

**Statement by the Vietnamese Delegation at the 48th Commission
On Population and Development (13-17 April 2015)**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for the excellent reports submitted to this important meeting. We highly appreciate the quality reports of the Secretary-General on integrating population issues into in the post-2015 development agenda and on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Mr. Chairman,

In the past 20 years, Viet Nam has made considerable progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. As we all know, together with socio-economic development in our country, the health status of the Vietnamese people, particularly those related to sexual and reproductive health has greatly been improved. With this profound progress, Viet Nam is one of just a few developing countries around the world on good track to achieve MDGs 4 and 5 by 2015.

Our country is now in the development process of the national sustainable development agenda for the post-2015 period. Based on evidence from equity analysis of the achievement of health related MDGs, we developed our strategic directions to respond to unfinished MDGs agenda, especially MDG5A on reducing maternal deaths in difficult-to-reach regions and MDG5B on achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health at national level.

From our country experience and taking into account the findings and recommendations of the ICPD beyond 2014 operational review and the commitments made by our leaders at the 29th Special Session of the General Assembly on ICPD beyond 2014, we would like to emphasize a few critical components of a transformative and sustainable agenda for the next fifteen years.

First, recognizing that the new development agenda is a universal, people-centered agenda, we underscore the principles of equity and non-discrimination, which are essential in addressing inequalities, in order to ensure that we “leave no-one behind.” We commit to continue promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, which are critical to the post 2015 development agenda

Furthermore, we underscore the importance of questions relating to urbanization going in conjunction with economic growth, poverty reduction, climate change, as well as the question of demographic dividends, of preparing the next generation to deliver the sustainable development. In that respect, we stress the importance of reproductive rights for the achievement of sustainable development. With the largest ever generation of young people, we would miss a critical opportunity

for advancing development if we do not promote and facilitate appropriate investments in and participation of youth and adolescents.

We hope that these elements are reflected not only in the SDGs and their indicator framework, but also in the political statement that will be adopted in September by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen,

From our experience in Asia Pacific region, we believe that the development challenges we have been facing in the past decades require more systematic participation of all stakeholders in crafting and implementing responses to these challenges, for which partnership and global leadership through the United Nations are critical.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to His Excellency-the Secretary General, to the Commission on Population and Development, to UNFPA and to all other international organizations and governments that have supported Viet Nam in the area of population and development in the past years.

We wish us all a very fruitful meeting.

Thank you for your attention!