

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. Chairman Excellences Distinguished Delegates

While I am addressing you – somewhere in the world a very poor young girl gives birth to a

child. If she is lucky enough to go to school it will probably mean she will have to drop-out –
leave her friends and future behind her. If she dreams of having an education beyond primary

school, her dreams will most likely never come through. She has a high risk of becoming sick,
or even die, while given birth, and her child has a high risk of never reaching the age of five; or
if it survives of being stunted. What should have been one of the happiest moments of her life
– giving birth to a child – is also one of the most difficult, perhaps even desperate moments in
her life.

Every year this is the reality of 16 million young girls. A staggering number – meaning that this

is 16 million young girls who are members of the world. The lives of these young girls could

to viable solutions, ensuring a green and sustainable future. An agenda for sustainable development that does not include the population dimension is doomed to fail.

We all know the sad facts: Complications from pregnancy continue to be the leading cause of mortality among adolescent girls aged 15-19 in developing countries. Every year, around three

Likewise, we believe that special attention needs to be given to securing the rights of youth and adolescents in conflict-affected and fragile settings. Sexual and reproductive health and rights often suffer neglect in these situation, at the expense of the most vulnerable groups –young girls in particular, who also often fall victims to gender-based violence. Denmark has recently

...to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights in the

humanitarian field in the new Danish Humanitarian Strategy 2010-2015. In partnerships with UNFPA and UNICEF we strive to ensure the protection of both women and youth in conflict and long-lasting crises – often an important gap in the humanitarian efforts.

The priority given to sexual and reproductive health and rights is embedded in the rights concept. Denmark looks forwards the road ahead - paved with both challenges and promises - including the preparations for the twenty-year anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action

in 2014, including the important review of the current state of implementation. The ICPD+20 will also be an important stepping stone towards the formulation of new post-2015 objectives.

...to ensure that all women and girls are empowered to claim their human rights in order to take