

ISRAEL

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Statement by

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Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development
agenda

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The 49th Commission on Population and Development

Agenda item 4: General debate on national experience in population matters: “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”

Thank you Madam Chair.

Through the adoption of the ICPD Program of Action, Member States have pledged to improve the lives of men, women and children all around the world. Their needs, aspirations and rights are our priorities.

With the ICPD Program of Action, we reaffirm, loudly and clearly, that every individual counts and that we must focus on developing policies to assist each and every one of them.

This is also the promise at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Madam Chair,

The 2030 Agenda is a bold commitment to end poverty, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, reduce inequalities, , and promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Indeed, population issues are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year we begin implementing these commitments, and to work towards achieving the goals and targets we have set.

Monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is crucial to guiding action. Reliable and timely demographic data is necessary for planning and implementing interventions to achieve the SDGs and to monitor progress towards their achievement. .

Madam Chair,

On our path to achieving the SDGs, the international community must include the vulnerable parts of society.

A robust and comprehensive demographic evidence base must be used to identify and locate the most vulnerable. This is the only way to ensure that no one is left behind and that everyone benefits from this transformative agenda.

Israel is committed to promoting sustainable development that reaches all sectors of society, including those on the margins.

The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics tailors unique plans responsive to the needs and values of each community. The CBS is in regular contact with community leaders in order to adjust the ways in which surveys are conducted to meet community concerns and to encourage cooperation.

Cooperation and coordination *between* statistical data producers is also essential to ensure complete and accurate data. Israel recently established the Coordination Unit of the National Statistical System in order to enhance the quality of statistics. Among its main tasks, the Coordination Unit equips data-producing bodies with internationally-agreed statistical methodologies.

Israel also attaches great importance to enhancing cooperation between producers and users of statistical data. The Israeli National Council of Statistics provides a forum in which producers and users exchange views on a regular basis. This close cooperation creates an on-going process of adjusting national statistics to the needs of users, thereby strengthening the use of data for decision making.

Mr. Chairmen,

Strengthening the demographic evidence base is essential to make sure we deliver on our promise for sustainable development that leaves no one behind. This is an on-going process. It is hard and complex, and there is much work to be done.

Israel has extensive experience in the collection, integration, and dissemination of demographic data. Most importantly, Israelis legislators and decision-makers are relying more and more on demographic data for policy-making.

Israel is ready to share its experience and work with others to identify best practices to promote evidence-based decision making. Together, we can promote the ICPD Program of Action and transform the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from an aspiration into a reality.

Thank you.