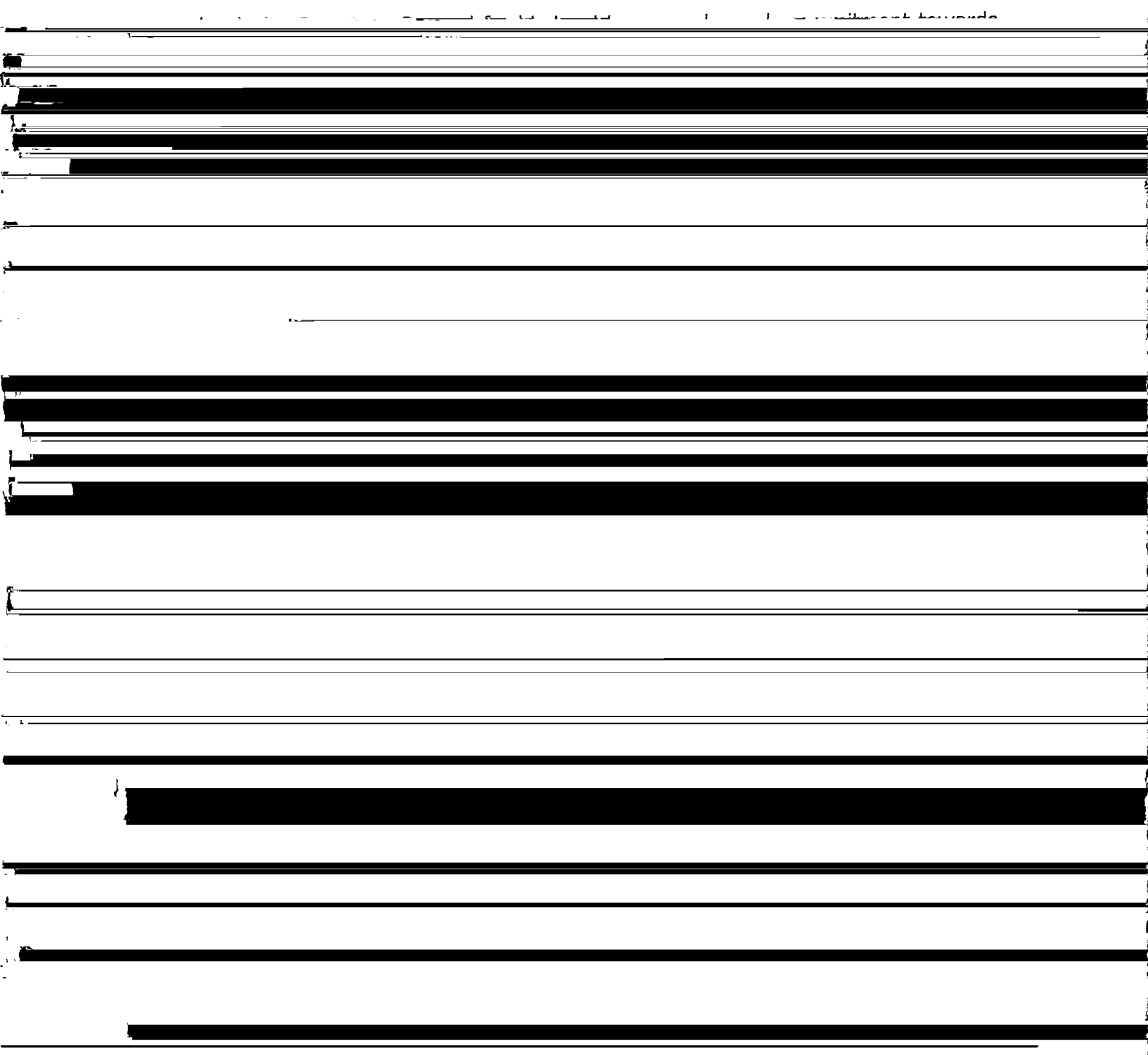




Chairperson,

May I start by congratulating you and the other members of Bureau on your election and state that my delegation and I look forward to a very fruitful session under your able guidance.



Chairperson,

The Government of Swaziland is fully cognizant of the critical importance of investing in

young people especially in the areas of education, health and employment creation. We recognize that young people who constitute the largest proportion of our population

hold the potential to turn the development prospects of our country around. There

AIDS. As a result of these initiatives, the country has realized an increase in enrollment rates from 79 percent in 2004 to 85 percent in 2007, inspite of the threat posed by the HIV scourge. Taking due cognizance of the fact that the education of girls is one of the most important development initiatives which results in profound demographic, social

place measures to ensure that girls stay in school for as long as possible. Hence enrollment and completion rates at primary and secondary school level for males and

negative implications for social development and prosperity of various people, including

I therefore would like to take this opportunity to make a plea to our development partners on behalf of the Swaziland Government to honour the pledges they made towards the implementation of the ICPD-PoA. We need such support us to ensure that