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Commission on Population and Development 45th Session Economic and Social Council

Statement by DR. Sudibyo Alimoeso Indonesian Delegation

Agenda Item 6:

"Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population"

New York, 26 April 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

The report before this agenda item provides Member States with a comprehensive and useful information, so that we can have the access to the most up to date development and population data, as well as become aware of the policies being adopted and implemented by UN Member States. Such data permits us to make useful comparisons and enlightens us about lessons learned by various States.

Indonesia's experience has long been available to those with a specific interest in its progress and who enjoy the benefits of utilizing publications put out by the population division. The use of such information and statistical data is made so much easier today because of the constant improvement being made to multimedia tools that provide access to those publications.

Mr. Chairperson, the Indonesian delegation would now like to put forward some proposals for the benefit of future users of those publications.

Firstly, we would like to focus on the availability of indicators and comprehensive policy analyses pertaining to population and climate change, taking into consideration both mitigation and adaptation approaches.

Climate change is indeed and will continue to be a central issue for development in the foreseeable future. Population dynamics have a strong impact on climate change. On the other hand, population dynamics are heavily influenced by climate change. However, policy makers do not take particular note of the correlation between the two. Their knowledge in this area appears very limited. As a result, population dynamics are not treated as a significant factor in policies and programmes on climate change.

Indonesia is beginning to develop a greater appreciation for the link between the two. The National Population and Family Planning Board with development partner in Indonesia are moving towards incorporating population issues into the climate change policy framework. In this regard, further discussions with the National Council on Climate Change, the Ministry of Environment and the National Development Planning Board will continue to take place leading to concrete changes to the policy framework in keeping with that growing awareness.

Secondly, indicators on population dynamics that can be easily collected and presented at micro/local level need to be developed and more widely disseminated. In many countries, heads of districts and their subordinates have authority as the main policy makers for development at that level. In effect, what this means is that successful action on internationally agreed development commitments, such as the MDGs, is determined by the comprehension and performance of these local leaders in relation to their development responsibilities.

In many cases, nation-wide macro indicators are hardly understood and applied at the micro level. Scientific studies, lessons learned from various countries and, most of all, agreements reached by experts do not attract the attention and support of local leaders and so fail to provide them with guidelines for action. The fact of the matter is while useful scientific population data is being collected at the micro/local level, they do not impact the behavior of policy makers at the macro level. This is an area for positive action to help prevent the occurrence of climate change and mitigate its impact.

I thank you.