



**Statement by H. E. Mr. Zahid Maleque,  
Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh  
on Agenda Item 4: national experience in population matters: "Strengthening the  
demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda" at the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Commission on Population and development  
(New York, 11 April 2016)**

**Thank you Madam Chair,**

This year's special theme, "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda", comes in an important moment, as reliable and timely demographic data is essential to monitor the progress made in achieving the ICPD Programme of Action as well as to monitor and follow-up the SDGs.

**Madam Chair,**

Bangladesh government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to develop core systems for generating population, health and demographic data and the "data revolution" as an outcome of this process will improve the performance of implementing SDGs. Bangladesh conducts Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) regularly, to provide data needed for health and population sector. BDHS also provides data on child mortality, maternal health and family planning needs regularly. Bangladesh has robust data on all sectors of population issues.

**Madam Chair**

In the intervening year since ICPD, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in realizing to the ICPD programme of actions. By putting peoples' empowerment at the heart of national development agenda, Bangladesh is marching forward and aspires to join the ranks of middle income countries by 2021. The inclusive economic growth in Bangladesh at a rate of over 6 percent for the past decade and in the current year it is more than 7%, resulted in impressive poverty reduction from 56.7% to below 21% in the recent years.

Remarkable advances were also made in relation to women's empowerment at all levels and women role in public participation. Bangladesh has already achieved gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolment. Women's participation in the formal and informal economy as well as in political processes has increased significantly. Net enrolment ratio in primary education is 89.9%, and literacy rate of 15-24 years old is 85.9%. Ratio of girls to boys in primary education is

1.02; ratio of girls to boys in secondary education is 1.04, ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education is 0.64.

On the health front, two divisions of Bangladesh have achieved replacement level of fertility rates (2.0) and another two divisions are about to reach replacement level of fertility. Prevalence of underweight children under age 5 is 32.6%, Overall under-5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births) is reduced to 46, Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) is reduced to 38, proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles stands 86.1.

These successes are realized owing to well planned, innovative and targeted and sensible policies adopted by the government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

**Madam Chair,**

Migration has embarked as one of the most active contributor in the population dynamics. Bangladesh acknowledges and attaches high importance to the contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin, transit and destination. As a current chair of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Bangladesh is committed to ensure safe and orderly migration under the theme, "Migration that works for sustainable development of all: towards a transformative migration agenda". I am pleased to inform you all that the 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD summit will be held in Dhaka from 10-12 December 2016.

**Madam Chair,**

The Secretary General's report has shown, much remains to be done to strengthen data systems and to support the in-depth analysis, disaggregation and use of the generated data. Donors should support the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of Every Woman, Every Child (EWWC) or other financing mechanisms.

**Madam Chair,**

Enhanced international cooperation is the pre-requisite for the sustainable development in developing and least developed countries. Without incremental and predictable ODA, it is impossible for many LDCs to improve the quality of their population. As a Chair of LDCs, Bangladesh urges all stakeholders to fulfill their commitments so that LDCs can have sufficient resources at their disposal to augment their population.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Bangladesh would further utilize its membership in the Inter-governmental alliance of 'Partners in Population and Development (PPD)' to promote South-South Cooperation for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, through Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you all for your kind attention.