

**U.S. Statement at UN Commission on Population and Development
54th Annual Session, General Debate
April 21, 2021**

Delivered by U.S. Representative to ECOSOC, a.i., Ambassador Elisabeth Millard

Mr. Chairman,

The United States is pleased to participate in the Fifty-Fourth Session of the Commission on Population and Development and its review of the implementation the ICPD Program of Action. Achieving the ICPD goals and the related 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets require our unyielding attention and steadfast commitment.

At Cairo, we recognized that advancing human rights, equality and empowerment for women, and global health fundamentally contribute to sustainable development and peace. It is critical to recall the ICPD recognition of the intersection of poverty, malnutrition, the nutritional needs of women of reproductive age, and safe motherhood and child survival. The specific issues of the starts in the womb and extends lifetimes. Women and children are the most vulnerable to the consequences of malnutrition, as can be seen through the high rates of stunting and anemia in these groups. We know the critical importance of additional investment in adolescent girls to compensate for earlier inadequacies. Access to family planning helps to prevent high-risk and unintended pregnancies, which can directly impact maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition as well as household food security.

The United States recognizes that sexual and reproductive health and rights are fundamental to achieving gender equality. Promoting reproductive empowerment and protecting bodily autonomy, including through voluntary access to contraceptives, and prevent27033(ont)3421640347.1 3626y 0

As we consider important intersections across our programming, an example, still critically relevant 25 years after Cairo, emerges from Country Operational Plan which calls on its programs to enhance nutritional support for adults and children and coordinates those interventions across its programs, including for Preventing Mother To Child Transmission and