



Check Against Delivery

Statement by

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on the

**Report of the Secretary-General on the Monitoring of Population Programmes,
Focusing on the Contribution of the Programme of Action of the International
Conference on Population and Development to the Internationally Agreed
Development Goals, Including the Millennium Development Goals
(E/CN.9/2009/4)**

42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York

30 March 2009

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Secretary-General on the *Monitoring of Population Programmes, Focusing on the Contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, Including the Millennium Development Goals* (E/CN.9/2009/4). The document has been prepared by the United Nations Population Fund in response to the topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development.

The Report describes the linkages between ICPD and the MDGs as well as examples of the programmatic work of the United Nations Population Fund to assist countries throughout the world in responding to the challenges of implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, especially as it contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Madam Chair, as the international community observes the fifteenth anniversary of the Cairo Conference, it is clear that the ICPD development framework remains relevant and crucial to saving lives and advancing the quality of life of men, women, young people and children, especially the most vulnerable populations. Population, reproductive health and gender issues are central to development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Individual women and men must be empowered with education, equal opportunities and the means to determine the number and spacing of their children to help break the cycle of poverty that traps millions and hinders the progress of human development. UNFPA assists countries in their efforts to reduce poverty by improving access to reproductive health and family planning to help contribute towards smaller families and more healthy populations. It also assists countries in promoting education, fighting gender-based violence and empowering women and girls to help contribute to poverty reduction. In several countries, UNFPA has been actively engaged in policy dialogue to influence the formulation of pro-poor policies, such as national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and health sector plans. UNFPA, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, supported the process of formulating national development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) as well as population-related indicators in a number of countries. The advocacy and technical support provided by UNFPA during the preparation of the strategies contributed to the integration of the population, reproductive health and gender dimension in the countries' plan of action. In Latin America and the Caribbean, a UNFPA regional project invested in the development of modeling tools that facilitate the quantification of some of the pathways between population and reproductive health, on the one hand, and poverty levels, on the other.

Gender equality and equity will only be achieved by ensuring the full participation and partnership of both women and men in productive and reproductive life and eliminating all practices that discriminate against women and girls, including gender-based violence. UNFPA contributes to the achievement of MDG 3 by addressing critical issues which lie at the center of

gender equality, including women's right to health and the right to live free from violence. The Fund works in collaboration with other UN agencies, and builds partnerships with governments, civil society organizations, including indigenous peoples groups and faith-based networks, to promote women's leadership and implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the ICPD Programme of Action. As co-convenor of the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality's Task Force on Violence against Women, UNFPA is working with the Division for the Advancement of Women to support 10 UN Country Teams in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women. UNFPA also supports efforts to accelerate abandonment of the practice of female genital mutilation. Many UNFPA-supported projects emphasize the role of men – from uniformed personnel to religious leaders - in sexual and reproductive health including maternal health, child health, HIV/AIDS and prevention of gender-based violence. UNFPA is active in this area in crisis and post-conflict settings, responding to humanitarian crises in 54 countries in 2007 alone.

There is a clear linkage between Millennium Development Goal 5 and the reproductive health goals of ICPD. UNFPA supports the development and implementation of national policies, strategies and programmes for sexual and reproductive health in countries around the world, including in sector-wide approaches. The Fund emphasizes the integration of a package of sexual and reproductive health services in the basic health services delivered at district and local levels, particularly primary health care. Through programmes in 140 countries, UNFPA works with governments to ensure that sexual and reproductive health, including family planning is an integral part of national health plans and budgets, that health workers are trained to deliver quality services and that information and a range of family planning methods and supplies are offered in all health facilities and reaches all communities. UNFPA is committed to ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services and information for adolescents and young people as part of a broader package of social services.

To address gaps in maternal care, UNFPA and its partner agencies support Governments in the implementation of plans to ensure functioning health systems that provide the continuum of maternal health care within broader sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA assists countries to increase access to vital maternal health services, particularly skilled delivery care and emergency obstetric care. In 2003, UNFPA and partners launched the global Campaign to End Fistula, which is now active in over 45 countries aiming to prevent obstetric fistula, treat women who are affected and help treated women reintegrate in society. Despite the considerable progress made since the Conference, millions of women and adolescent girls continue to die or become disabled during pregnancy and childbirth and we are far short of achieving MDG 5.

Halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS is not only a goal in itself but a prerequisite for reaching most other Millennium Development Goals. UNFPA works in close collaboration with governments to strengthen and integrate reproductive health and HIV services, with a focus on HIV prevention. The Fund works to improve access to reproductive health and HIV services for young people, women and girls in general and vulnerable groups in particular. UNFPA leads work to strengthen prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health linkages, reproductive health commodity security, condom programming, prevention of gender-based violence, prevention of infection in women, including pregnant women and young

people, and strengthens the HIV/AIDS response in the context of uniformed services and humanitarian crises.

To accelerate the achievement of MDG 7, UNFPA supports research to generate and disseminate an improved understanding and awareness of the different ways in which population dynamics and environmental change affect each other. UNFPA's agenda on climate change includes supporting research and advocacy for mitigation of climate change, promoting sustainable cities and reducing urban vulnerability, identifying impacts of climate change on migration and improving responses to emergency situations. The Fund seeks to raise awareness of the importance of taking into account the linkages between population, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development in formulating national development policies, including those that address the current challenges posed by climate change and the food and financial crises.

UNFPA strategies continue to be a catalyst, focusing on coordination and collaboration with a wide range of partners, strengthening national capacity, investing in human resource development, generation of data, including census data, for policy formulation and analysis and for monitoring and evaluation systems, facilitating technical support through national, regional and global networks including South-South partnerships, advocacy and resource mobilization.

Madam Chair, as we take stock of progress, we see that much has already been achieved in many areas related to the Millennium Development Goals, but the progress has been uneven and much work remains to be done to realize both the ICPD goals and the MDGs, especially in the poorest countries.

The fifteenth anniversary of the ICPD provides an excellent opportunity for the international community to renew its commitment and to redouble efforts to meet the goals and objectives agreed to in Cairo in order to facilitate the timely achievement of the MDGs.

Thank you.