



early, primary, middle school, and secondary

Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales  
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants  
Comité Católico Internacional de Enfermeras y Asistentes Médico-Sociales Comité International

**59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

United Nations Headquarter, NYC, NY, USA April 13-17, 2026

Oral Statement (3 minutes)

**CICIAMS UN NGO Oral Statement Presenter:**

Mrs. Susanne Staiano –Presenter

**CICIAMS UN NGO Representative:**

Dr. Anne Reeser

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Dr. Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa

Mrs. Diana Ruzicka

Dr. Patricia Sayers

**Theme:** “Population, technology, and research in the context of sustainable development.”

**Chair, Distinguished Delegates, and Guests:**

The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS) would like to thank the 59th Commission on Population and Development for the opportunity to address this assembly.

**CICIAMS’s Oral Statement:**

- 1) Protecting All Persons and Populations
- 2) Technology, Research and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**1. Protecting All Persons and Populations:**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2023, there were approximately 1.3 billion people experiencing significant disabilities. The correlation between disability, aging, and chronic illness is considered the “World’s Biggest Minority.” This population often faces systemic barriers, extreme poverty, inadequate healthcare, and limited access to proper hygiene, sanitation, and clean water (United Nations, 2024 & [n.d.]; WHO, 2024, 2023, 2022).

These vulnerable individuals should receive the resources they need along with reassurance, comfort, and support (Bishop Kevin Doran, 2024).

Since 1948, The United Nations maintains that Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms are inherent to every individual, regardless of condition. (United Nations [UN], 2025, 1948). UN Human Rights Experts reinforce this principle, asserting that physical disability, advanced age, or chronic disease can never justify the termination of life (Hougue, 2021).

Life begins at conception and ends at natural death (USCCB, 2021, 1975). Bioethics experts and the nurses of CICIAMS agree and condemn euthanasia, assisted suicide and abortion (CICIAMS 2025; CICIAMS 2026; Meaney, 2024; UN, 2025). Pope Francis (2024) has characterized euthanasia as a “Failure of Love” and a reflection of a “throwaway culture.” Catholic Healthcare professionals are bound to provide care that honors the inherent dignity and intrinsic worth of every patient, regardless of their clinical condition.

## 2. **Technology, Research, and Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

Human intelligence is a gift from God with its moral rooted in the soul (Pope Francis, 2023). The human intellect is the inventor of all technology. These innovations profoundly transform daily life through communication, health, energy, and productivity, but are only successful when it reaches the margins of society (Farmer, 2014; University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, 2023).

In regions like Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, Catholic healthcare workers often manage 40-70% of rural health infrastructure, the frontlines of global health security (Ambrose Institute, 2022).

Research should remain ethical, moral, and inclusive. Clinical Trials and policy writing should emphasis the person while also focusing on the disease. The ultimate measure of any technology or population policy is whether it enhances the *sanctity of life* (Holy See, 2024).

The UN’s Global Digital Compact (GDC), (2024) aims to bridge the digital divide. However, technology in healthcare must remain a tool and not a substitute for the “human touch” (APA, 2025, Locsin, 2005).

Pope Leo XIV (2026) stated that “Technology is truly “Progress” only when it respects the dignity of the person and serves the global common good.” He emphasized that technical advancements must be guided by moral responsibility (Pope Leo XIV, 2026).

By leveraging AI, telemedicine, and mobile health - we can all bridge the care gap for underserved populations while optimizing clinical workflows and allowing nurses to remain at the bedside (HealthFORCE/AAPA 2025).

In the words of Saint Pope John Paul II:

*“None of us is alone in this world; each of us is a vital piece of the Great Mosaic of Humanity as a whole.”*

**Thank you** from the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS) from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. **God Bless You.**

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