



# Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

820 Second Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel: (212) 972-3105/3106 Fax: (212) 972-3154

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. KIM Song, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations at the General Debate of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development**

**(2 April 2019, New York)**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in appraisal of the opening of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development this year marking the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as well as 50th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), expresses its confidence that the meeting will result in great outcome under your able leadership.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in Cairo in 1994, is an important guideline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and improving the health and welfare of the humankind.

Mr. Chair,

During the last over 70 years, the Government of the DPRK has made it supreme principle of the State activities to continuously improve the health and well-being of the people and apply it into every aspects, in compliance with inherent requirement of the people-centered socialism of our own style.

The DPRK Government has put forward a new strategic line of concentrating all its efforts on the construction of economy and increased its state investment into the area of public health as a part of its efforts to achieve the goals set by the National Five-year Strategy for Economic Development.

As of result, during the years 2011-2017, a lot of considerable successes have been made such as sharp decrease in the maternal, infant and child mortality rates while the rate for skilled birth attendance and immunization coverage have reached almost to 100% and the life expectancy of the people was increased markedly.

In particular, we have achieved many successes in the areas of improving reproductive health and preventive treatment for TB and malaria in close collaboration with the UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and other international organizations.

As shown by the socio-economic, demographic and health survey 2014, the literacy rate of population has reached to 99.97% that led to every youth and children under school age fully enjoying the benefit of access to universal 12-year free and compulsory education and thus growing up as the pillars of the country without any discrimination.

And there have been recorded great successes in the efforts of realizing gender equality, enhancing the rights of women and ending all forms of discriminations against the women.

The DPRK Government has pursued a consistent policy for legally guaranteeing full equality and social rights of the women and enhancing women's status by adopting the Decree on Gender Equality in 1946 followed by the Socialist Constitution and the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women.

It is further noted that the DPRK Government has strengthened its cooperation with international community such as signing on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2001 and submission of the combined progress report, etc.

In addition, number of successes have also been made in the work to enhance the status and social role of the youth and children in pursuit of the policy of giving priority to the youth and to provide the elderly by the State and different public societies with social insurance, medical care and elderly home support programme under the Law on the Care of the Aged and to realize equal distribution of the population through the development of urban areas in a balanced way.

It is the constant position of the DPRK Government to successfully achieve the goals set by ICPD Programme of Action in close collaboration with international community including cooperative agencies of the United Nations. The attendance of our delegation and submission of the national report to the meeting for a mid-term review on implementation of the Ministerial Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region held in Bangkok in November last year was one of examples for this effort.

Mr. Chair,

At the Ministerial Meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held in July last year, there was a discussion on the way how to overcome the existing challenges in implementing the 2030 agenda for SDGs and to concentrate efforts of the international community on achievement of these goals.

In order to successfully implement the ICPD Programme of Action and achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and prosperity of the humankind, it is important to create favorable international environment and strengthen the international cooperation.

However, the current reality shows that the earnest efforts of UN member states to achieve the Programme of Action of ICPD and SDGs are faced with serious obstacles because of ulterior political purpose and inhumane hostile acts derived from certain countries.

Due to anachronistic hostile policy against the DPRK and politicization of the humanitarian assistance, the efforts of the DPRK Government and cooperative works of the humanitarian agencies including the UNFPA to implement the Programme of Action of Cairo and achieve the SDGs are faced with great challenges and it, in turn, affects negatively the international efforts for sustainable development.

We strongly assert once again that the humanitarian assistance towards the DPRK should not be impacted negatively by any form of sanctions, and all unfair and discriminative measures should not be tolerated any longer in the fields of economy, finance and trade and that all the efforts should be directed towards achieving SDGs and implementing the Programme of Action of ICPD.

The Government of the DPRK, firmly asserting that it will make every effort to undertake its international obligations for ICPD Programme of Action and SDGs in compliance with unanimous desire of the entire humankind, renders its full support to the adoption of the Declaration for this session.

I thank you.