

**Statement by Turkey at the International Conference on Population and Development
Beyond 2016**

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the progress made since the twenty-eight and thirtieth sessions of the CPD. These sessions were instrumental to measure our efforts to monitor population trends and policies in terms of fertility, mortality, migration, ageing, employment and to understand the links between population and development.

We welcome the report of the Secretary General, which underlines the importance of capacity building to effectively address current and emerging population issues and brings the population dimensions into the international development agenda.

Madam Chair,

We would like to reiterate our wholehearted support for the effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, since it is the only international foundation for sustainable development to all. For an effective implementation of population policy internationally, scientific gaps between countries in terms of using survey methodologies and sharing data with experience must be filled. Taking this opportunity, I would like to stress upon the following issues Turkey attaches particular importance:

- According to the United Nations, world population has reached 7 billion. In order to create new decent jobs, especially for the young and the elders, we have to monitor and research labor markets with more calibrated surveys supplying reliable data for policy makers.
- Our population is also ageing. We need more sophisticated surveys and statistics about the senior citizens in terms of supplying their needs for health services, proper housing and their active ageing.
- The surveys and statistics are the prime agent to measure the impact analysis of social policies, especially of those aiming at eliminating the inequalities between the men and the women, the violence against the women and the elders. It is important to enrich the capacities of population institutions in terms of sharing data and developing advanced cross national statistical analysis and regular surveys.

Madam Chair,

Finally, let me touch upon the latest improvements in Turkey regarding CPD related survey and statistical issues:

- Turkey has given top priority to improving the population registration system in its 10th National Development Plan. Improvement of the population registration systems to monitor up-to-date birth, death, immigration and emigration data is one of the targets in the Plan.
- Turkey has established cooperation with EUROSTAT. This collaboration enables us using same data collecting methodologies and comparing population issues with other countries.
- By developing our health registration system, we now efficiently analyze the reasons for maternal and infant mortality and take radical actions in order to reduce them. By monitoring provincially and taking action locally in Turkey, the infant mortality rate has decreased from ‰ 31,3 to ‰ 9,3 and maternal mortality decreased from ‰ 0,64 to ‰ 0,152 within ten years.
- Empowering the education level of women and children is one of the top priorities of Turkey. We extended compulsory education to 12 years, and school enrollment rate has reached to ‰100,7.
- As one of the first states to sign İstanbul Convention and the first to ratify it we have also put laws in to practice conformity with this Convention. We have implemented national action plans to cover the issues of combating violence against women. Also we attached special importance to strengthening women’s role and elimination of inequalities under our G-20 presidency last year. We started activities in order to narrow the gap between men’s and women’s labor force participation by 25 percent by 2025. We introduced Women 20 into G20 engagement groups. In doing this, we aimed at mobilizing additional support to the g20 initiative in order for women to strengthen their existence in economic life.
- Turkey is now participating more frequently in international surveys measuring family structure, aging, domestic violence, and drug using, including Generation and Gender Survey (GGS), Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), and European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)
- Finally, Turkey is hosting the largest number of irregular immigrants in the world. Turkey has launched its registration database, which is streamlining all refugees and asylum-seekers into a national database system. Registration of the foreigners that are seeking protection is an ongoing procedure. On this occasion, let me underline that the first ever world humanitarian summit to be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-24 May will

provide an opportunity to look into also the migration problem in a comprehensive manner.

Madam Chair,

We look forward to contributing to the negotiations on the post 2016 agenda. We expect that the outcome of the conference would recognize the outcomes of all the reviews, findings and recommendations of the CPD beyond 2015.

In order to fully achieve the post 2015 agenda, we believe that **it is a must** to establish better collaboration and cooperation at the international and national levels as well as mechanisms for monitoring and follow ups, based on realistic goals and indicators.

Thank you for your attention.