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PRESS RELEASE

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Explanation of position by Madelyn Spimak Deputy U.S. representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, on the Resolution entitled "Follow-up of the Program of Action of International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994," in the Commission on Population and Development, May 6, 2004

While the United States has joined consensus on the resolution: *Follow-up of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994, the United States Government wishes to make the following explanation of its position:*

There is much in the Program of Action that the United States support. This support is not just theoretical; the United States is a leader in providing assistance to achieve many of the objectives of the ICPD. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, the United States Government provided about \$1.82 billion for health programs, besides family planning and reproductive health, most of this went to HIV/AIDS, child survival and maternal health and HIV/AIDS. Through the United States Agency for International Development, the United States also provided nearly \$474 million for education and training programs in developing countries, mostly for children basic education and literacy as you know, President Bush emergency plan for AIDS relief is being implemented. That plan will provide \$15 billion over 5 years to expand prevention and treatment programs. Of this, \$9 billion will be new money. In addition, \$25 million will be programmed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 to help victims of trafficking. Funding for family planning and reproductive health has amounted to between \$424 and \$446 million over the last four years, a substantial increase over the preceding years. These and other programs demonstrate the U.S. government's clear commitment to many of the objectives of the ICPD.

The United States wishes to associate itself with numerous delegations that made reservations or statements of interpretation on the International Conference on Population and Development, and other major United Nations Conferences as regards the terms "reproductive rights," "reproductive health," "Reproductive health" "Reproductive health care and services," "family planning services," and "Sexual Health." The United States understands that the word "reaffirming" in reference to the "program of Action of the International

EGYPT

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
To the United Nations
New York

Statement to the 37th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
6 May, 2004

Mr. Chairman

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by our colleague, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the G-77 and China.

On the tenth anniversary of the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994, the Commission on Population and Development has just adopted a consensus

----- re-affirming the outcomes of the Cairo Conference. This reflects the continuous support to the Cairo agenda on matters pertaining to population and development, and exemplifies the need to continue exerting efforts, at all levels, towards the attainment of the goals, principles and commitments contained in the report of the Conference A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1, in its entirety. This was clearly stipulated in Cairo and is clearly highlighted by the resolution adopted this session.

In this regard, my delegation would like to underscore the necessity of the full respect, by all Member States, of the outcomes of the Cairo Conference as contained in the said report, as well as the report of its key actions. These reports include the Program of Action its principles, goals, commitments and the reservations of a large number of Member States including Egypt. In this connection, my delegation reaffirms its position expressed in ICPD in 1994 and in ICPD+5 in 1999, and would like to point to its continuous efforts, at the national level, to implement the recommendations of the Program of Action, bearing in mind its clear provision, in the pre-amble to the principals, that such implementation is “ the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws, and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized human rights”.

Furthermore, at the international level, Egypt will continue to oppose the re-interpretation of language pertaining to traditional family values, or any other concepts contained in documents such as the Cairo Program of Action, in a manner that is inconsistent with its position. Egypt will continue to be steadfast in its opposition to and rejection of any attempts to impose new concepts that are inconsistent with its cultural values and religious beliefs.

I would like this statement to be duly reflected in the official report of the Commission.

Thank you.