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Economic and
Social Council

Statement by
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Agenda item 3: Follow-up actions to the recommendations of
the International Conference on Population and Development

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Madam Chairperson,

1. The Indonesian Delegation would like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your election to lead the 42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation as well for the work of the Commission in preparing the insightful report of the Secretary General. We note the report's perspective that population has a decisive bearing on the achievement of the MDGs.
2. It is Indonesia's view that population growth must be well-planned to allow any country to effectively formulate a socio-economic development plan to match its capacity and capability. That type of plan will contribute immeasurably to the social and economic well-being of the country.
3. On the other hand, large number, high rates of growth and low quality of population will undermine the country's quest for social and economic progress. As a result, the ideal balance between the quantity and quality of the population will be so skewed as to leave many legitimate needs unattended and unmet.
4. Indonesia believes that success in creating the right balance between the size of the population and the quality of life it enjoys will bring about positive improvements in all aspects of nations development. The nation will find itself more advanced since its people are able to compete in the global economy. This will facilitate the nation's sustainable development.
5. On this matter, Indonesia views birth control through the Family Planning Program particularly in developing countries, as a development necessity. The program must be seen within the context of demographic imperatives which emphasize the need for planned population growth and the fulfillment of reproductive rights of individuals and couples.
6. In our long term development plan, 2005-2025, we had calculated that the desired replacement level of fertility would have been achieved by 2015 and sustained until 2025. However, in the last few years, Indonesia realized there were some obstacles affecting the full implementation of its Family Planning Program. Projected targets were not being achieved as expected. Since 1997, there has been a slow progress in

controlling the nation's fertility. The fertility of low socio-economical group showed an increase. Along with that, there was no marked tendency among the young women to postpone marriage between 2002 and 2007.

7. There was a shift as well of the Age Specific Fertility Rate peak from the 25-29 age groups in 2002 to the age group of 20-24 in 2007. A high premium was placed by the society on having children at this time. The contraceptive prevalence rate only insignificantly increased from 60.3 percent to 61.4 percent. Unmet need increased from 8.6 percent in 2002 to 9.1 percent in 2007. Furthermore, wide disparities were observed in terms of the birth rate and contraception use among provinces, districts and areas, as well as among socio-economic groups.
8. Those issues depict challenges faced by the Government of Indonesia, both in relation to the nation's demographic targets and the fulfillment of its reproductive rights, as defined at the national level and in the international commitment of Program of Action of the ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals.
9. As a result, the Government of Indonesia is currently involved in an attempt to revitalize its family planning program. Towards this end, Indonesia calls on international community for its cooperation and support.

Thank you.