

**Statement on Agenda Item 4 at Forty-ninth
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Population and Development**

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Mr. Chairman

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to extend my warm congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. The Chinese delegation highly appreciates the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to this session which indicate the important role that demographic data plays in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. Three crucial sources of data and innovative experiences from various countries in developing the demographic evidence base are presented in details. These two reports complement each other and provide forward-looking guidance and practical operability, which have great significance in improving governments' demographic surveillance systems for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Demographic data is the fundamental, strategic and public information resources. In order to further monitor the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and measure progress in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, governments should strengthen the collection, processing and dissemination of data and make innovation in the use of new technologies. Government should also improve the reliability, timeliness and accessibility of

demographic data so as to provide the basis for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.

Chinese government attaches great importance to the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic data. By improving the system of demographic statistics, enforcing the construction of demographic informationization and many other approaches, we improve the accuracy and timeliness of demographic data and are committed to promoting the interconnection of the studies on data, information and population.

China has established the periodic census and other relevant census systems. The decennial population census in years ending with 0 has been conducted across the nation since 1990. State Council promulgated the Regulations on National Population Census in 2010. This administrative regulation clearly defines the census's years, respondents, organization and conduct, etc.

In 2006, we have established the "National Citizen Identity Information Center", the world's biggest ID database, with over 1.3 billion entries. Based on this, we created and improved the national population information database for the entire country's population using citizen identification numbers as unique identifiers and basic information as reference.

The emphasis of the 2030 Agenda on inclusiveness and the need to leave no one behind implies that demographic data will have to be available for specific population groups, especially for vulnerable groups. In China, a system based on gender-specific statistics has taken shape initially with Surveys on Social Status of Women carrying out every ten years. Since 2009, Dynamic Monitoring Survey of the Migrant Population has been conducted annually. The Poverty Database set up in 2014 provided reliable basis. Furthermore, two National Sample Surveys on the Disabled have been accomplished, followed by Special Survey on Status Quo and Demand of Basic Service for People with Disabilities in 2015. Four Sample Surveys of the Status

of the Aged Population in Urban and Rural China as well as the Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study have been carried out. All these surveys provide important data for analyses and studies on basic situations, government decision-making and public service of Chinese population, especially the key groups such as women, children, the elderly, migrants, the disabled and the poor.

Chinese government is now committed to accelerating the sharing of demographic information platforms, improving the standard of collection, classification as well as integration of demographic data, and encouraging to use new technologies in the data collection and meta-analysis. China is also working to establish a Demographic Forecasting and Early Warning System, and strengthen the ties between demographic data and work planning, thus achieving better performance in “people-oriented” public administration and service.

Mr. Chairman, the population issue is fundamentally a development issue. In order to integrate the population issue into sustainable development, we should prioritize the establishment of the demographic evidence base. As the world's most populous country, China will respond positively to the Secretary-General's proposals in his reports by strengthening the collection, integration, open sharing, analysis and utilization of demographic data. We will also improve the reliability, comparability, accessibility and timeliness of our data, thereby providing data support for the monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Programme of Action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.