



INDIA  
भारत

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STATEMENT BY  
AMBASSADOR BHAGWANT S BISHNOI,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
ON AGENDA ITEM 4:  
REALIZING THE FUTURE WE WANT:  
INTEGRATING POPULATION ISSUES INTO  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
INCLUDING IN THE POST-2015  
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA  
AT THE  
48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION OF POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT

New York

APRIL 14, 2015

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, let me congratulate you and other members of the 48<sup>th</sup> Bureau on election and assure you of our full cooperation.

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his reports to the Commission and the distinguished keynote speakers for their insightful presentations. We also associate ourselves with the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

India is committed to the achievement of goals set out in ICPD's Programme of Action. For India, inclusion is a special challenge and responsibility, given our vast social, regional and economic diversity. India's 12<sup>th</sup> Five year plan (2012-17) is aimed at "faster, inclusive and sustainable growth".

Reducing poverty is a key element in our inclusive growth and development strategy. The "Sarava Shikha Abhiyaan" programme has ensured primary education for all. The Innovative "Beti Bachao Beti Pado" – "Save Daughters Educate Daughters" campaign has renewed the focus on education of girls.

With almost 400% increase in federal funding and stepped up investment in health systems, our efforts have begun to show results. Government's flagship National Rural Health Mission and other innovative health interventions have led to increased life expectancy, increased rates of immunization of children, and substantial decline in under-five, neo-natal and maternal mortality rates between 1990 and 2013. **With these results, we expect India to achieve targets for both MGD 4 and 5.**

The new Reproductive Maternal New Born Child and Adolescent health (RMNCH+A) programme, is aimed at bringing focus on all the life stages notably adolescents and also a focus on family planning with the aim of population stabilization. Our adolescent health programme, the Rastriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) which addresses the concerns and needs of 253 million strong population group, is the key that will break the cycle of ill-health, poor social indices and poverty. We are attempting to increase access to sexual and reproductive health information, supplies and services through trained health service providers and nearly 9,00,000 community health volunteers.

Reproductive health commodities and services are now being provided free of cost.

Madam Chair,

With more than 54% of its total population below 25 years of age, India is well poised to reap the proverbial demographic dividend in a rapidly growing economy. Our National Youth Policy 2014 recognizes the potential of this demographic dividend. Also, the National

Policy on Senior Citizens 2011 prioritizes longevity and care for older persons providing the requisite balance in the society.

India is committed to the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment and combating discrimination and gender based violence. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act of 2013 have been enacted to ensure safety, security and well-being of women and girls.

Madam Chair,

With over a billion people in the world continuing to live in poverty, the international community must synergize political will and increase funding, including by fulfillment of official development assistance commitments to help realize the “future we want” for present and future generations.

Thank you.