

Statement by the United States
at the 45th UN Commission on Population and Development

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Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the United States, I thank you and the bureau, as well as the Population Division and UNFPA, for your collective efforts to prepare us for the work of this year's Commission on Population and Development (CPD). This year's theme, adolescents and youth, is critically important for all of us and for future generations.

The Program of Action adopted by 179 governments at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, and

confirmed in recent intergovernmental negotiations since then, recognizes that for

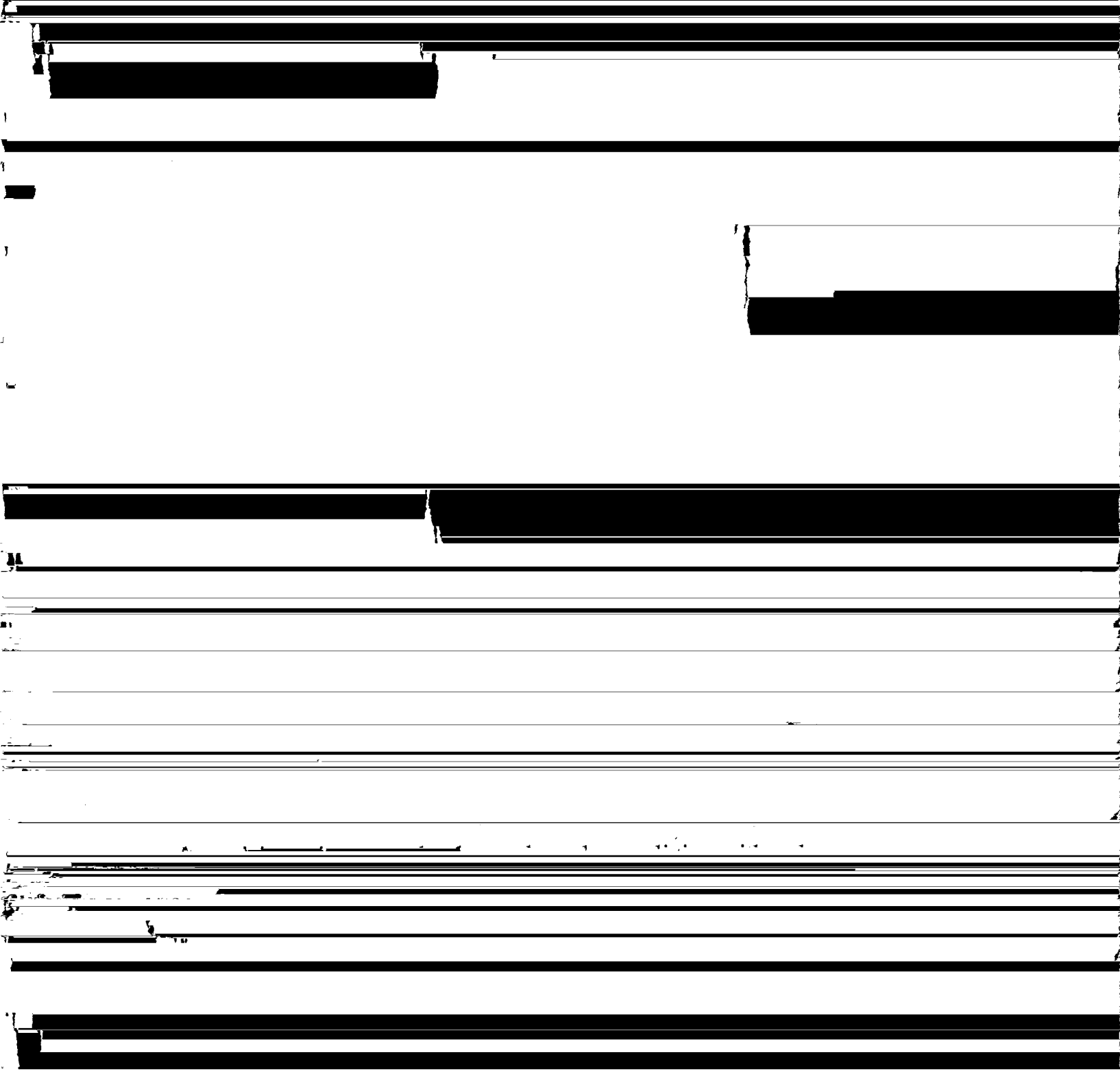
agreements and reality for many of today's adolescents and youth. We do so

in their own right. Today's young people are maturing earlier, both

including unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion, obstetric fistula, cervical cancers, and even death.

We also know that too many young people are vulnerable to multiple

discrimination, especially girls and young women in humanitarian



access to an integrated package of essential health services. And the initiative seeks to increase the participation of women and girls in health care decision-making,

While much remains to be done, the Secretary General's reports to the Commission show significant strides have been made in improving some aspects of youth development in recent decades. We still need to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services while also increasing attention to other health issues of major importance for youth: alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, unsafe sex,

become a powerful force for economic development and positive change.” Our
deliberations can have a significant impact on adolescents and youth themselves