



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the 42nd session of the Commission on Population and Development on
the agenda item (3) "Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the
International Conference on Population and Development"**

30 March 2009, New York

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of Kazakhstan that the first time works as a member of the Commission, let me congratulate you on your election and wish you success in guiding the work of the Commission.

We thank the Secretary General for presenting the reports, which assess and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, in the context of achieving development goals, including the MDGs.

This year, we celebrate 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, which by its value is historical as a significant paradigm shift in area of population that happened in Cairo in 1994.

The Program of Action set up new principles, goals and measures, in the context of implementing the strategy on population and development that put in the center of attention people, especially women and girls and their rights.

Empowering women is one of the objectives of development itself, and not seen merely as a factor that has a role to play in creating conditions to ensure that women and men together to decide on the composition of their families, as well as to improve the quality of every human life.

Review of the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action showed significant changes in policies and programs, both globally and nationally. Governments, civil society and private sector have undertaken a wide range of efforts to implement the Program of Action. In addition, current international agenda now is taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, including the need to implement strategies for poverty reduction and, increasingly, health sector reform, which emphasizes decentralized decision-making and sector-wide planning and management. In this regard, Kazakhstan already achieved MDGs 1, 2, and 3 and set up a MDGs+ strategy.

Almost 90 percent of the world have developed policies to implement the Program of Action, provided the changes in the legislative and institutional areas, or take other measures at the national level to protect and fulfill reproductive rights.

In 2004, in my country the Law on "Reproductive rights and warranty of their implementation" was adopted in line with Strategy of the reforming of the health care system. National machinery for women advancement was established at the highest political level and the Second Plan of Actions on Gender Equality is aimed at the achievement of gender equality in reality.

Nevertheless, the analysis contained in the Secretary-General's reports shows that the least developed countries, especially in south sub-Saharan Africa, have not achieved their demographic goals for the reduction in population due to the high fertility rate, especially among the poorest.

Recent challenges in the form of global food and financial crises brought to naught the efforts of governments and their partners from civil society and private sector, despite increased funding for population programs in recent

years. There is a serious concern about the reduction of official development assistance, as well as the possible decline in interest to the problems of population, including reproductive health among the private sector partners,

Under these circumstances, despite of the overall state budget cut the Government of Kazakhstan, guarantees social support for the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children, due to their special needs in area of reproductive health, safe motherhood and gender equality and even expanded benefits package to pregnant women and those in maternity leave.

We regret to note the slow progress in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. Another concern is raised by the fact that only 30% of all those in need, including pregnant women receive antiretroviral therapy, despite the fact that the rate of HIV infection has fallen, and programs to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS have become more institutionalized.

Recognizing the priority needs of the least developed countries in the field of population, we must recognize that global crises also affect developed countries and middle-income countries.

Low fertility and increasing life expectancy mostly in developed and middle-income countries have been reached as a result of improving health services and social security that also increased the proportion of elderly population, which is most vulnerable to global challenges in these countries.

However the report does not address issues of aging, although the Madrid Plan of Action requires concerted action to transform the opportunities and quality of life for men and women as they are ageing and to ensure the sustainability of welfare systems to create, thus, the foundation for society of all ages.

Nowadays, nearly half of the world's countries are concerned about low fertility, which leads to a shortage of local labor resources and reduces the markets that also affect the economic development of countries. Within this context an international assessment of the impact of labor migration to the world development, as well as the process of urbanization as a factor of population redistribution in relation to uneven development would be the value added to the reports.

Moreover, we would like to get the best world practices of successful national actions in a low fertility environment to achieve the objectives of socio-economic development along with securing of human rights.

We are pleased to acknowledge a tremendous work carried out by the United Nations Population Fund to meet the goals and objectives of the ICPD Program of Action and evaluation of the role of UNFPA in achieving MDG 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

In conclusion, we deem it useful to analyze interim results on the achieving of development goals, including an assessment of how the concerted actions of the UN development agencies and their partners can contribute to rapid progress of development, as noted in the ICPD Program of Action.

I thank you for your attention.