



Non-official translation

**STATEMENT OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION AT THE FORTIETH PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, April 9-13, 2007.

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Mexico expresses its recognition to the General Secretariat of the United Nations and to the Population Division for the realization of the fortieth period of sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. We salute the President of the session and all the participants, with the certainty that the efforts combined here will translate into favorable results.

The Government of Mexico is aware of the implications of the changes in its demographic pyramid, which may be either in favor or against its development. The outcome fully depends on the policies implemented to respond in a timely and equitable manner to this reality.

Besides its volume, the population group between 15 and 24 years old represents a challenge itself in ensuring the satisfaction of its needs and the full development of its capacities. These young men and women will become the majority of the working-age population in the following 25 years, period in which a favorable relation of dependency will emerge.

In 2006, the population between 15 and 24 years old reached the 20 million, equivalent to 19 percent of the total. Its growth is slowing down, and by the beginning of 2011, it will even be negative. Its volume will be 14 million in 2050, merely 11 percent of the total population. The

latter, as a result not only of the fertility rate, but also of international migration, which reveals that the structural conditions have not responded to the pressures caused by social and demographic change in Mexico: between 2000 and 2005, we have lost 220,000 young people every year (38% of the international migration).

Crucial decisions and transitions occur during youth, stage in which persons have favorable conditions to escape poverty, which currently affects 47 percent of the Mexican young people. Certain behaviors favor intergenerational transference of this condition, such as school desertion, and early coupling and fertility.

Mr. Chairperson,

Mexico has achieved important progress in reference to the reproductive health of its youth. Between 1992 and 2006, fertility decreased from 88 to 60 births per every 1000 women between 15 and 19 years old, and from 175 to 119 women between 20 and 24 years old. Nevertheless, we are facing a significant challenge regarding the use of contraceptive methods, which is of only 53 percent, and also the reduction of unsatisfied demand, which is 28 percent, 16 percentage points higher than the national average.

Further, education levels have increased substantially; thus it is foreseeable that universal education at primary and middle-school levels will be achieved before 2015. However, an increasing demand for middle-upper and upper-level education persists to be unsatisfied: in 1970, 8 percent of the youth had a preparatory-level education or higher; at present, this amount has reached 42 percent. It is estimated that 7 out of 10 young persons of 15 years old attend school; half of them abandons school at 17 years old, and only 29 percent remain in school at 20 years old.

Youth is the transformation force to achieve a better Mexico, with more freedom, more inclusive, equitable, and supportive with all its generations. The possibility to respond adequately to the demands of an increasing ageing population, will depend to large extent on the formation of human capital and of opportunities for development for youth.



The population above 60 years old currently represents nearly 8 percent of the total population, and will constitute 26 percent in 2050. Almost half of this group continues working, most of them in the informal sector. From 2000 to 2005, the percentage of those who received a pension or retirement stipends increased from 18 to 22, while the percentage of persons with social security rose from 49 to 56.

The ageing of the population poses substantial pressures for the health system given the proliferation of chronic-degenerative diseases, and higher incidence of disabilities. Women dedicate twice the amount of time than men to taking care of household members' health; this burden is likely to intensify. In the last three decades, the lifetime of women with at least one living parent increased from 16 to 23 years, and currently four out of ten women whose mother is still alive, reach an elder age. Addressing the needs of the ageing population and look after their integral well-being is an obligation we can not elude.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of President Felipe Calderón endorses the commitments assumed in the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including: enhancing liberties of persons aimed at achieving the full development of their capacities; protecting human rights, including reproductive rights; seeking equity between men and women; as well as eradicating poverty. Mexico reiterates its conviction that the multilateral mechanisms are a privileged means to promote a socially equitable, sustainable, and supportive development, as States compelled to almost 13 years ago.

Thank your for your kind attention.