

STATEMENT
BY
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At The 42nd Session of the
Commission on Population and Development
New York, 30 March 2009

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Madam Chair, on your election to lead 42nd session of the Commission on Population and Development. My felicitations also go to other members of the bureau on their election. I should also commend the Population Division as the secretariat of the Commission for preparing the reports and the organization of our meetings this week.

Madam Chair,

The theme for this year is the culmination of our discussions on various dimensions of population issues that have been taken place in the Commission in recent years. As we are commemorating the 15th year after the International Conference on Population and Development, we join other delegations to take advantage of this unique opportunity to review the progresses so far made, and address many challenges remain ahead of us. Like many other developing countries, my delegation wishes, at the outset, to align itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China that was delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sudan this morning. The Group's statement highlighted the close interconnectedness

between implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, and achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

Population enhancement goals are integral part of the overall development goals and their achievements have been the principle mandate of the United Nations system for decades. That is in the same line with what we understand from the report E/CN.9/2009/3 which explains through tables and figures, how population related indicators interact with “development” in different regions including the country examples. The report has well proved the effects of population dynamism on each relevant MDG and provides policy guidance in countries lag behind ICPD expected levels of improvement.

Notwithstanding the very facts that have been provided by the report which deals with population causes of underdevelopment, I would like to emphasize that it is also underdevelopment that hinders the attainment of ICPD goals in developing countries. In other words, our theoretical analysis of the effective elements in relation between population and development should not bring about misperceptions of the current imbalanced development picture on the ground. Needless to say, developing countries are facing tremendous economic and financial challenges that they have inherited from the unjust and imbalanced global economic, financial and trade systems. I do not intend to delve into details of it as this is not our topic today, but just to reiterate that we look at the issue from a broader angle which considers international development as a comprehensive theme under which various aspects of human development can be defined.

Madam Chair,

Discussing policies that governments should formulate and implement in accordance with their national priorities and needs, would not be comprehensive if we do not take into account the restrictions and difficulties they are facing particularly in providing adequate funding to sectors supporting well beings of their population. As the Secretary General report E/CN.9/2009/5 has stated, *the lack of adequate funding remains the chief constraint* for many developing countries in meeting their goals. Although by the same report it is indicated that financial resources for ICPD Programme of Action have been steadily increasing, there is still a big gap between the actual resources and what is needed – let alone that even existing resources have not been allocated to all components of ICPD programme in a balanced manner. Moreover, we are also concerned of the realization of funding commitments by donors in light of the current financial and economic crisis.

As there are diverse challenges to developing states, the responses should also vary, including *inter alia* based on the levels of development. My delegation wishes to reiterate the importance of capacity building and capacity development as the core exercise of all relevant stakeholders in realizing the global partnership for development. The United Nations should have a leading role in this regard and efforts in scaling up the activities in capacity development are seen as right steps to address the current challenges in a more sustained manner. Although many of the UN operational activities for development are aimed at capacity development, but they yet fall short of our expectations. We commend the work done by

the UNFPA in its contribution to the ICPD goals as reflected in the report E/CN.9/2009/4. We also concur with the introductory observation of the report that a *new approach to technical support* is necessary for speeding up the progresses. We wish to hear more from UNFPA on ways to boost new initiatives in this regard.

Here I can not but to mention the importance of promoting South-South cooperation to utilize the first hand knowledge and experience of south countries in tackling population issues. This year we are also commemorating the 30th year of the Conference on technical cooperation between developing countries; the United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation which is due to convene in Nairobi, Kenya in late June. We do expect that there will be some valuable inputs on essential population issues to this important event.

I thank you, Madam Chair.