INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

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ILO Statement by
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Commission on Population and Development
Forty-ninth session
Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda

Madam Chair,

The ILO welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda". We acknowledge with appreciation the emphasis given in the report to enhancing statistical capacities.

The newly adopted SDGs stress the key role of decent work in ensuring inclusive economic growth as well as its contribution to enhancing social and environmental outcomes. The ILO is supporting the implementation of the decent work targets, in particular under SDG 8 on "promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".

The implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require a solid framework of indicators to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders, including demographic and labour market information. The UN Statistical Commission adopted in March a global SDG indicator list of 241 indicators. Out of them, 28 indicators are directly related to Decent Work. Out of these 28 indicators, 11 shall be directed compiled by the ILO and 5 will be a shared responsibility with other agencies.

Madam Chair,

We would like to stress that the ILO is well positioned to support the SDGs' follow up and review process. International definitions on labour market indicators are agreed by member states and social partners in the International Conference on Labour Statisticians. The Conference plays a unique role as the international body setting international statistical standards in the world of work. Labour statisticians from governments, workers and employers work together to reach consensus and to identify practical solutions to the challenges of measuring the dimensions of labour issues.
The labour market information is currently being compiled in the ILO's statistics database ILOSTAT – the primary source for cross-country statistics on the labour market, containing over 100 indicators covering more than 180 countries.

For most indicators related to decent work, well established methodologies are in place with agreed international standards. However, challenges remain in particular in the areas covered by the work of the Commission on Population and Development, notably on social protection, youth employment and migration and for developing and least developed countries.

On social protection, too monitor target 1.3 on the extension of social protection coverage, including national floors as defined by ILO Recommendation 202, the proposed indicator is "proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems". While information on social protection coverage is available for more than 120 countries, the lack of disaggregated data by age, sex and vulnerable groups is a critical milestone. Efforts to strengthen national statistical capacities on social protection are undertaken as part of the ILO – UNDG social protection floor initiative.

On youth employment, the ILO estimates that today two out of every five young persons of working age are either unemployed or working jobs that do not pay enough to escape poverty. Target 8.6 calls to "substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs indicator) by 2020". The recently launched global initiative on "Decent Jobs for Youth" will mobilize governments, the UN system, businesses, academic institutions, youth organizations and other groups to scale up action and impact on youth employment. Investment in the collection of reliable and accurate data for all countries is among the core priorities.

Finally, on labor migration, the ILO is currently working with the World Bank and other international organizations to define methodology to measure recruitment costs (target 10.4) and to disaggregate labour market information by migratory status, in particular on labour rights and work injuries (target 8.8).

To conclude, we would like to acknowledge that significant progress was made in collecting data on indicators such as informal employment in collaboration with governments' national statistical offices. However, such information is often produced only on an irregular basis. The need for strengthening national statistical systems and for producing regular quality demographic and labour market data should be considered a core priority in the SDGs implementation.

I thank you.