



**ICPD25 – Nairobi Summit
Den 12.-14. november 2019 i Nairobi, Kenya**

**Karen Ellemanns tale under afslutningsceremonien
den 14. november 2019:**

Good afternoon Ladies & Gentlemen and everyone in your diversity.

18. november 2019

I have been looking forward to say this: The Nairobi Summit is a success! We've done it!

In Denmark, we firmly believe that women and girls' rights are human rights. That sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to reach the SDGs. This belief goes across parliament and political parties. I am a proof of this. As chair of the all-party parliamentary group on SRHR and member of the opposition, the Minister for Development Cooperation asked me to make this closing statement on behalf of Denmark.

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What an honor it has been for Denmark to co-convene this Summit with Kenya and UNFPA. Dedication, commitment and hard work do pay off.

What an amazing three days it has been. So much engagement. Activity. Discussion. Dialogue. Inspiration. And not least concrete commitments to realize the ICPD Programme of Action by 2030.

The Danish delegation and I have been reflecting on our main takeaways from the Summit. There are many. But we are in particular proud of the following:

First of all, we wanted the Summit to be an inclusive platform from start to finish. That everyone would participate on an equal footing. No highs, no lows. And this has been achieved to the fullest. Youth has been debating and engaging with presidents. Civil society with private sector. Local chiefs with government officials. This inter-action and shaping of new alliances is absolutely key to reach the 2030 finish line.

Second, we wanted active involvement of youth to be front and center of the Summit. And they have been. We cannot and will not finalize the implementation of the ICPD agenda without them.

Third, we wanted to focus on the how. And we got 1250 commitments over the past three days. From Kenya's commitment to end Female Genital Mutilation by 2022. The private sector's joint pledge to provide funds to achieve the three zeros. To civil society's commitment to make comprehensive sexuality education an integrated part of school curricula. Each and every one important in its own right. These commitments will keep us on our toes and ensure that we stick to our promise to all women and girls.

Denmark's commitment to ensure effective follow-up on all promises made here at the Summit comes with a guarantee label: Enough talking, now we are walking. Leaving no one behind. Because the ICPD agenda is for all. Sexual and reproductive health and rights is for all. Period!

All voices have been heard. Also a few voices reflecting what I would call pushback on the agenda. Unfortunately. I find it very hard to understand how anyone can be against the right to decide over your own body. Your own life. Your own future.

Let me mention one example. The pushback on providing access to health services such as safe abortion. You can make abortion illegal. It will happen anyway. But often under unsafe conditions, which can be fatal for the woman. It is estimated that 25 million unsafe abortions take place every year. This number is way too high. And it will only go up, if we give in to the pushback.

Denmark will do its part to make sure this does not happen. That the fight for women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights continues. That pushback is pushed back.

The last three days have reassured me that we can do this. The Nairobi Summit has made it clear that an overwhelming majority of countries wants to accelerate the promise of Cairo. That an overwhelming majority of stakeholders wants to partner in this effort. To make the ICPD Programme of Action a reality for all.

Thank you everyone. For engaging, inspiring and taking responsibility.

Safe travels home.