

**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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at the
Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for
the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of
Action of the International **Conference** on Population and Development
25 March 1999, New York

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to congratulate **you** and the other distinguished members of the **Bureau** on your well deserved **elections**. We are confident, that under your **leadership** the work of this Preparatory Committee, will embrace **success**. I would also **like** to fully associate my delegation with the statement made yesterday **morning** by the distinguished representative of **Guyana** on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The International Conference on Population and **Development** **five** years ago was

a major global event. It addressed the critical issue of population, in the context of development; and produced an important document, for whose review and appraisal, we have gathered here. Therefore, the very first and the foremost objective of the review process, inclusive of this Prep. Com. Meeting, is to remain faithful to the letter and spirit of the Cairo Programme of Action. The review process is called on to assess the state of the implementation of that document, take stock of achievements, at both national and international levels so far, identify the obstacles, and also to explore new initiatives and measures, to further promote its implementation. It is therefore imperative for all of us, developed and developing, not to get derailed from a path of constructive, objective-oriented discussion, and not miss a propitious opportunity for genuine north-south partnership, which was the hallmark of the Cairo Conference. The few days available to us here, should not be allowed to be wasted on unnecessary controversy and sterile debate, on new concepts and ideas which are far from international acceptability/ and, in any event, can hardly be expected to contribute to the implementation of what we agreed back in 1994. The right approach to this aspect of our work in the meeting is detrimental to our success now, and at the Special Session itself. To this end, we rely on the wisdom and discretion of you, Mr. Chairman, as well as on the cooperation of everybody.

Having made this **point**, let me say that as underlined previously/ by other colleagues, the question of population is not a numbers game. Rather, it is **about** human **beings, and** it deals with such important and sensitive concepts and issues as **family, marriage? reproduction, and sexuality, which** play a central role in the life of all societies. At the conceptual level;, because **these** concepts involve long-established universal fundamental ethical principles, and **values**, their treatment necessarily requires commensurate consideration/ and cannot be subjected to a “laissez faire, laissez passer” mentality and approach. At a more practical level, however, population **policies** and **programmes**, constitute an essential element, in the overall human development strategy of each and every society/ and whose successful planning and implementation depends, in the final **analysis, on** the overall progress in the economic growth and development of each individual society. Within this **context**, poverty is to be considered as the most formidable enemy of human development policies in **general**, and population policies in **particular**. Needless to **say, then**, that poverty eradication/ would help to create the necessary social and economic milieu/ in **which** access to basic **services, including** health services and family **planning**, could be improved and provided on a mass **scale**. But, as we all know, enabling environment for the formulation and implementation of sound population policies/ cannot be merely limited to the national level. Creation and sustenance of an overall enabling **environment**, at the international level, is equally

imperative, **particularly**, in 'these times of unfettered globalization/ and its drastic economic, socio-cultural and even political **impact**, on all societies? in particular, developing countries. }

Mr. Chairman,

Existing data ^{on} **total global domestic resource flows for population** ~~indicate that~~ ^{indicate that} developing countries have made substantial progress in achieving the goals set in **Cairo**. **This** is clearly indicative of their practical **commitment**, to what they undertook in ICPD five years **ago**. **That**, however, cannot be said about the international assistance. A whole lot more needs to be done in this respect. And in fact, an important part of our success in the review process, is directly related to, and contingent upon success in resource **mobilization**, and international cooperation. Another area of progress in the developing countries/ concerns the formulation of new national population policies or programmes, or revising of the existing policies and programmes. We believe this is the right approach/ and should be further encouraged and facilitated by the review process. Formulation and implementation of national population **policies, is bound** to make a real difference on the ground. The international **community, can** indeed make a valuable contribution in this area, by provision of necessary **resources, both** financial and technical/ and through a more concerted efforts/ in the field of capacity **building in** the developing countries. Rapid and continuing growth in the number of young **people, on**

a global scale, particularly in the developing countries, is one of the major challenges we all face now, and more so in the future, which needs to be addressed in earnest and with priority. The review process, should undertake to adopt requisite initiative and measures, towards creating a safe and supportive environment for adolescents, which calls for the active involvement and participation of all stakeholders.)

Mr. Chairman,

The international community is fully aware of the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of population policies, over the past decade. However, due to time constraint, I cannot elaborate on our national policies now, particularly as far as the relevance and applicability of our experience is concerned. That could wait for some other occasion. Nevertheless, I would like to take the opportunity to emphasize the importance of due consideration in the outcome of the review process, for the provision of necessary services for refugees, and displaced people, within and outside their countries.)

which brought down the national population growth rate from 3.2% in 1986 to 1.4% in 1998.

Thank you very much.