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# BOLIVIA

## **STATEMENT BY DR. ERICK REYES-VILLA MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

**Twenty First Special Session of the  
General Assembly**

**Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the  
Programme of Action of the International Conference  
on Population and Development**

**New York, July 1, 1999**

**Mr. President, Mrs. Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Distinguished Delegates:**

**The process of review and stock taking that culminates in this Special Session of the General Assembly has demonstrated the political will of all countries to develop national policies in line with the Cairo Programme of Action.**

**Thus, recognizing the renewal of world commitment to a set of proposals, measures, and future actions to advance the Population and Development Programme of Action, I would like to commend Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh, and to thank him, for his tireless effort in the difficult task of negotiation and consensus building within the Preparatory Committee.**

**In the same vein, I would like to recognize the work of the United Nations Population Fund on behalf of national efforts to implement the Programme of Action, and to congratulate you, Mr. President, and assure you of my delegation's commitment to the attainment of the most positive results during this Special Session.**

**Mr. President: The principle that underlies all actions of the Government of Bolivia in its fight against poverty is that of sustainable development within the framework of human rights.**

**We understand sustainable development as a complex holistic process aimed at improving the quality of life of the entire population through economic growth, equitable social development, and the full participation of all citizens, within the bounds of natural resource conservation and preservation of environmental quality.**

**To this end, the Bolivian State has set the political and legal foundation that guarantees popular participation in decision-making processes, and social oversight on the enforcement of the legal framework and the activities of the public sector.**

**Similarly, during the almost five years since the International Conference on Population and Development, the country has attained significant advances in the implementation of its recommendations, thus fulfilling its commitment with the Programme of Action.**

**The importance that the Government of Bolivia assigns to population is reflected in the General Economic and Social Development Plan (PGOES) in which population, gender, and youth as well as ethnic affairs are cross**

cutting themes, and reproductive health is stressed as a governmental policy.

This understanding of population transcends the demographic perspective. It considers population as the fundamental element of development in all its dimensions – economic, environmental, and social -, with their respective objectives and strategies.

The General Economic and Social Development Plan states as objectives and policies: the facilitation of migratory flows, the improvement of marginal urban areas, the rationalization of the use and management of natural resources, gender equity and reproductive health for all.

In Bolivia, the sexual and reproductive health programme is intersectoral. It focuses on sexuality and reproduction in an holistic manner, through education and through primary health services, with a gender perspective, endeavoring to guarantee information, quality care and equitable access to it to all men and women throughout the life cycle, respecting their ethnic and cultural identity and their sexual and reproductive rights.

Within the framework of respect for human rights and strengthening of democracy, the Bolivian State seeks alternative models for the attainment of sexual and reproductive health, models that may fully consider the factors that intervene in integral health processes, which are social, economic, political, and cultural in nature. Thus, during the last decade, activities have followed a path of continuous evolution, and strengthening of sexual and reproductive rights. Educational Reform has incorporated sex education in formal and non-formal education curricula and, together with civil society, we have made efforts to facilitate access to complete, objective and timely information, and to services, in all aspects of reproductive and sexual health.

The National Plan for Integrated Attention to Adolescents and Youth recognizes the rights of adolescents of both sexes, as well as their capacity to make informed decisions on sexuality and reproduction for the realization of which it is imperative to provide them with appropriate orientation, and accessible differentiated services.

We have also made important progress in the legal and normative aspect of gender equity, having passed, for example, the law on domestic violence and corresponding procedural rules, and enacted a Supreme Decree on Equal Opportunity for Men and Women. Implementation of the latter will advance in the measure that we continue to strengthen the mechanisms of men and women's participation at all levels of the decision-making – within the family, in the political arena, in society's

public life. For this purpose the Bolivian State is committed with the cross-cutting integration of gender in all public policies.

These advances have been possible thanks to the political will of the Bolivian Government, the participation of civil society, and the cooperation of international organizations and donors.

In the same manner as Bolivia, many developing countries have made progress in the institutionalization of population policies that are being implemented at this point in time. We consider it important to respond positively to their request for greater commitment and support on the part of the more developed countries, so that this process could be consolidated, and the objectives of the Programme of Action could be achieved. We believe it is necessary to strengthen in this way the alliance between the developing countries, whose contribution to population and development programmes has been even greater than what they committed to in Cairo, and the industrialized countries as strategic partners for world development, who must not elude responsibility to fulfill the technical and financial support commitments made to the Programme of Action.

Bolivia, on its side, will remain firm in its commitment to strengthen population and development programmes, including sexual and reproductive health and promotion of gender equity programmes, the results of which are indispensable for breaking the circle of poverty and enabling us to achieve sustained and sustainable development.

Thank you.