

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

Statement by:

**H.E. Mr. Gholamhossein Dehghani
Ambassador and Charge d’Affaires
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
on**

**Follow up to the Implementation of the plan of action for
International Conference on Population and Development(ICPD) beyond 2014
New York – 09 October 2014**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Mr. President,

This statement was due to be delivered by Mr. Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjad pour Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on implementation of the Plan of Action for International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014. Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons including the long list of speakers my delegation couldn't deliver its statement during the special session and we cease this opportunity to deliver our statement under the agenda item 13(b).

Within the last two decades, The ICPD has provided a global road map to address population and development issues. Even today, the objectives stipulated in the 1994 Plan of Action seem valid and pertinent to the current circumstances and requirements though, we need to be progressive as the world population ages. I commend the forward looking approach of the founders of this comprehensive and balanced document.

The world is undergoing a historical transition in its population age structures with fundamental impacts on the economic and social lives of its inhabitants. Enhancing healthy, educated and prosperous populations as the engine and fortifier of sustainable development requires combating poverty including through empowerment of the poor deprived people and those who live in vulnerable situations. Addressing the challenges call for support for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development through enabled national societies and on enabling international environment. To lessen inequalities, governments should undertake more robust steps in support of equitable distribution of development gains. For the same vein, the provision of basic social services should remain as an integral part of national and international measures to achieve poverty eradication.

Mr. President,

More than half of Iran's population is under 30. This young generation is considered as a golden opportunity and asset for achieving sustainable development. However, Iran's population is fast heading towards aging. Such development would have noticeable economic and social implications. Decreasing number of innovative generation of youth who enjoy efficient expertise and energy is deemed as an obstacle to secure resilient and sustained development in long term. Following a few decades of successful low fertility promotion policies, Islamic Republic of Iran has recently decided to shift the gear in order to sustain its population dynamics capable of ensuring an empowered, educated and prosperous society.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been successful in achieving many of the ICPD and MDG goals even prior to their deadlines. Iran's achievements in the areas of decreasing child and maternal mortality rates, enhancing access to medical services including prenatal healthcare services and provision of HIV/AIDS care, treatment and prevention are well distinguished and highly recognized by relevant international bodies. From a more important and sustained perspective, during the last two decades after the adoption of the ICPD Outcome and its plan of action, Iran has made continuous efforts to provide access to inclusive education for all boys and girls even in the remotest parts of the country as well as training and health for all without discrimination, the result of which is well reflected in the UN relevant reports on MDG and ICPD goals.

Notwithstanding, I would like to call your attention to the illegal inhuman economic coercive measures and sanctions imposed against my people with negative implications on their enjoyment of basic human rights as well as on the country's development agenda, in stark contravention with the soul and spirit of the UN Charter and content of the ICPD. The sanctions have impeded timely and affordable access to medicine, vaccines, equipment, commodities and technologies necessary for ensuring health services. This is incumbent on the world community to stop such inhuman merciless acts.

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Secretary General for his reports titled Recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development, and , Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, even though, I would like to emphasize that the use of terms and phrases in the reports that do not enjoy consensus among the membership and are controversial, will not be constructive to our future discussions on population issues including the ICPD beyond 2014.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that a safe and healthy world can only be claimed if no longer a mother loses her life giving birth, no kid sees its childhood lost, and if every girl and boy find the doors of school open to them as having easy access to quality education and training, healthcare services and nutritious food.

Thank you very much Mr. President.