing that the global agenda for population and development that was born in Cairo 30 years ago is making an important contribution today towards achieving the SDGs, and it will remain relevant until 2030 and beyond.

Thank you.

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