

Statement by H.E Dr. Maissa Shawkie
Assistant Minister of population
Before the 49th session of the CPD
(New York, 11th April 2016)

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Mr. Chairman,

Excellences distinguished heads of delegation,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, let me express my appreciation for joining this gathering today at the 49th session of the Commission of Population and Development. This session has a special resonance for being the first one after adopting the 2030 Agenda. For this occasion, we are all here today to highlight the interlinkage between the work of the revitalized CPD and SGDs; by revising the commission's methods of work, and by strengthening the demographic evidence base and its capacity to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up and review process.

As the challenge of year 2015 was the negotiation for setting a new paradigm for sustainable development for 15 years to come-articulated by the 2030 agenda, and its integral part Addis Ababa Action Plan as well as the historical Paris UNFCCC agreement, the challenge in year 2016 is the implementation challenge; it's obvious that sharing the common responsibility of transformative, universal framework for global development, is definitely a cumbersome task that will require the collective efforts of the all to share the burden, bearing in mind the uneven capacities, and resources of all the countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, we would like to highlight the following points that are relevant to energizing the work of the CPD:

- 1. We welcome the endorsed global indicator framework for the goals and the targets of the 2030 Agenda as a “practical starting point” that is to be subjected to future technical refinement, taking into accounting that global indicators are not necessarily applicable on all national levels.**
- 2. We urge the donors to assist developing countries in capacity building and in providing the required technical assistant for harmonization and data- integration based on reliable and timely demographic data that is essential for strengthening data systems and its in-depth analysis.**
- 3. In light of our commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its legacy, we stress on the importance of the negotiable –nature of the outcomes of the CPD, and the need for revising the commission’s methods of work, to enhance its contribution to the ECOSOC and GA , as well as to bolster its role in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014.**

On the national level, Egypt is taking serious steps to translate the interlinkage between sustainable development and population issues within it’s new national population development strategy (2015-2030). Our strategy aims to reduce the population growth rate, improve the population characteristics, reducing the discrepancies in development indices between the different geographical areas, in addition to achieving more equitable and balanced geographical distribution.

The implementation of the strategy started by initiating pilot models for the general strategy and its specific components in sample-selected- areas, then to scale up the implementation in the rest of the targeted areas. Within this context, the strategy targets to downsize the population from 119 million to 110,900 million inhabitants in year 2030. As an early fruition to the effective implementation of the strategy, there was an estimated improvement in the birth rate from 31.2 per thousand in 2014 to 30.2 per thousand in 2015 (Central Authority for Public Mobilization and

Statistics -CAPMAS). Also there was FGM prevalence rate decrease among girls aged 15 to 17 years from 74 % in 2008 to 61 % in 2014 (Egypt Demographic Health Survey).

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, the to-date paradigm shift underpins the challenges of changing sources and scale of development knowledge and practices. And accordingly, the energized work of the CPD should stress on the importance of the revitalized global partnership for implementing the SDGs relevant to the demographic issues with supremely ambition and transformational vision within the limited resources. And thereby enhance its contribution to the ICPD Programme of Action and its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives.
