

Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly

As written



Statement

by

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*Vice-President of the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Hungary
at the 32nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development
acting as Preparatory Committee for General Assembly Special Session
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Hungary is among the countries where demographic processes have for long decades been in the limelight of political and public attention. As often reported among others in response to UN inquiries, low fertility, high mortality, the subsequent population decline and demographic aging represent constraints in several development sectors.

The Hungarian Government therefore promotes various instruments to improve the demographic picture, in accordance with the principles and objectives of ICPD and other UN conferences. We also welcome the current ICDP+5 process which provides an excellent opportunity to individual governments and the international community to take stock of the path already covered and the steps to be taken to 'implement the Cairo PoA. Countries in the ICPD+5 process, appropriately, do not engage in renegotiating issues on which consensus was achieved in Cairo, they rather undertake a review of where we stand and what the key future actions should be. The report of the Secretary-General is a very fair presentation of most of the issues agreed on in Cairo. However, my delegation wishes to draw attention to three issues that, in our view, are not adequately covered by the Secretary-General's report.

1. One is **mortality and morbidity**. These are possibly less important in many countries, but high levels of morbidity and mortality in all age groups are of special concern to a sizable group of countries, among them my own. The Cairo PoA addresses the issue in a separate chapter, and this, in our view, is not adequately dealt with in the review process.

2. The other issue I wish to raise is the role of the family. Despite the changing family formation patterns, the family is the basic unit of society and the basic unit of reproduction. My Government strongly supports and advocates measures that promote the cohesion of the family and the ability of families to raise children. We would also like to see, in the ICPD+5 process, as well as in the Secretary-General's report, reference to the fulfillment of ICPD objectives set out in Chapter V of the ICPD PoA.

3. The challenge of demographic aging arises at the family, community and national level. Human dignity is a right of members of all generations, and this fundamental right has to be translated into policy actions of care and support for the elderly and the promotion of intergenerational solidarity at the family and society level.