

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

As written



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

**TO THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
ACTING AS THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

NEW YORK, 26 MARCH 1999

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin my statement by expressing our appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent documentation submitted for this preparatory committee meeting.

The size and the structure of the population of Turkey, underwent a transformation during the 20th century. Changes which were slow in the beginning, later gained speed and there now is a 'new demographic face on an old society.' Soon after the beginning of the planned period, a consensus developed with regard to the importance of the impact of population problems in economic and social development. The interrelationship between development efforts and population factors surfaced and an awareness of population issues became more widespread than ever. However, strong variations exist across the country. Therefore, a single approach to address population issues may not be appropriate. A long-term solution and eventual stable system require private sector initiatives, supported by the government's interventions in the pockets of less developed areas.

Within this context, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that since ICPD, Turkey has realized the following achievements:

Turkey has solidified the ICPD Programme of Action by developing some national action plans. These are: the National Environmental Action Plan, the National Action Plan for Women, the National Action Plan for Children, the National Action Plan for Women's Health and the Family Planning and the National Plan for Prevention of HIV/AIDS. These plans were realized through a wide-based participation of relevant actors in Turkey.

Turkey believes that population programmes would not be successful, unless they are developed and implemented in collaboration with civil society. Different sectors, including public, private and NGOs, should be included in decision making process. Such a multi-sectoral approach should take into account the needs of both the individual and the society, as well as the rights of individuals.

ICPD has brought a conceptual change in the provisions of family planning services. Currently, services provided by all sectors recognize the importance of a reproductive health approach.

Turkey has the capacity of building expertise in the areas of human resource and institutional development. We are sharing our experience with neighbouring countries in the region by providing technical assistance through public and private institutions and NGO's.

Turkey has adopted the usage of management information systems in population related areas. In accordance with recommendations of the ICPD on data collection and information sharing, Intelligent Code Reader Technology was utilized during the last population count. Turkey has hosted a seminar on the usage of Information Communication technologies for ICPD advocacy in 1998.

Mr. Chairman,

The Turkish delegation would like to see the following issues to be reflected in the outcome of the Special Session.

Changing age structure does not diminish problems associated with them. It brings new challenges. Thus, while some countries should develop new measures to reallocate their resources to aging population, others should continue with emphasis on supporting the young ones. Investing in the quality of young cohorts does not only solve the problems of today, but also establishes a strong foundation for the betterment of the aged population of the future. Through increasing levels of information sharing and communications technologies and means of transportation, the local communities are becoming more integrated with the global world and the world is becoming a single society. Five years after the ICPD, we continue to observe pressures as strong as ever, stimulating the movement of the young working age population from the areas of restricted opportunities into the economies which demand their labour. Thus, by ICPD+10, international migration is expected to be more common, more widespread and more frequent. The influx of young age labour from developing countries also facilitates the transfer of funds for improving social security and pension schemes in receiving countries. Thus, migration is mutually beneficial for both sending and receiving countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Since ICPD, although the world has witnessed considerable improvements with respect to morbidity and mortality, problems still exist in some parts of the world, as well as in my country which await effective intervention for the health sector. The Secretary-General's report stresses the importance of the maternal mortality. However, we believe the inclusion of health and mortality section will empower our commitments to the ICPD in providing access to basic health care for all in order to increase the life span and quality of life. In accordance with the above considerations, we would like the document to make reference to the need for health care reform.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the identification of population problems as well as addressing these problems are being firmly established in development plans. During the three decades since the Bucharest Conference, population issues have been appraised with an ever growing awareness. On the way to the ICPD+10, we shall realize the turn of the century which will mark the close of a millennium and the beginning of a new one. With the commencement of a new millennium, we hope that the international community will take the bull by the horns and do all that are required to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

Thank you.