



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT TO THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE 51ST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

13 APRIL 2018

Chairperson and distinguished delegates

The South African delegation was ready to join a consensus that recognized that health, among others, is a precondition for and an outcome of economic and social development, and aware that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development.

We were also ready to agree to recognize the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses and balanced approaches, and also recognizes that international migration is a cross-cutting phenomenon that no one State can manage on its own, and that calls for global approaches and global solutions, as well as the integration of sustainable development, with due regard for social, economic and environmental dimensions,

Chairperson and distinguished colleagues. I trust that this year's negotiations, whilst inconclusive, will be judged at some point in the future as a conversation that yielded better mutual understanding on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration. And it is my strong belief that we have laid a good foundation

I wish to thank all the delegations for your support and constructive engagement throughout the negotiations, to try and achieve an agreed outcome.

I particularly wish to express my thanks to all those who assisted me in the sub-thematic f