



Statement by

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**Agenda Item 4:
National Experience in Population Matters:
Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration
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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes this session's thematic focus on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. It is timely that we consider population issues in the context of urbanization and internal migration. The theme does indeed strengthen our pursuit of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

My delegation expects that the results of this meeting will contribute significantly to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action in the last fifteen years.

We appreciate the reports of the Secretary-General which provided a comprehensive analysis of global trends related to population distribution, urbanization, migration and development.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development is a pertinent issue that requires a comprehensive discussion. Based on the report of the Secretary-General, for the first time the number of people living in urban areas will be equal to those living in rural areas and projections for 2025 will see a more urbanized world. This is an important fact for every government to consider in formulating development policies for the short and long term.

Indonesia, with a population of 232 million people is not only the 4th most populous country in the world but also the largest archipelago. Based on recent studies, by 2025, 68 percent of Indonesia will be urbanised, and by the year 2020, Indonesia is expected to have five megacities and 23 cities with a population of more than 1 million people.

Many analysts have suggested that cities in Indonesia could follow the model of abnormal growth of Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta. The urbanization of Jakarta has spurred economic growth but also created a myriad of socio-economic problems. With the national economy centralized in Jakarta, 3 quarters of the national monetary circulation is controlled there. Yet, Jakarta's social infrastructure has been strained. The number of slums have increased.

By 2015, Jakarta is expected to be the 5th of the top 10 largest cities in the world. Most have agreed that Jakarta has not provided the ideal for Indonesia's urban growth. And its path of growth will surely undermine efforts for a better Indonesian community and the wider objectives of development. Hence, reducing the positive impacts of urbanization.

Mr. Chairman,

While searching for an urbanization model that can support Indonesia's development, the Government of Indonesia has been applying policies in the area of

population growth, economic incentives, transmigration and a myriad of social policies to address urban and rural development. Investing in education and health, including reproductive health and voluntary family planning, is one of the priorities in addressing urban population growth in the country.

All stakeholders are striving for sustainable urbanization with a strong emphasis on public private partnership. Gender empowerment to eradicate urban and rural poverty is given high priority, such as providing microcredit to women groups.

On the issue of over population, in some areas, the Government of Indonesia have been employing transmigration policies from densely populated urban areas to rural areas with the aim of reducing poverty and population density. Each year the transmigration program, assists relocating approximately 15,000 families.

Indonesia's national development programs are aiming towards better coordination between central and regional governments. The aim is to ensure that urban and rural areas develop in a complementary and synergistic manner. However, there is still a need to enhance planning capacity.

The continued decentralization process in Indonesia is also expected to provide opportunities for more responsive service delivery, especially for basic services, such as education, health and family planning. The Indonesian Government is focusing on urban slum areas for such services.

To bridge urban and rural areas, we have been promoting greater cooperation between rural and central governments. Through Inter City and Inter Regional Cooperation, the Government has sought to address labour supply and labour demand, and also the transition of suburban areas.

In the effort to close the socio-economic gap between the rural and urban sectors, my Government continues to promote relevant national development programs that includes Presidential Decree for Under-developed Villages, and coordination of development of Indonesia's Eastern region.

There has also been an increase in the number of villages transforming into small towns; in which this serves as one of the long-term strategies to address urbanization and ultimately attaining the MDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to continuously be innovative in enhancing the productivity in rural areas so that their transition into urban communities could produce minimal negative social impacts. The growing use of information and communication technologies has and should continue to be utilized as a means to contribute to the advancement and learning of the rural and urban poor. Given the strengths and scope of the United Nations, its relevant bodies can enhance developing countries' efforts to manage urbanization. National efforts are sure to be significantly enhanced with international assistance.

Banking facilities also need to be expanded in rural areas so that the opportunities from remittance of migrant workers can be optimized. The upcoming

Financing for Development Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar need to encourage the participation of the international community to assist the greater mobilization of domestic resources, including the transfer of skills and expertise in rural banking and finance.

Mr. Chairman,

With over 6 billion people on earth, half are living in cities and towns. Evidence suggests that urbanization and globalization are positive forces for development and attainment of the MDGs. Yet, just as globalization has its shortfalls so does urbanization. If urbanization is unable to meet with the demands of the population, then it actually undermines development. Moreover, the current urbanization trends suggest a need to revisit the importance of rural development. As centers of agricultural production, if rural areas are neglected, agricultural production is weakened thus endangering the world's food security and development.

The current global economic situations reflect that very concern. The global food supply has reduced in recent years, as a result of less agricultural production. While this concerns all global citizens, the poor will be disproportionately affected. As many urban poor and rural poor strive for survival, they are now also bombarded by the problem of rising food prices, together with high oil prices and climate change.

Those are important problems that must be addressed cooperatively by all member states. President of the Republic of Indonesia is deeply concerned by this degrading situation and believes strongly in the important role of the United Nations in addressing this dilemma. This continuous brunt of globalization has left too many developing countries in a quandary and hence the upcoming General Assembly should devote a discussion to this pressing situation.

This year CPD would provide a good awareness of how governments need to be sensitive on the issues of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. At the same time, we should pay attention to the link between globalization and population distribution, urbanization, and internal migration.

Rest assured Mr. Chairman, my delegation will do all that it can to ensure the successful discussion of this years CPD.

I thank you