



## Canadian Statement to the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Population and

I thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission on Population and Development.

This year's theme, "adolescents and youth," is particularly relevant to the current development agenda. It is estimated that there are 1.2 billion adolescents in the world, forming around 18 per cent of the global population. They represent the greatest source of potential for the future, yet they also face some of the most pressing development challenges. Our shared responsibility is to ensure that young men and women have access to relevant, quality information and services to guide them safely through life decisions and to participate fully and equally in the development of their communities.

Canada continues to be a strong supporter of programs to address HIV and AIDS. Canada has made important contributions worldwide through support to many partners, including developing countries, private civil society organizations, the Global Fund to

Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UNAIDS.

The Government of Canada is also working to improve the health of youth in Canada. The Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada seeks to prevent the spread of the infection, slow its progression, and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS including at-risk youth. In September 2010, Canada's Ministers of Health

Mr. Chairperson

empowerment of girls and young women. The Government of Canada, in partnership with other countries, proudly championed the establishment of October 11<sup>th</sup> as the UN International Day of the Girl. This day will foster awareness of the specific risks faced by