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Commission on
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Statement by
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Agenda item 4: General debate on national experience in population matters: contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

New York, 31 March 2009

Madam Chairperson,

1. First of all, my delegation would like to align itself to the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. It is a great pleasure for the delegation of Indonesia to take part in the 42nd session of the Commission on Population and Development. At a time when lives are being disrupted everywhere because of the current financial crisis and poverty continues to victimize millions, we are reminded of the critical link between population and development. Both the ICPD and Millennium Declaration, recognizing development as a people- oriented process, have established goals to improve the lives of people wherever they located.
3. Population policies, emphasizing the formation on high-quality human capital, have long been incorporated into Indonesia's development process. This has been the national response to the requirements for social and economic development, as articulated in the universally accepted development goals, including the MDGs.
4. To date, long term population development planning in Indonesia has significantly reduced our birth and mortality rates. At present, Indonesia is entering the third phase of demographic transition. This has resulted in a demographic dividend that is projected to reach its peak during the period 2015-2025. The 2015-2025 timeframe will be our window of opportunity for sustained economic growth, only if the human resources are properly prepared. After 2020, the dependency ratio is projected to increase slowly and will continue in this manner because of the increase in aged dependents. For this reason, the human capital formation program has been made the central issue for Indonesia's long-term development plan, 2005-2025.
5. Human capital formation in Indonesia is a comprehensive process. It includes programs dealing with poverty, education, gender equality and women empowerment, family planning, nutrition intake, maternal and child health, HIV/ AIDS, TBC and malaria, as well as the empowerment of adolescent and young adult.
6. Poverty eradication programs are directed to provide basic needs, including improvement in nutrition intake particularly for pregnant mothers, infants and children under five, the development of social security system in the form of basic

education compulsory program, health and family planning services. Furthermore, they prioritize building local economies, maintaining their economic stability, promoting trade, investment and job-creation.

7. Education programs are designed to increase access and opportunity for all individuals of school age, with a particular emphasis on those who live in poor and isolated areas. Poor people are provided with scholarships, school subsidies, and school operational assistance. Among other things, school operational assistance exempts the poor from school fees, grants subsidies for books, thus allowing children from the poor families to continue their education up to junior high school.
8. Gender equality and women empowerment programs strive to ensure the integration of gender equality in legislation, policies, programs establishment and all other development activities. Through those programs, the quality of life and the social roles of women are being improved by means of affirmative actions, the building of effective institutional capacity and gender mainstreaming networks. The two principles of gender equality and women empowerment have caused social institutions to improve their performance on behalf of women. They have also led to the revision of legislation and policies that displayed a clear gender bias and/or discriminated against women. With regards to the placement and protection of women migrant workers, a national policy has been developed to empower and employ workers optimally and humanly, to ensure and protect the worker in home and destination country and to improve the prosperity of the workers and their families.
9. The main concern of family planning program is to enhance the quality of its services and to increase access to those services. Special attention will be given to those who live in poor isolated *and remote* areas. In addition, the Government *promotes* the use of long term contraceptives such as IUD and male or female sterilization and pays more attention to low parity couples and integrates family planning promotion with other development programs including income-generating activities.
10. Maternal and child health programs are being developed within the continuum of health care framework. They focus on the improvement of cost effective access and quality of maternal, new born and children under-five health services. They also

strengthen cross sector and cross program cooperation, empower family and community, as well as improve the planning coordination and activities including advocacy and maximizing funds allocation of making pregnancy safer and child survival.

11. In combating HIV/AIDS for high risk group, a National Action Plan has been implemented with main goals: 1) Prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2) Care, Support and Treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS 3) monitoring or surveillance, 4) operational research, 5) creation of a social supportive environment, 6) coordination and harmonization, as well as 7) sustainability of the program. When constructing HIV/AIDS programs, due account is taken of gender sensitivity and the role of NGOs and civil society in particular women organization. In concrete terms, this means there are now gender sensitization program for all stakeholders relating to national effort to combat HIV/AIDS as well as increased involvement of women in counseling, peer education, and collection of gender disaggregated data on HIV/AIDS.
12. Responses to malaria eradication in Indonesia are made up of eight activities which are: early diagnosis and appropriate treatment; the use of bed nets and insecticides; fumigation; active and passive surveillance; fever surveys and migrant surveillance; epidemic control and detection; as well as other measures such as larvaciding and capacity building. In order to deal with strains of malaria that are resistant to chloroquine, malaria control by the central and regional governments are using a combination of new anti-malaria drugs called artemisin to improve treatment.
13. The Indonesian Government has designated the control of tuberculosis as a national health priority. In 1999, the National Integrated Tuberculosis Eradication Movement was launched to accelerate a work to eliminate tuberculosis through an integrated approach. The program involves hospitals, private sector, patients and the community. In 2001, all the provinces and districts launched this movement.
14. The range of population activities does not exclude young people. The adolescent reproductive health program has as its main goal a vastly improved quality of family life. Encouraging young people to delay marriage is one of the strategies being employed to achieve this goal. In addition, measures are being implemented to ensure adolescent comprehension of reproductive health rights. Steps have also

been taken to make certain that social and governmental institutions provide adolescents with population education and reproductive health services, including counseling on adolescent problems.

15. Bearing in mind the complexity of the implementation of ICPD Plan of Action and its importance for development, Indonesia acknowledges the significance of international cooperation and exchange. In this respect, Indonesia again appeal to the international community and donors to support Partners in Population and Development (PPD), a South-South initiative where its 24 members represent more than 50 per cent of the world's population. Thus, it is crucial to sustain population policies and programmes in Member States of PPD that will greatly influence the global population dynamics.
16. In closing, let me emphasize the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to population and family planning as vital prerequisites to achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs. We fully recognize and will continue to act on the principle that the hopes of social and economic development are always intimately connected to demography.

Thank you.