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**Commission on Population and  
Development  
43<sup>rd</sup> Session  
Economic and Social Council**

**Statement by  
Indonesian Delegation**

**Agenda Item 6:**

**"General Debate on the Contribution of Population and  
Development Issues to the theme of the Annual  
Ministerial Review in 2010: Gender Equality and Women's  
Empowerment"**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by thanking you for inviting the President of ECOSOC to address the Commission.

By the same token, I would like to express my appreciation to the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, for addressing the Commission. Your presence, Your Excellency, is an affirmation on the importance of this particular issue at our deliberation today for the work of ECOSOC and development at large.

Allow me now to bring to your attention the gloomy facts about women which I quote from the United Nations Population Fund:

Women constitute about 70 percent of the absolute poor, earning slightly more than 50 per cent of what men are earning and are 2/3 of the 785 million illiterate adults in the world.

Some 8 million women each year suffer life-threatening pregnancy-related complications in which over 500,000 die as consequences. Furthermore, 1/3 of all pregnant women receive no health care during pregnancy and 60% of deliveries take place outside of health facilities.

In terms of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, young women and girls are 3 times more infected than their male counterparts.

The structured marginalization of women over centuries has exposed them to poverty, inequality, disempowerment, violence and even death. And yet, we cannot deny the fact that women are the very foundation of the world's economy and development.

ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review's theme of "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" is indeed timely.

**Mr. Chairman and Madame President,**

Population issues are indeed very relevant to our efforts in attaining the goals and realizing the commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Population growth and structure and human resources development begin at the family level. Health, morbidity and mortality, family planning as well as reproductive rights and reproductive health all set off in families/households.

For many families in the world, women not only contribute to the household's economy but also are the fundamental base of health and social development which in turn contribute to the efforts in addressing the issues of population.

Putting in a larger context of population, especially in terms of distribution, urbanization and migration, the vital essential of addressing women's equality and empowerment is even stronger, because women constitute a major group of migrant.

It is therefore the areas of work of the Commission on Population and Development that strongly correlate to the works on promoting gender equality and empowerment for women.

With regard to the coming Session of ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, the contribution of the Commission should include the following:

1. Providing ECOSOC the progresses that have been made in the implementation of Plan of Actions of the ICPD, at the global and regional level, that relate to the goals of promoting women's equality and empowerment.
2. Identifying the obstacles and challenges at the global and regional level, in implementing the Plan of Actions that relates to the goals of promoting women's equality and empowerment.
3. Providing sub-themes for the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, that highlight the case for the relevance of population issues to the attainment of the goals and commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission could recommend sub-themes such as "International Migration and the Protection of Women Workers", "Women in the Areas of Conflict and Natural Disasters", etc.

4. Together with ECOSOC, formulate a comprehensive strategy or roadmap for global and multi-stakeholders partnership to further accelerate the effort to promote women's equality and empowerment, including for mobilizing resources and adequate; and sustainable funding for implementing programs on women's empowerment

Thank you.