Dear Members of Parliament,

I am pleased to share with you a copy of Accelerating the Promise: The Report on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. The report captures the unique essence and substance of the Summit, and I hope you will be as proud of its outcomes as I am.

The engagement and participation of your organization in the Nairobi Summit made its resounding success possible. I thank you for your support and commitment to accelerating action to achieve the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.

As countries around the world grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, we see how critical the issues highlighted at the Summit are. Reports of gender-based violence are skyrocketing, with movement restrictions and mounting domestic stresses contributing to women facing an increased risk of exposure to intimate partner violence. Supply chain disruptions are limiting the availability of contraceptives in many places. Weak, overloaded health systems are diverting already scarce resources away from sexual and reproductive health services, and as always, it is the poorest and most vulnerable women and girls who suffer. UNFPA estimates that the pandemic could result in millions more cases of gender-based violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and unintended pregnancies.

Despite this, I am also encouraged by signs of progress. At the six-month mark following the Summit, we already see countries taking steps to make good on their Nairobi commitments. We see increasing calls to prioritize the rights, health and safety of women and girls, including the recent joint ministerial statement on behalf of 59 countries calling for the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and promoting gender-responsiveness in the COVID-19 crisis. The Government of Sudan’s recent ban on female genital mutilation, along with the President of Kenya’s Nairobi commitment to end the practice, mark a huge step forward for women and girls. The Nairobi Summit set a clear direction for the path ahead and our forward march continues.

Thank you again for your leadership, partnership and championship of the lifesaving ICPD agenda. UNFPA looks forward to continuing our collaboration to deliver concrete results for women and girls and ensure that no one is left behind in the final push to 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Natalia Kanem
Executive Director