



*Check against delivery*

Commission on Population and  
Development  
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Statement by  
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Agenda Item 5:

“General Debate on the Contribution of Population and  
Development Issues to the Theme of the  
Annual Ministerial Review in 2013”

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## **AGENDA ITEM 5:**

### **GENERAL DEBATE ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES TO THE THEME OF THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW IN 2013**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Two years away from the 2015 MDGs deadline, the number of people living in extreme poverty has fallen in every developing region. Yet, at the same time throughout the world, inequality persists. There is high unemployment. And millions are barely surviving because of empty stomachs, water shortages and lack of medicine. The global situation is a contradiction to the tremendous progress made in science and technology, along with the tremendous wealth accumulation in the world.

It is an urgent priority to reverse and respond to the challenges that has been plaguing the developing world. The theme of this year's ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review: "Science, technology and innovation and culture for sustainable development and the MDGs ", provides a timely platform to raise these population challenges.

With a population of 7 billion people, there is a tremendous demand to meet human development needs through science, technology and innovation (ST&I). Along the same lines, every country needs their cultural space to enable ST&I to thrive. Together, all four elements can become development enablers to broaden opportunities that will increase the quality of life of our people, making them indispensable for sustainable development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

For Indonesia, population dynamics strongly influences its economic development. The population changes in size, structure, composition and distribution contribute to the formulation of Indonesia's development programmes and policies.

The Government of Indonesia has initiated steps to establish a national population database. The database consist of elements involving population changes mentioned above based on among others age, religion, sex, education level, and location. The database shall serve as the basis for the Government in formulating population and development policies including provisions of basic needs infrastructure.

Being an archipelagic country, Indonesia realizes that providing access to basic needs for its population of two hundred and forty millions, has never been easy. However, technology, including the Information Communications and Technology/ICT, could be one of the solutions to this difficulty.

The Government of Indonesia seeks to deliver concrete benefits for its people by developing its ICT through a program called "*Indonesia Connected*" to electronically link remote islands and villages. The government also designed a national ICT White

Paper outlining our e-strategy. The overall strategy contains Indonesia's ICT Development strategy, with a particular focus on development, and targets for different levels of communities and areas.

Our National ICT Strategy is being implemented through a national flagship program consisting of ten focus areas namely: a national single window for e-learning; a national project to establish a fiber optic network; software development; e-procurement; e-budgeting; single identity number; e-health; e-cultural heritage; and e-agriculture.

These and many other efforts have been fruitful for our national development. At a national level, we would like for the ICT strategy to enable more producers to connect to the customers; more people find more markets for their products and ideas; more services reach society; more hearts and minds connected; leading to a more vibrant economic and social development environment. Business can be done faster, and services can be more efficient and effective, and more lives made easier.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Despite the good sides that science and technology brings to the life of our people, we should realize that due to the different levels of education, each individual has different capacities in using and defining the meaning of science and technology for their life, despite being given the same instrument. In other words, citizens at a different level of development have a different level of capacity in defining and harnessing ICTs for their lives.

Hence, we view that the promotion of science and technology, including ICTs, for supporting sustainable development should also consider the constraints entailed with it. It is therefore our common responsibility to anticipate and act further to mitigate the negative impacts of science and technology, which could damage the outcome of development, or fail our noble goal to reach sustainable development.

In relation to culture and development, as a country with a multiethnic and multicultural society, Indonesia views that culture has potential to be a catalyst for sustainable development. Therefore, Indonesia supports vibrant discussion on how culture can impact and become an integral part of sustainable development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

To conclude, Indonesia reiterates its support to integrate science, technology, innovation, and the potential of culture in achieving sustainable development and MDGs.

I thank you.