

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## **Explanation of Position by**

**by Mr. Ali Hajilari**

**Head of the Department of International Specialized Agencies of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**On the “Declaration on the Occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the  
International Conference on Population and Development” as well as all related  
reports and documents of the Fifty-seventh session of the Commission on  
Population and Development**

**New York, 3 May 2024**

**Madam Chair,**

My delegation is pleased to join the consensus on the “Declaration on the Occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development” of the fifty-seventh session of Commission on Population and Development. We wish to express our gratitude to the co-facilitators for their dedicated efforts in achieving this consensus.

**Madam chair,**

while my delegation appreciates the tireless efforts made to finalize the Draft Declaration, we regret to note that the text fails to

adequately capture the considerations of several countries including my own and does not address our important priorities.

Based on that, the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to highlight the following points:

1. we strongly maintain that family-oriented policies and programs are crucial for the well-being and prosperity of societies, a viewpoint that regrettably has not been reflected in the document. The family unit comprising a man, a woman and their children, serves as the cornerstone of the society, with its stability and cohesion directly influencing the well-being, education, health and socio-economic circumstances of individuals and societies.
2. My delegation wishes to convey its deep concern about the adverse impacts and extensive repercussions of the decreasing fertility rates in numerous countries, which poses notable social, economic, and demographic challenges. Regrettably, this crucial matter has not been addressed in the document.
3. We emphasize the significance of national sovereignty and the right of each country to determine its own development trajectory, encompassing its population and development policies. It is crucial that any multilateral document concerning population and development adheres to the principle of national sovereignty.

Hence, we reject any attempt to impose uniform and so-called standardized solutions or prerequisites on countries, advocating for an approach that acknowledges the disparate developmental and population priorities as well as cultural contexts of each nation.

4. It is to be noted that as the outcomes of the reviews of the program of action of the ICPD and the outcome documents of regional review conferences are not UN member states' and inter-governmentally negotiated texts, my delegation disassociates itself from all the references citing those outcomes of the reviews.
5. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in all matters concerning population and development, acts exclusively in accordance with its own national laws, legislation and policies. Therefore, my delegation considers the implementation of ICPD 1994 as non-binding and opts to distance itself of any references to its full implementation in the present Declaration.
6. In relation to the references in this Declaration to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its full implementation, it is imperative to emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran views this Agenda as a non-legally-binding, voluntary instrument simply presenting non-mandatory and non-obligatory suggestions and recommendations. My delegation formally declares that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not committed - at all - to those parts and

elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which, in one way or another, conflict with the national priorities, laws, regulations, legislation and policies of Iran as well as Islamic principles, instructions and teachings and cultural and religious norms, traditions and values of Iranian society.

7. In light of the stated perspective, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no legal obligation vis-à-vis the implementation of the above-mentioned instruments and in all matters concerning domestic development, Iran's national overarching instruments, plans, programs and strategies will enjoy total priority and would be considered as the sole and final source of action and reference for my country.
8. Regarding other issues reflected in all reports and documents of this session, particularly those pertaining to controversial, non-consensual terms and concepts, my delegation would like to refer the meeting to the Explanation of Position delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on November 17, 2023, during the 7th Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok.

In conclusion, **Madam chair**, I kindly request the inclusion of this Explanation of Position in all official reports and documents of this meeting.

**I thank you Madam chair**

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