

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Golam Ali Khoshroo
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations Organization
At the Forty Ninth Session of
The Commission on Population and Development
Items 4: General debate on national experience in population
matters: “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for
the post-2015 development agenda”
(New York, 11 -15 April 2016)**

In the name of God the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Madam Chairperson,

Taking advantage of the demographic trends for the post-2015 development agenda requires attention to all aspects of overall socio-economic development as combating poverty through empowering poor, disadvantaged people and those living in

vulnerable situations, remains a daunting challenge.

The achievement of this objective requires further strides towards equitably distributing benefits of economic growth to redress inequalities. Essential social services should be integral parts of all policies to eradicate poverty.

Culturally-sensitive, pragmatic and holistic population policies with a development oriented approach are essential.

Over 31 per cent of Iran's 80 million population is between 15 to 29 years old and this very young demographic profile represents an opportunity for rapid economic growth. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, remains fully committed to genuinely intensifying its efforts to eradicate poverty, inequalities and disparities within the society.

Iran has improved the status of women in the family and the society, including through promoting equal opportunities for their education, ensuring their access to all necessary health services, including reproductive health care services, offering economic incentives and support to female headed households.

Maternal mortality ratio declined from 120 in 1990 to 17 per 100,000 per live births in 2015. Iran has a strong national network of primary health care services designed -to provide quality maternal and reproductive health care to the remotest parts of the country.

Since 2014 the health sector has undergone significant reforms concerning system policies and services to, among others, achieve the targets of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and

improve citizens' satisfaction with health service provision and enhance equity.

According to the Human Development Report Iran has gained the second best achievement in HDI improvement among developing countries between 1990-2012 or since introduction of the Report.

Madam Chairperson,

The economic and social impact of an ageing population represents both an opportunity and a challenge to all societies. Many countries are seeking to identify how best to assist elderly people with long- term support.

As Iran is also heading towards an ageing society in coming decades- in light of last decades strong demographic transitions- the general population decree issued at the highest political level, emphasizes the need for a reliable fertility rate above-replacement level, as well as paying special attention to the older persons. The Government cognizant of this emerging trend has already established a National Council for the Older Persons.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me conclude by emphasizing that my government remains committed to ensuring a safer and healthier life for all its citizens and is continuing to put their right to development at the center of its policies.

Thank you very much Madam Chair.