

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY TURKEY
AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

15 April 2015

Madame Chair,

We would like to thank Secretary General for his report entitled “integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda”. Our thanks also go to UNDESA and UNFPA regarding the tireless work carried out for the preparation and success of the session.

As the MDGs are about to expire at the end of this year and will be replaced by a new global development agenda, population related issues also need to be duly taken into account to achieve a Post-2015 Agenda that is transformative, equitable and sustainable.

In this vein, Turkey supports integrating fundamental issues of ICPD Program of Action (PoA) into the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is highly coherent with Turkey’s national development policies. We believe that, focusing on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; increasing wealth and income inequalities; the need for lifelong learning and building human capacities especially for young people and persons with disabilities; sustainable urbanization; and the link between migration and development; as well as strengthening sexual and

reproductive health services are important for a forward looking development policy.

Madame Chair,

As the chair of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for 2014-2015, our theme is “**Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development.**”. In this vein, Turkey is working to strengthen the linkages between migration and development by taking the results of the GFMD into other **regional and international agenda-setting processes**. We believe that GFMD Summit to be held in İstanbul in October 2015 will be an event that will galvanize and complement international efforts for a truly inclusive post 2015 development agenda.

Turkey, which is experiencing a demographic dividend, believes that youth should be at the center of successful future development agenda. Young people should have access to decent, safe and secure jobs that would create opportunities for career development. Therefore we welcome the inclusion of youth as a targeted group for development policies in OWG Report.

Madame Chair;

Let me at this stage touch upon the latest improvements and good practices in Turkey regarding the population related issues:

As regards the population transformation in Turkey;

Turkey has adopted National Plan of Action on Ageing in 2007 which is highly coherent with Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Through this plan, Turkey aims to strengthen inter-generational solidarity, improve health care system, increase participation of elderly into the decision making processes and establish the notion of active ageing.

With regards to education;

Turkey has increased compulsory education duration from 8 to 12 years in 2012. As a result of Turkey's human centered 10th Development Plan covering the period 2014-2018, significant improvements in terms of quality and access to education have been observed. As a consequence of the importance given to girls' education, the number of girls exceeded boys in both undergraduate student numbers and new admissions to these programmes.

Concerning the health aspect;

Turkey has made significant improvements in sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternal and child health and achieved the MDGs that cover these areas. Considerable reductions in maternal and infant mortality have been achieved and antenatal care and safe deliveries increased significantly.

Turkey has started "Health Transformation Program" aiming accessible, high-quality and sustainable health service for all in the last decade. Preventing ill-health

and premature deaths related to non-communicable diseases has constituted one of the main axes of this program.

Concerning women and girls;

Turkey is combating the violence against women with the strategy of zero tolerance. Turkey is the first country to ratify Istanbul Convention on violence against women which creates a comprehensive legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence. During the last 10 years, almost all gender discriminatory items have been eliminated from the legislative regulations.

Employment incentives are being implemented intensively to attract more women to work life. Labor participation rate for women is increasing rapidly in recent years. The rise in education attainment of girls will be another determinant of the increase in labor participation rate for women.

Madame Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to express that it is a must to establish better cooperation and collaboration at the national, international and regional levels to fully achieve a realistic and sustainable post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you.