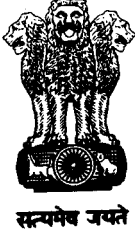


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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Y.N. Chaturvedi

S e c r e t a r y

Department of Family Welfare

Government of India

at the 32nd Session of the
Commission on Population and Development

On Agenda Items 3 and 4

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New York

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive documents E/CN9/1999/2-5 before us today.

2. The report of the Secretary General on world population monitoring (E/CN9/1999/2) provides useful information and insights. Growing urbanization of population distribution is also being encountered in India, though India's population still remains largely concentrated in rural areas. We have also noted the rising impact of international migration on populations of both sending and receiving countries and look forward to more **indepth** studies on the issue. Growth in older age population is also being experienced in India and has been factored in our family welfare planning activities. Paragraph 52 of this report that the most important factor for poverty is the macro-economic environment, though population growth rate is also intimately linked with the eventual elimination of poverty. However, as the World Summit on Social Development had noted an open, transparent, rule-based international economic environment, which is supportive of development of developing countries, is an essential part of this matrix. In brief, while national Governments can and do try to create the "virtuous circles" described in paragraph 57, their efforts can produce effective results only when international environment is favourable, as amply demonstrated by the experiences of several countries.

3. We also thank the Secretary General for the report on the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development. India is both a receiving and sending country for migrants. We believe that in the era of ever freer capital flows, it is difficult to comprehend that human capital would be restricted, by accident of birth, to certain parts of the planet. In fact, India with barely 2.5% of the land area, now supports over 16.7% of the total global population. We have noted the clear assertion in paragraph 18 of the report that "despite globalization, States still had considerable power to control international migration'!. We support the conclusion drawn in the report that ill-conceived control mechanisms or a disproportionate focus on control might be contributing to irregular migration, with attendant risks.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Allow me to briefly turn to the most important document E/CN9/199/4 — the report of the Secretary General on flow of financial resources. It is clear that while the developing countries have met nearly 78% of the commitments undertaken by them for mobilizing domestic resources, the commitment of external assistance, appears to be lagging at less than half that figure. We strongly believe that the Special Session of the General Assembly, in June this year, must provide the necessary impetus and generate political will for meeting these resource mobilisation commitments. In this regard it is useful to recall that the costed package of ICPD did not include the additional resources that would be required to support other areas, such as the status of women, employment, provision of basic social services, eradication of poverty etc. The ODA levels are at an historic low and it appears that the increases in external funding for population activities in the immediate post-ICPD period have largely emanated from redistribution rather than from additionalities. As paragraph 11 of the report states “population activities are actually receiving a larger share of **decreasing** total ODA.”

5. We have been happy to note from paragraphs 11 and 30 that the patterns of external assistance and domestic expenditure are largely congruent, demonstrating the true international consensus in this field. We do however have a concern on the decreasing share of multilateral organizations within external assistance for population activities. The decline from 31% to 24% of the total external assistance is significant and needs to be reversed in order to preserve and promote multilateralism and multilateral development cooperation.

6. A final point, Mr. President, on paragraph 36 of the document. As a democratic country, devoted to social uplift, India is committed to increasing social sector spending in its budget and plan outlays. The total plan expenditure on social services in the Central Plan outlay, taking into account the expenditure on development of rural areas, exceeds 23%. However, we continue to see the 20:20 Initiative as a voluntary initiative among interested donor and recipient countries, as agreed during the World Summit on Social Development and not as a prescriptive formulation or even the most important factor in additional resource mobilisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.