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**Statement by the representative of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations
General debate on national experience in population matters: strengthening the
demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda
Forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development
11 April 2016, New York**

Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear colleagues,

Ukraine is pleased to participate in today's session on strengthening the demographic evidence base. We consider the goal of enhancing national capacities for data production and use to be a crucial component of our national development strategy. We commend the Commission on Population and Development for convening this important discussion.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a data revolution based on the principles of quality, transparency and usability. There is indeed no doubt about the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated population statistics, which will allow to assess the progress of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, our key priority, as stated in the Secretary-General's report on this issue, is finding the most efficient ways to link demography to policy formulation. Monitoring and reporting is not our end goal - we are aiming to generate knowledge and guarantee informed use of data. Therefore, it is critical that data helps us plan interventions and translates into national monitoring of investments. We are grateful to UNFPA for its support as we are taking steps in this direction, including its invaluable assistance with building a population estimation model for estimating overall population numbers and sex/age structure, as well as with conducting a population assessment exercise to validate the available population information sources.

Planning and implementing policies and programmes presents a bigger challenge for many developing countries, where data systems have been almost solely oriented to data production. Long-standing weaknesses in such data ecosystems should be addressed collectively by the whole international community, to avoid widening the gap in available information technology.

Another factor that is bound to widen this gap is the worldwide growth of instability and insecurity. Increasingly grave humanitarian challenges and mass population displacement require an unprecedented level of flexibility and capacity to integrate data from different sources. The availability of real-time data in all major sectors is essential to identifying and locating the most vulnerable. In light of the protracted aggression and occupation, Ukraine has registered 1.75 million IDPs from the peninsula of Crimea and the conflict area in the east of the country. The number of registered IDPs has been constantly growing. While many of these people permanently stay in Government-controlled areas, others regularly cross the 'contact line'. Under these circumstances, the registration of IDPs has been a challenge, which complicates the distribution of social welfare payments and the provision of other vital assistance to the affected population.

This difficult reality requires a new approach to data collection and processing that combines high speed, reliability, and privacy. Ukraine is working towards improving our data collection methods to better determine IDPs protection and assistance needs.

In these efforts, we have mobilized all the relevant government stakeholders and welcomed the contribution of non-governmental organizations, public activists and private companies. Such partnerships have provided enormous value and allowed for more effective targeted interventions in our fast-changing environment.

Unfortunately, my country is not the only one facing mass displacement. Many countries are in a situation where their governments require special efforts to provide the necessary aid to their vulnerable communities. This can only be possible with the availability of big data. Traditional data systems are not sufficient anymore. Only the combination of traditional, satellite and big data can provide us with the quantity and diversity of information this will maximize our ability to plan relevant interventions. Therefore, Ukraine supports Secretary General's emphasis on preparing a vibrant sector of data professionals, within national statistical offices, academia and civil society, as well as welcomes public-private partnerships in this regard.

Dear colleagues,

Ukraine would like to express its support of the Zero-draft resolution on the special theme. We appreciate the recognition of the implications of the use of population data for human rights, dignity, quality of life and poverty eradication. We are fully committed to continue our work on leveraging technology and improving national institutions and mechanisms to generate disaggregated population data. We also commit to improving the efficiency of data processing and dissemination. Ukraine looks forward to our cooperation and strong partnerships with regard to the collection, dissemination and use of demographic data.

I thank you.