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**Statement by UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem
Summit of the Future - Plenary
Monday 23 September 2024 | afternoon session 15:00-21:00
General Assembly Hall**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I greet you in peace, so desperately needed in our turbulent world.

The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, stands with you to forge the path to a better, more sustainable future of peace and prosperity for all.

Demographic shifts - population growth, ageing, migration - are reshaping our world and our future.

In an ever-changing world of over 8 billion, our focus must be on people.

This means ensuring that population dynamics are factored into development plans, with an emphasis on rights, choices, dignity and equality.

It means investing in human capital in health, education, and the empowerment of women and young people. We know this yields significant returns with ripple effects across generations.

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