



MYANMAR

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STATEMENT

BY

DR. NYI NYI

DIRECTOR FROM DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

AT THE 49th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION

AND DEVELOPMENT

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**Statement by Dr. Nyi Nyi, Director, Department of Population, Ministry of Labour,
Immigration and Population**

On Agenda Item 4

At the 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

United Nations, New York, 11 – 15 April 2016

Mr. Chairman

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this important Meeting. I am confident that under your wise and able guidance, the Commission will bring about successful outcomes from our deliberations. I have no doubt that this meeting will provide us knowledge and insightful information in the area of population and development, especially on Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to commend the Secretary General, for the two reports that have been presented in this Session – Report on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/3); and the Report on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/4).

We agree with the two Reports' recognition of the need to strengthen the sources of information to be used as baseline for the post-2015 development agenda and more importantly monitoring of population programmes with a view to strengthening the benchmark for all indicators and target. These calls for demographic importance of understanding, and accounting for, demographic changes and how these changes are expected to contribute to, or hinder, the achievement of inclusive and sustainable economic development; and that future population dynamics will themselves be influenced by the successes, challenges and shortcomings in the implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda. Myanmar expects that the issues and recommendations highlighted in these reports will be adequately followed and implemented in the Post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar successfully conducted a nationwide Population and Housing Census in 2014. This is the first census in over 30 years. The 2014 Census was conducted with the realisation of the need for reliable, up-to-date and accessible data on population and households, which is providing a base for the design and implementation of rights-based and people-centred development policies and strategies. It is very important to the on-going reforms in our country. The Census information is enabling our country to better understand and integrate population issues including fertility, childhood mortality, maternal mortality, migration, urbanisation, gender, young people and population ageing in our plans. We will also be able to better understand the inequalities related to the provision of education, employment and economic characteristics, quality of living conditions and disability, among other issues; and ensure that our planning is inclusive and is geared towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

We already released the main results of the Census in May 2015 and we are currently at the stage of thematic analysis. We have undertaken dissemination of the information to all potential data users including government, civil society organizations, women groups, youth groups, academia, private sector and community leaders. In fact, we partnered with civil society organizations in facilitating the dissemination workshops across the country. This has made the civil society organization to start viewing the government in a different light. In addition, we plan to release the thematic analysis results before end of 2016, after which again, we will undertake dissemination of the results including training of potential data users on the meaning of data. This is the ultimate goal of the census. The census has also provided a national sampling frame upon which surveys such as DHS, Labour Force Survey and Living Standard Survey have been conducted within two years. With the Census information, Myanmar will be able to address most of the gaps related to population and development issues and move some steps closer to reaching national and international development goals, including the Post-2015 agenda.

We recognise the challenges most countries, especially those in similar development contexts to Myanmar, face in collecting and disseminating data and statistics that are timely and disaggregated by age, sex and other characteristics relevant to national contexts; hence we reiterate our gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and all donor countries for their financial and technical support in making the 2014 Myanmar Census a great success.

Mr. Chairman,

You may wish to take note that the Myanmar National Commission on Population and Development is keen on the ICPD Programme of Action and have also endorsed the Post 2030 development agenda. At the same time we recognise the progress achieved and the gaps that need to be addressed on population and development issues. We pledge that integration of population issues into our development plans will be a major pre-occupation of our planners and policy makers in the medium to long term. However, as we provide our full support for the further implementation of the ICPD and the integration of population issues in the Post-2015 agenda, we urge members of the Commission and donor countries to facilitate the realisation of the goals of the ICPD through provision of adequate resources, technology and knowledge transfer, South-South cooperation and ensuring access to commodities and services, particularly for young people, women and adolescent girls.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me bring to your notice that the population of young people (10-24) constitutes almost a third of the total population of Myanmar. We are aware that strategic investment in young people will enable Myanmar to capitalize the time-bound opportunity to enable demographic dividends central to defining and implementing a post-2015 vision for sustainable development. The centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights; and the potential for reaping returns on population data is also critical. As Myanmar moves toward a modern democratic country the Government of the Republic of Myanmar is mindful of, and is investing in young people to give opportunities to participate productively in society and gain access to necessary information and services.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion let me reiterate the Government of Myanmar's commitment to ensuring that population and health issues are adequately integrated into Sustainable Development and the Post-15 Development Agenda.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.