

STATEMENT
BY

Mr. Hossein Gharibi
Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

At The 41st Session of the
Commission on Population and Development
New York, 7 April 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Like previous speakers, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the bureau of the 41st Session, in which I have had the honor to serve, on your election to chair this session of the Commission on Population and Development. I also thank the secretariat of the Commission led by Ms. Hania Zlotnik for all the efforts and good work in the preparation of this session including its documentations and reports.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China that was delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda this morning. However we would like to touch upon a few points in regard to this year's theme as already set to be "population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development".

My delegation carefully studied the Secretary General's reports including those in documents 2008/3 and 2008/4. The reports repeatedly emphasize that there need to be necessary changes in stereotypes and

misperceptions of policy-makers of countries with high rate of urbanization. They suggest that anti-migration policies be replaced with sound urbanization policies which address challenges of urbanization and to take advantage of it for developmental purposes. While we agree, to certain extent, that there are linkages between urbanization and development, however, there seems to be some lack of clear development-based approach in the prevailing conclusion throughout the reports. Needless to say, developing countries are facing tremendous economic and financial challenges that they have inherited from the unjust and imbalanced global economic, financial and trade systems. So while developing countries are trying to cope with the current challenges in urban as well as rural areas, unexpected flow of rural-urban migration would be understood as additional burden to tackle with. Given that, prescribing policies to exploit the possibilities that cities offer without considering certain conditions of developing countries would not be of much help.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the efforts done in terms of population programmes to assist programme countries in areas like policy formulation, data collection and research, capacity-building, advocacy and others. However, the way they have been reported could not meet our expectations. Those measures, referred to in the report, undertaken by UNFPA country offices, are ranging from having an interview with a local newspaper to joint project in health care, just encompasses less than 30 countries and two sub-regions. We are of the view that member States should be given more comprehensive and measurable data in order to get as clear as possible a general picture of the activities of the Fund and their impacts on the development of population

related national strategies. The report should also include more countries from all developing regions with various criteria.

In the same line, we see many capacities to be explored and utilized in order to promote South-South Cooperation and implement projects to realize the overarching goals of South-South Cooperation as set out in the UN documents. This is mostly due to many similarities that developing countries share concerning the theme of this year and other population issues. Furthermore, it is likely advisable that the Fund should introduce several inputs to the ongoing efforts for the preparation of the Fourth Cooperation Framework for South-South Cooperation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to note the importance of the work of the UN Population Division in the follow-up of its goals and mandates given to it by member States. We encourage more consultation and interaction with member States for preparations of the reports and overall work of the Division that can contribute to its activities and better serve the Organization. Moreover, as it has been the case, the Division should benefit, to the extent possible, from knowledge and experience of expanded range of experts particularly from developing countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.