



# MYANMAR

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**Statement**

**by**

**H. E. Dr. Thein Thein Htay**

**Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Health  
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**At the forty-eighth session of the  
Commission on Population and Development**

**On Agenda Item 4:**

**General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing  
the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable  
development, including in the post-2015 development agenda**

**New York**

**13 April 2015**

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**H. E. Dr. Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Minister for Health, Myanmar**

**At the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

**United Nations, New York, 13 – 17 April 2015**

**Mr. Chairman**

**Excellences**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to address the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Government of Myanmar acknowledges the greater significance of the theme of this session: *Realising the Future We Want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable Development, Including in the Post-2015 Agenda*.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We would like to commend the valuable efforts of Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, for the three reports that have been presented in this Session – the Report on the special theme for this Session: Integrating Population Issues Into Sustainable Development, Including in the Post-2015 Agenda (E/CN.9/2015/3); the Report on the Monitoring of Population Programmes, focusing on Integrating Population Issues Into Sustainable Development, Including in the Post-2015 Agenda (E/CN.9/2015/4); and the Report on Financial Resources for Assisting in the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2015/5).

These Reports ably point out that how demographic trends would shape the future development agenda and how these changes are expected to impact upon inclusive and sustainable development; and that future population dynamics will much count on efforts directed towards confronting challenges and shortcomings with right blend of resources, political will and plans in the implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda.

Myanmar would make all its best efforts to mainstream the recommendations highlighted in these reports into our national Post-15 Development Agenda.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar successfully conducted a nationwide Population and Housing Census from 29 March to 10 April 2014. This is our first census conducted after 30 years. The Census was conducted with the realisation to capture credible, up-to-date, users-friendly data on population and households to inform better plans, policies and strategies geared towards addressing issues relating to fertility, childhood mortality, maternal mortality ratio, migration, urbanisation, demographic, gender, young people and population ageing and plug gaps in the provision of education, employment and economic opportunities, quality of living conditions and disability and other important issues.

We have already released the provisional results of the Census in August 2014 and currently the data are at processing and analysis stages. We plan to release the main results at the end of May 2015 followed by nationwide dissemination of the census results including training of potential data users. We will also carry out thematic analysis on key demographic and social topics from the Census data, as well as undertaking population projections for forward planning. With the Census information, Myanmar will be able to address most of the gaps related to population and development issues and move forward to reaching national and international development goals, including the Post-2015 agenda.

We recognise the challenges most countries confront, especially those in similar development contexts to Myanmar in collecting and disseminating data and statistics that are timely and disaggregated by age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts; hence we reiterate our gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and all donor countries for their financial and technical support in conducting the 2014 Myanmar Census and making it successful.

**Mr. Chairman,**

You may be pleased to take note that the Myanmar National Commission on Population and Development has already endorsed the findings of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey which recognise both the progress achieved and identify gaps that need to be addressed on population and development issues. We pledge that integration of population issues into our development plans will be the foremost task of our planners and policymakers in the medium to long term. However, as we provide our full support for further implementation of the ICPD and the integration of population issues in the Post-2015 agenda, we urge members of the Commission and donor countries to facilitate the realisation of the goals of the ICPD through provision of adequate resources, technology and knowledge transfer, South-South cooperation and ensuring access to commodities and services, particularly for young people, women and adolescent girls.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me share with you that the population of young people (10-24) constitutes almost a third of the total population of Myanmar. We are aware that strategic investment in youth bulge will not only be a remarkable factor to making Myanmar economically prosperous but reaping dividends deemed central to implementing a post-2015 vision for sustainable development .

The centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights; and the potential for reaping returns on population data are also critical. As Myanmar moves toward a modern democratic country the Government of the Republic of Myanmar is cognizant of the fact to invest in human capital especially in young people providing them opportunities to participate productively to gain economic prosperity. However, many young people do still experience poverty, gender inequality, limited access to inclusive education, poor health, risks from sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, unplanned pregnancy, insecure housing, and limited access to decent work and violence. In this backdrop, the “National Strategic Plan of Adolescent Health and Development (2009-2013) was formulated, while a National Youth Policy providing direction for multi-sectorial support to youth programming is underway. With strong commitments at all levels, we will be able find solutions to the problems and do our best for our citizens.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In addition to population and development issues, I would like to highlight about Myanmar's progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights aligned to the ICPD goals. Myanmar has committed to the global initiative - Family Planning 2020 and has set milestones and targets to meet our commitments. The implementation plan has been developed and all development partners and the Ministry of Health are well poised to meet our obligations to increase contraceptive prevalence rate to 50% and reduce unmet need for contraceptives below 10%.

We are optimistic that we will provide an opportunity to women to plan and space their pregnancies enable them to remain healthy and make pregnancy wanted and planned. The Government of Myanmar is also committed to ensure that availability of the quality contraceptives are accessible throughout the country. Given the fact that the national supply chain system is imperative to contributing towards the achievement of FP 2020 commitment, it is our utmost effort to strengthen RH-Supply Chain System besides making RH-LMIS functional and developing Health Workforce.

We look forward to SDGs factors contributing to improved maternal health, neonatal, infant and under five healths while creating linkages between SRH and HIV at the policy, systems and services delivery levels. This implies that community engagement to increase access to HIV prevention services has to be strengthened ensuring non-discriminatory service both in public and private sectors. It is our cardinal principle to expand our universal health coverage with an essential and free package of services for those who are poor and under-privileged.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me reiterate the Government of Myanmar's commitment to ensuring that population and health issues would be adequately integrated into Sustainable Development and the Post-15 Development Agenda. Your further guidance and support would be much appreciated.

I thank you.