

Check against Delivery



STATEMENT

BY

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General Debate on

**National experience in population matters: Strengthening the demographic
evidence base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

49TH SESSION OF

THE COMMISSION OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Madam Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau of the 49th session on your respective election.

I also wish to thank the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Population Fund and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for providing a comprehensive set of reports.

I align this statement with that delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

This year marks an important year for the UN. We have officially begun the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for each of its 3 pillars - economic, social and environment - to receive even-handed consideration in the implementation of development policies and strategies. This is to ensure that development brings tangible progress, while providing room for continuous improvement.

To realize the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda is going to be a rigorous exercise which demands that decision and policy makers always have their hand on the pulse. Quality information depends on quality data. Having quality data is vitally important to ensure the greatest impact of development efforts.

The data that will serve as the “road signs” for our journey to 2030 will have a pivotal role in enabling the universal arrival at the destination.

In this sense, with a progression of development in the population, progression of more sophisticated information is expected to come along with it.

The entire 2030 Agenda is related to population issues. Therefore, in terms of data, there already exist avenues to obtain them. However, because of the comprehensiveness and coherence of the agenda, there will be a need to obtain some data sets that have not been available before.

The data stream for population statistics is already discussed quite extensively. What will be necessary is the intersection between population statistics and the SDGs.

Right now, data is predominantly organized in silos. There should be strengthened coordination between institutions of different sectors and disciplines. We shouldn't need to be reinventing the wheel, it is more important to enhance the performance of the wheel. The principles and guidance for the provision of data streams and related issues should be made in coordination with the UN Statistical Commission, which has been designated as the lead agency on the development of the indicators for the 2030 Agenda, as well as UN member states at the global level.

However, let me underscore that data quality will be determined by capacity. This is a crucial element that the 49th session of the CPD needs to underscore quite resolutely.

Madam Chair,

Indonesia is now experiencing a demographic dividend that must be entailed by a sufficient development program.

The National Development Plan is addressing the constraining factors affecting the quality of the population in Indonesia, which have to do with social inequality, poverty, human capital and environment. It has also been aligned with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, Indonesia aims to continue strengthening its population data-gathering and processing through various means, to gain better understanding on the implementation of our National Development Plan and the post-2015 development agenda.

Firstly, Indonesia is committed to utilizing information and communications technologies to expedite data management. For example, in 2020, Indonesia's national population census will make use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing software.

Secondly, Indonesia is also keen on engaging cross-sectoral stakeholders to enable comprehensive population data collection and analysis. We are in the process of establishing a Population Data Forum to facilitate coordination and determine the data usage.

We acknowledge that, in conjunction with a number of the SDGs that have been adopted nationally, the Government of Indonesia faces challenges on data collection methods and data availability, due to the large scope of the goals and targets of the Agenda. Our national statistics office, which has always been a crucial partner in the implementation of the development goals and its data driven mandate, is closely monitoring these challenges.

In this regard, Indonesia is of the view that we need to significantly increase investments in data and statistical capacity.

Concerning data collection, Indonesia would stress its point on the need of informed consent considering sensitive issues, ethical considerations and values, age, and medical procedures. Demographic data access should also consider national laws and regulations on privacy and data security.

Let me conclude by reiterating Indonesia's full commitment to engage in the 49th session of the CPD in a positive and constructive manner to ensure its successful conclusion.

Thank you.