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STATEMENT

BY

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL
POPULATION COUNCIL**

AT THE

**47TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 5: GENERAL DEBATE ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES TO THE THEME OF THE
ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW IN 2014**

NEW YORK, 7-11 APRIL, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ghana wishes to express its appreciation for the opportunity to make a statement at this session and to contribute to the General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review in 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ghana delegation acknowledges the significant progress made by countries on the ICPD-PoA and the continued progress on the Rio+20 outcomes. In the context of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs, we welcome the theme of the upcoming 2014 Annual Ministerial Review Meeting scheduled to take place in July this year on “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”.

Whilst many countries in the developing world are making great strides with regard to their economic development, a lot still remains to be done regarding advancements in social development and in attaining the MDGs. The post-2015 agenda should, therefore, enhance country ownership and increased political will to respond to the emerging issues and gaps of the MDGs, in particular with respect to MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

It is quite clear that the youth budge will continue to be a phenomenon for many countries to deal with. Many countries have made quite significant progress in their demographic transition. However, as many delegations have already pointed out, the demographic transition will not occur automatically and countries will have to work towards its attainment. This calls for a new way of addressing population issues by being committed towards mobilizing resources in-country to pursue the agenda for the realization of this demographic dividend.

Mr. Chairman,

The current situation of maternal mortality is a good pointer to the progress countries are making and the need for increased focus. Unlike some MDGs which rely on direct implementation of sector policies and programmes, such as MDG2, i.e., increasing gender parity in education, etc., MDGs 5 and 6 pose serious challenges cutting across multiple sectors. We, therefore, wish to recommend for consideration a new approach to government business which is driven by social outcomes funded by restructured economies that are growth oriented and resourced innovatively as a key thrust of the post-2015 development agenda as well as improved linkages and coordination among the various sectors in member states and hope this can be well articulated at the upcoming Ministerial Review Meeting.

We also think that women and girls should be at the centre of post-2015 development discourse to ensure that in their attempt to produce lives, they do not unfortunately lose their own lives in the process through needless and often avoidable causes. This is an important issue which we cannot lose sight of. Ghana is committed to any process that will ensure that women and girls in particular are empowered through education to contribute towards the enhancement of quality of life for all as underscored within the ICPD-PoA framework.

Thank you.