



# ARMENIA

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## 48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: AGENDA ITEM 4

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ZOHRAB MNATSAKANYAN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Md. Chairperson,

First, let me express my appreciation to you and members of the Bureau for your able guidance in advancing the Commission's current agenda.

Armenia welcomes the special theme of the 48<sup>th</sup> session. This year is a turning point for the integration of population issues into sustainable development as the world moves closer to finalize post-2015 agenda. In this context, I would like to thank the Secretary-General, as well as UNFPA for the comprehensive and insightful reports presented to the Commission. We take note of the conclusions contained in these reports. The reports provide strong evidence of the continued relevance of the Cairo Program of Action. It rightly indicates the need for an increased effort to mobilize financial resources necessary to address the unfinished work of the ICPD.

We recall the outcomes of the 2014 special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Program of Action of the ICPD and the ICPD beyond 2014 global review. The challenges of poverty, discrimination, income and wealth inequality threatened economic growth, outlined in the global review document should be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

Md. Chairperson,

Over the past twenty years Armenia initiated a number of executive and legislative acts to tackle a wide spectrum of population issues. A number of strategic papers and government programs have been developed and implemented to tackle challenges faced by the population. Among those are the Demographic Policy Strategy and Action Plan (2009-2035), State Youth Policy Strategy, Strategy on Combating the Consequences of Ageing and Social Protection of Elderly People, National Strategy, Program and Actions Timeframe on Reproductive Health Improvement (2007-2015), Gender Policy Strategic Action Plan and the National Action Plan to Combat Gender Based Violence (2011-2015) and the Concept on the State

Regulation Policy on Migration and its Action Plan (2012-2016). During the recent years, my country has considerably improved its national legislation to insure equal rights and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, children and people living with HIV. Efforts have also been aimed at increasing effectiveness for combating all types of trafficking in persons.

The process of drafting and revising the relevant legislation has been inclusive and based on the effective collaboration with civil society and international partners. A recent good example of multi-stakeholder efforts is the drafting and adoption of the "Law on equal rights and equal opportunities of women and men". Another positive example of partnership is the introduction of reproductive health and gender into mandatory curriculum of the military. In 2012 the Government of Armenia in partnership with the UN Country Team established a Post-2015 Task Force to identify national priorities for a new development agenda. Through an innovative methodology, namely Town Hall meetings, representatives of various segments of the population, including civil society organisations and business groups were brought together in different regions of Armenia to conduct thematic discussions grouped around major themes. Such are Youth, Women, Disabled and Inequality; Women's Groups and Health; Labour, Employers and Industry; Food Security and Nutrition; Environment and Sustainable Development. Following a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultative process, last year the Government of Armenia launched the Plan of Actions for its National Strategy on Human Rights Protection. Social security, quality of life and employment of the population are important focus areas within the Action Plan.

At the same time, the Government is cognizant of the continued challenges. There is a need to narrow the gap between legislation and its implementation in priority areas of the ICPD. The population continues to face inequalities, demographic and other challenges. These and other issues continue to shape the agenda of national debate and public and Government action. Looking ahead we strongly believe that the success of our efforts in integrating population issues into sustainable development at national and international levels should derive from the balanced combination of global and regional review findings and outcomes of major conferences, new national priorities based on government policies and results of multi-stakeholder co-operation. We underline the need to sustain focus on these issues also in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development goals. The President of the General Assembly has cogently noted that population is not about numbers, but rather about people. Armenia is committed to work with all its partners for an inclusive, people-centered and rights-based development agenda beyond 2015.

Thank you.