

Action Canada for Population and Development

Chairperson and distinguished representatives,

We, the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, with the support of Action Canada for Population and Development congratulate the Commission on Population and Development for focusing the efforts of the 45th session on 'Adolescents and Youth' and congratulate those governments that made youth an integral part of their delegations.

During this important session, we urge governments to not only reaffirm their commitments made in the ICPD Programme of Action but also to advance on issues that have emerged since 1994. It has been almost 20 years since Cairo and we are still negotiating every year to maintain those commitments that have already been established through the Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These agreements made essential advancements for

women's health and rights and young people, in particular.

We cannot wait any longer for commitments that can make a real difference in the lives of adolescents and youth. We are fighting for a world where every adolescent and young person

The outcomes of the 45th session of the Commission on Population and Development will have a real effect on the lives of young people around the world. We strongly believe that adolescents and youth human rights should be at the center of any effort made for development. The ICPD Programme of Action was a strong step forward eighteen years ago. But, to date, many of the commitments made by States worldwide are still far from being implemented. Our participation