



## **PHILIPPINE STATEMENT**

**MR. JUAN ANTONIO A. PEREZ III**

Executive Director, Commission on Population

**51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

United Nations Headquarters, New York

13 April 2018

Mister Chair,

The Philippine Delegation thanks you, your co-facilitators and secretariat for the earnest work and diligence that you have shown in the past year for us to achieve our works this year.

Our delegation regrets that we have not achieved consensus this year. We join Tunisia and other countries in their statement.

All countries here are working to achieve the goals of the ICPD and should continue to strive to achieve its goal of people-centered development. However, we should not look at our work in this Commission as a race or a contest. Some of us may think themselves ahead of the pack or others may think they cannot follow the lead of others and would like to take a different path to people-centered development in its broadest sense. But we should not tire in working for our people. Even without consensus this year, we should still strive to come to the same page as we take stock of the 25 year progress of ICPD next year.

Mister Chair,

In closing, we encourage everyone to continue to advance to achieve great progress by developing on ideas that bind us, rather than divide us, and move on to the next page of progress for all.

I thank you and all colleagues. Good evening.