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*/On agenda item 4. General debate on national experience in population matters: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda/*

Madame Chair,  
Members of the Commission,  
Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, my delegation congratulates you, Madame Chair, and other colleagues in the Bureau, on your elections. We pledge our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your onerous responsibilities.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China made by Thailand.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports submitted under this agenda item and also appreciate the contribution of the UNFPA in supporting global population development issues.

Madame Chair,

The 1994 ICPD agenda and the Millennium Development Goals greatly influenced development policy formulation in Mongolia at a historic moment of the country's transition to a multiparty democracy. The country was among the first to put into action the ICPD and MDG agendas by approving its MDG-based National Comprehensive Development Policy and emphasizing functions such as development strategy planning closely linked to public financing and systematic collection of development statistical data and information.

The ICPD and MDG agendas have been crucial in strengthening the legal and institutional environment of the population development and health in the country. Mongolia has achieved the majority of MDG targets, including substantial reductions in maternal and child mortality, improved reproductive and sexual health services, and limiting the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The ICPD and MDGs have become an effective tool to enhance capacities in areas of policy formulation and monitoring in Mongolia, capitalizing upon which the country is pioneering national initiatives to adapt new global Sustainable Development Goals to suit national priorities.

The Parliament of Mongolia endorsed SDG-centered Sustainable Development Vision – 2030 two months ago. The vision outlines important priorities for the coming 15 years to achieve sustainable development, emphasizing national accountability. It offers an ambitious set of goals centered on human development, inclusive growth and equity, and entails the establishment of a regular monitoring mechanism as a country's clear commitment to provide for systematic follow-up and review of progress at all levels.

Madame Chair,

The post-2015 development agenda substantially increases demand for improved development statistics at both national and international levels. This arises mainly from the increased emphasis on evidence-based policy making as well as greater demand for government accountability.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of SDGs would require large volumes of reliable, robust and timely data for the compilation of SDG indicators at the national level. Furthermore, it is essential that the SDG monitoring framework goes beyond national averages and uses disaggregated data with the ability to differentiate levels of achievement of relevant population groups in order to achieve greater visibility of all population groups and inclusive growth.

Inspired by success in establishing an integrated national MDG reporting system, the Government of Mongolia currently focuses on the development of the national and thematic SDG indicators, and the technical aspects of harmonization of statistical work related to SDG indicators.

There is a pressing need to strengthen national statistical systems. Currently available data sources in the country such as census data, administrative data and surveys need to be integrated and strengthened, and significant and sustainable investments are needed for the purposes at all levels. New technologies appropriate to the local capacity and context need to be capitalized in order to improve the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. In this connection, international efforts to strengthen national statistical capacities will need to be substantially expanded, in particular in developing countries.

Madame Chair,

Agenda 2030 is a people centered document. Thus, we strongly believe that the most important mean of implementation of the SDGs is people or skilled and healthy human resource in addition to efficient indicators, sustainable investments and suitable follow up and review processes.

In conclusion, we reaffirm the Government of Mongolia's commitment to the successful implementation of SDGs and to the principles and objectives as set out in the ICPD Programme of Action.

Thank you for your attention.