



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
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Statement

by

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**at the
General Debate on National Experience
in Population Matters:
“New trends in migration: demographic aspects”**

(Agenda Item 4)

**during the 46th Session of the United Nations
Commission for Population and Development (CPD)**

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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all align myself with the statement held by the representative of the EU on behalf of the EU and its Member States. In addition I would like to share with you the following remarks:

Germany welcomes the theme of this year's debate "New Trends in Migration: Demographic Aspects". The discussion of the challenges and benefits of migration dynamics for development is more than timely. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his very comprehensive and insightful reports as well as our distinguished keynote speakers for their excellent presentations.

Mr. Chairman,

Population dynamics differ from country to country. While in some countries - particularly in the poorest countries with a sustained high fertility rate and a young age structure - populations continue to grow, in many other countries fertility has decreased so that some populations are now ageing rapidly. In brief, the demographic developments in industrialised nations and developing countries seem to move in opposite directions. This presents opportunities and incentives to migrate.

Germany has been a country of destination for an increasing range of migrant groups for more than six decades. Among them are so-called "guest workers", family reunification migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, ethnic German migrants and an increasing number of students and qualified workers. Today most of them come from other European countries. The German population is now more diverse than ever and a

large migrant population of almost 20% of the overall population, including their descendants born in Germany, contribute to the development of society and economy. Successful integration is a precondition to enable both migrants and Germany as their country of destination to benefit from migration.

Germany is committed to continued efforts in this respect. As Germany faces challenges from an ageing population and negative natural growth, the Federal Government has commissioned a comprehensive strategy to strengthen respective policies and create new opportunities for sustainable growth. Migration plays an important role in this strategy. Germany will work together with its development partners to make sure that migration can be a success for all: migrants and their families, their countries of origin and Germany as the destination country. We have to make sure that migration has a triple-win effect - for the migrants themselves, for the countries of origin and for the countries of destination:

Germany therefore considers migrants as important agents of development - not only because they send financial remittances and transfer innovation and knowledge back to their countries of origin, but also because they build bridges between their countries of origin and destination. German development cooperation intends to help our partner countries to harness the potentials offered by migration and reduce its risks:

We do this by promoting knowledge transfer through returning experts whose work is relevant for the development of their countries of origin. We provide advice to migrants who wish to invest or start a business in their countries of origin. We co-fund development projects planned and carried out by migrant organisations in their countries of origin. We offer

coherent development-oriented migration policy advice to our partner countries. We are piloting development-friendly labour migration schemes between Germany and different countries and increase transparency in the remittances market with a website comparing transfer costs.

Finally, through better planning, we seize the opportunities and address the challenges associated with migration as well as other aspects of population dynamics, such as population growth and aging. Reliable disaggregated population data and projections are essential for policy makers to identify disparities between and vulnerabilities of people. They inform the design and implementation of development policies and strategies as well as the allocation of resources in order to meet the needs and strengthen the resilience of the population.

About half of the world's migrants are women mostly concentrated in reproductive ages and a large proportion of migrants are young people below the age of 30: We have to make sure that their needs and vulnerabilities are appropriately addressed.

Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for all, with a focus on most vulnerable groups is one of the priorities of German development cooperation in the area of health and population policy. We strive to promote SRHR through a human-rights-based and gender-sensitive approach, while also considering the complexity and causality of SRHR in terms of other sectors, such as education, gender and economic empowerment especially of women.

Germany believes that population dynamics and SRHR need to be reflected as important issues in the post-2015 development agenda. The

current demographic changes will have a huge impact on future poverty reduction and sustainability in every country in the world.

Germany remains committed to the Cairo Programme of Action and the Key Actions formulated five years later. In our view the “ICPD beyond 2014”-process should be seen as part of the larger post-2015 development agenda process. We therefore support the High-Level Task Force for ICPD in order to ensure the preservation of the principles of the Cairo Conference and call upon all partners to support the further implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action and the preservation of the ICPD beyond 2014.

Thank you for your kind attention.