



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Pakistan Delegation at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission  
on Population and Development (CPD)  
13-17 April 2015, New York**

**Mr. President,**

We would like to congratulate you and other Members of the Bureau on your election to the 48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development. We welcome the theme for the Session with its pertinent and timely focus on integrating population issues in sustainable development and post-2015 development agenda.

We take this opportunity to commend United Nations Population Fund for its efforts to advance the goals of population and development worldwide. We also acknowledge the role of civil society organizations as valued partners.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of Pakistan is aware of the demographic challenge facing the nation. Currently, Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world with a population of 188 million. With the current growing rate, we will become the fifth most populous country in the world by 2050, with a projected population of over 300 million.

Prioritizing the importance of integrating population dynamics into planning frameworks, the Government has announced to conduct its 6<sup>th</sup> National Census in the year 2016. The outcome of the Census will set the foundation of national planning for sustainable development including the post 2015 development agenda.

Nearly 60% of our population is under the age of 25. This provides an opportunity to reap a rich demographic dividend. Keeping this in view, the present Government has undertaken several initiatives to educate, train and empower the youth, particularly young women and girls, so as to tap the full potential of this unprecedented youth bulge. These include Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans

and Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme, which include 50% quota for young women. A robust National Youth Policy is in place while provincial youth policies are in process of finalization.

**Mr. President,**

Recognizing the key role of women, efforts have been made to empower women by promoting female literacy, access to health services, employment, representation in elected and executive bodies as well as access to productive resources and microfinance. Several laws have been passed to protect women from social crimes such as the Anti-Women Practices Act, Protection against Harassment in the Workplace Act, and laws against acid crimes and honour-killing. Following devolution of power to the provinces, the Provincial Governments have also enacted several legislations including laws against domestic violence, law against child marriage, and laws on Prevention and Control of HIV and AIDS.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan is firmly committed to addressing the demographic challenge and advancing the welfare of its people in line with outcome documents of the ICPD and the resolutions and decisions of successive sessions of the CPD. The present Government has developed a comprehensive and ambitious development framework, tilted 'Vision 2025', which includes social development among its top priorities. The vision also embodies the broad goals of the ICPD, including eradication of poverty, addressing inequalities, and promoting human rights of all segments of society with special focus on women and girls, young people and marginalized segments of the society.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our commitments made at the ICPD and 29<sup>th</sup> Special Session of General Assembly. We are working hard to complete unfinished agenda of MDGs, especially reducing maternal mortality and achieving universal access to reproductive health services.

We are determined to achieve the targets set under Family Planning 2020, especially reducing the unmet need to 5% and increasing CPR to 55%.

We are determined to making health systems more responsive to the needs of ensuring quality reproductive health for all women.

We also commit to provide young people with quality education and life skills to utilize their full potential in the development process.

I thank you, **Mr. President.**