



# PERU

Statement by Ambassador Gonzalo Gutierrez  
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations  
in the 43rd Session of the  
Commission on Population and Development

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Mr. President

I would like first to thank the Secretary General's report on this subject. It is essential to link improvements in health conditions, with the goals of overcoming poverty and hunger, eradication of illiteracy and improving education levels, as well as promoting gender equality and promoting sustainability environment.

For Peru, public health is a priority. And consequently, Peru has clear guidelines that seek to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in that field. Specifically, we have been strengthening primary care and have enacted legislation on universal access to health services in order to limit inequality in this area.

Unfortunately, the health situation of children, both nationally and globally, remains a concern. 51% of child deaths are caused by pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles and AIDS, of which diarrhea and pneumonia together account for 36%. It is painful to note that these are preventable diseases that are linked to poverty and exclusion, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, difficulties in access to timely medical care, among other causes. Therefore, as it was stated by my country in the last Ministerial Meeting of the ECOSOC, is necessary and urgent for the international community to promote the Millennium Development Goals Plus, having as one of the major themes the combat against non communicable diseases.

Let me emphasize that infant mortality in Peru has been reduced substantially; being currently one third of the level we had at the beginning of the 90s, having already met this goal of the Millennium Goals. In the fight against maternal mortality, on 28 May, Peru launched the National Strategic Plan 2009-2015, which aims to improve the negative indicators related to death in women in pregnancy or childbirth, as well as

newborns, especially in the least favored sectors of the national population.

Mr. President

It is important to stress that there is still a high prevalence of many diseases that have not been explicitly included in the MDGs, but that seriously affect countries such as Peru. In this group, non communicable diseases such as heart disease, strokes, cancer, hypertension, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes are prevalent.

In the field of respiratory diseases, pneumonia is among the leading causes of death in children under 5 years in Peru. This situation is worse in the winter when child deaths increase, especially focusing on the communities affected by poverty, malnutrition and lack of adequate health care. It is also unfortunate that added deaths occur from other infectious respiratory diseases which are linked to the climate changes that have been presented more frequently in the higher areas of Peru.

Many of these diseases could be prevented with access to drugs at low cost. Therefore the importance to consider the need to facilitate access to these drugs through better adaptation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and the appropriate use of what was agreed in the Doha Declaration on Public Health.

Mr. President,

For developing countries traffic accidents are a major cause of premature death and constitute a public health problem that is affecting our development and violating the rights of individuals.

Data provided by the World Health Organization are worrying. It is unjustifiable that 1.2 million people die each year in traffic accidents, this being one of the leading causes of death among people aged 5 to 44 years. It has been estimated that unless immediate action is taken, at this rate by 2030 road accidents will be the fifth leading cause of death worldwide. Similarly, according to the World Bank, children 5 to 14 years of age are the population most at risk because of traffic accidents will become the leading cause of death or injury in that group by 2015.

My country supports the United Nations Decade to combat traffic accidents; its Plan of Action should have among its objectives a 50%

reduction in deaths from traffic accidents by 2020. This could be a new MDG's target.

Also, many deaths and illnesses could be prevented with adequate access to water and sanitation. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to achieve the goals set for MDG 7 in relation to this issue. Peru has developed a National Sanitation Plan 2006-2015 with the goal that 82% of the population has access to clean water and 77% to sanitation.

Mr. President,

The challenge posed by the issue of global public health can only be tackled jointly by cooperation between governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society in general. It is also important to promote participation and empowerment of communities as the basis for strengthening health systems.

The challenge in public health is to achieve the goals outlined in the Millennium Development Goals, but also for further reflection on the possibility of incorporating new goals and indicators to meet the health needs of much of the world population which, as noted, are seriously affected by non communicable diseases.

Thank you very much.