Introductory Statement on the Secretary-General's Reports on the Operational Review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

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Mr. Chairman,

I am honored to present the two reports of the Secretary-General on the *Framework of Action for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014* (A/69/62) and (E/CN.9/2014/4). The latter report, E/CN.9/2014/4, is a summary of A/69/62, which contains the detailed findings and recommendations of the operational review mandated by General Assembly Resolution 65/234 of December 2010.

General Assembly Resolution 65/234 called for an operational review of the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, that takes into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues; responds to new challenges relevant to population and development; to the changing development environment and that reinforces the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development.

These 2 reports respond to that mandate, highlighting both the successful implementation of the ICPD objectives, and identifying new challenges, and the actions for achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

The Reports are based on inputs over a two-year period, including:

- Data provided by 176 countries and 8 territories and areas via the global survey;
- The outcomes of the regional conferences;
- Thematic meetings on youth, human rights and women's health;
- And data from each of the Member States of the United Nations on key health and social outcomes.

The data gathered from these sources point to many shared achievements –

- Nearly 1 billion persons lifted out of poverty;
- Gender parity in primary school in a majority of countries;
- Maternal mortality reduced by almost half;
- A 23% decline in global fertility driven by greater choice for women;
- A decline in deaths from unsafe abortion;
- Growing access to life-saving treatment for AIDS, and a reduction in new HIV infections;
- Increasing global attention to violence against women;
- And measurable advances in many societies in the values of gender equality;

Not all people have shared in these achievements. Aggregate gains mask the fact that many of the poorest people, and countries, have been left behind. It is these persistent inequalities, detailed in the report A/69/62, that determine the further actions needed to fully implement the vision of the ICPD.

General Assembly Resolution 65/234 in stressing the importance of protecting the achievements of the ICPD, also highlighted the need to respond *"new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment"*. And indeed, the world has grown more unequal in both earnings and wealth, demographic trends are far more diverse, rapid urbanization is unfolding in many countries, there has been an explosion in access to information, and the threats of climate change have grown, with the potential to undermine development.

The 1994 Programme of Action anticipated these developments, crafting objectives and shared commitments that, had they been fully implemented, might have precluded some of the challenges that we face today. But as with many ambitious and far-reaching agendas, implementation of ICPD has been fragmented, and selective.

The full achievements of the implementation of the Programme of Acion, the outstanding needs, and further actions needed to fulfill the goals and objectives of the ICPD are described in detail in the A/69/62. I will review only key highlights today.

Dignity and Human Rights

The central thesis of the reports echoes the inspiration of the 1994 Programme of Action, that investing in the dignity and human rights and capability of all persons, including ensuring the equal rights of women and girls, and guided by a comprehensive definition of sexual and reproductive health and rights, are preconditions for building resilient societies with the capacity for long-term economic growth, and the capacity to sustain well-being in the face of social and environmental change.

But the findings of the review, contained in the reports, identify crucial barriers to realizing dignity and human rights.

Income and wealth inequality

First, the world has grown more unequal in both earnings and wealth. In 2012 approximately 8% of adults controlled over 80% of the world's wealth. And over the past 20 years, more than half of all gains in income were accrued by the top 5% of earners.

Diversion of the world's wealth to a small fraction of the population limits resources for improving population health, education and opportunity, and growing inequality reduces social cohesion and upward mobility, and hinders durable economic growth. This finding was confirmed by a new report by the IMF last month.

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Second, the empowerment of women and girls, and gender equality, remains unfulfilled.

More women than men are in vulnerable employment, with less job security, lower pay for equal work, fewer benefits, lower status and less decision-making authority. And they carry a far greater burden of unpaid work.

Gender-based violence is endemic. As many as one in three women worldwide report they have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, mostly at the hands of an intimate partner, and in a recent study of men in one region, 1 in 4 admitted to perpetrating rape. The vast majority experienced no legal consequences, and most reported they felt they had a right to sex with women.

Invest in adolescents and youth

Third, while the population of young people has never been so large, they face serious barriers to building their own capabilities, and contributing to development.

In Africa and parts of Asia, more than 30 per cent of the population is now between 10 and 24. How we meet the needs and aspirations of these young people will define the world's future.

While primary school enrolments have reached 90 per cent of children, quality is uneven, and in todays changing economies primary education is often insufficient for meaningful and well-paid employment.

Nearly 40 per cent of the unemployed globally are between 15 and 24, and in the next 10 years 600 million jobs will be needed to provide employment for young people.

The largest generation of adolescents is also now entering sexual and reproductive life. Yet little is known about their access to health knowledge and services, particularly for adolescents aged 10-14.

But what we do know is deeply troubling, including evidence of high proportions of maternal death from unsafe abortion, and high rates of new HIV infections, among young people.

The findings of the Report emphasize that young people with access to comprehensive sexuality education, particularly with skill building, interactive activities, and modules on gender and power, are better able to protect their health and avoid unintended pregnancy.

Investment in human capabilities, including all aspects of health and education, cannot end in youth. Lifelong learning enables people of all ages to better contribute to society. For countries that are rapidly aging, such investments bring important dividends. But even in younger countries, where women marry early, and soon raise children, a mother may arrive at age 35 with grown children, and years of healthy life ahead of her. And as life expectancy rises she is likely to live even longer, and she too deserves a chance to return to school, to gain new skills and ideas, and contribute to society in new ways.

Fourth, new research of the past 20 years provides compelling evidence of the personal and societal cost of fear, discrimination, stigma and violence.

Pregnant women suffering fear and stigma have lower birth-weights and more preterm births.

Violence and bullying depress productivity, impact mental health and contribute to the risk of suicide.

Even in the absence of physical violence, stigma reduces performance. Students given a discriminatory message before taking tests typically under-perform, compared to test-taking without discriminatory remarks.

And where values of intolerance exist, the reports find they are generally directed towards multiple groups.

Non-discrimination and opportunity give all persons a chance to participate in developmentand enjoy personal well-being.

Changes in Global Population Health

The changes in global population health between 1990 and 2010 are striking in two ways:

- First, there has been a dramatic global shift in the health burden towards non-communicable diseases and injuries because of global ageing, and these shifts will require more and more societies to build capacity for the screening and care of cancers, including reproductive cancers, non-communicable diseases, and the health needs of older persons;
- Second, this shift coincides with a persistent burden of communicable, maternal, nutritional and neonatal disorders in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, leaving these regions with a "double-burden" of health needs.

Maternal Health and Family Planning

The Report also found many achievements across sexual and reproductive health.

Principal among these is the decline in the maternal mortality ratio by 47% from 1990 to 2010. This reflects many social and health system developments, including the rise in women's education, family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care, and a decline in abortion-related deaths.

The proportion of deliveries attended by skilled health workers rose in developing countries from 56 % in 1990 to 67% in 2011. However, access to good maternal health care remains highly inequitable across regions and within countries, between poor and wealthier women and between women in urban and rural areas. In some countries the gaps between rich and poor have actually widened. The least progress has been made in Africa, where fewer than 55 per cent of women deliver with a skilled birth attendant, compared to more than 80 per cent of women in other regions.

In many countries with poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes, it is the weakness of the overall health system that limits progress, including a lack of skilled health workers, and inadequate management systems, infrastructure, and supplies.

The 2013 global health workforce shortfall stands at 7.2 million, and over 90% of maternal deaths occur in 58 countries with crucial shortages in health workers.

Unsafe abortion

Important gains have been made in reducing deaths due to unsafe abortion since 1994, but death rates remain remarkably high in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 97% of

abortions are unsafe. More than 8 million unsafe abortions occurred among young women aged 15-24 in developing countries in 2008, and women under 25 accounted for almost half of abortion-related deaths.

The results of the review show that where abortion is rare and safe, it is legal and accessible, contraception is widely available, young people have access to comprehensive sexuality education, and gender equality is more fully realized. A/69/62 provides lessons learned from countries on reducing unplanned pregnancies or safeguarding the lives of women and girls from preventable death.

Sexually transmitted infections

The last decade has seen great progress in the reduction of new HIV infections, and growing access to life-saving therapy for those living with HIV; but HIV is far from eradicated, and progress is highly unequal.

A continuing challenge is the lack of success in reducing new HIV infections in southern Africa, while other parts of Africa, and the world, have seen dramatic declines.

And underscoring the lack of integration between HIV and SRH programmes, the limited data on STIs suggests a worrying increase in the past 20 years – one that has received little policy or program attention.

Security of Place and Mobility

The reports find changing patterns in household structures, migration and urbanization that are affecting communities and the social environments in which people live.

Household change

One-person households are rising in all regions outside of Africa, due to delays in marriage, increasing numbers who never marry, and rising divorce.

Single parent households have also increased – but not in all regions – and these are primarily headed by women.

These shifts call for consideration of new forms of social protection, housing, and social support systems, both within and between generations.

Potential benefits of urbanization

All three reports, including the Report on Demographic Trends show that rapid urbanization is underway in many countries of Asia and Africa.

This transition brings enormous potential benefits, including economic growth, greater efficiency, greater access to vital services including education and health, and greater opportunities for empowerment and mobilization, very often for women and girls.

Yet the rise of urban inequality has meant that potential benefits are not accessible to many, particularly the poor or marginalized. They are excluded from the best land and often cut off from services, transport, participation, and employment.

The challenge for urbanization is not obstruction, which has proven ineffective and undermined development, but extending the potential benefits of urban life to more people, and linking health and transport systems to benefit both rural and urban residents.

Migration

Turning to international movements, the most important trend in migration is diversity, with more countries as points of origin, transit and destination.

Similar numbers of people are now moving between developing countries, as from developing to developed.

And while migration is an increasing part of many countries economic and social development, migrants face many barriers, whether in sending remittances or in integration, safety, and social protection in their places of destination.

Millions without security of place

The number of persons displaced by conflict today exceeds the prior peak (in 1994), and added millions are displaced by natural, primarily climate-related disasters, forced evictions, poverty, or lack access to land and property.

Those who lack security of place – whether displaced or under threat of displacement – are often invisible, to both states and monitoring systems, and much work is needed to achieve security of place for them and to ensure their dignity and rights.

Governance and Accountability

Demography is a dividend to society when it is planned for, but a liability when it is ignored. Yet the capacity to monitor and project population trends, and to integrate them into development planning remains weak in many countries.

Legal identity is increasingly recognized as a human rights issue. Despite a 30% increase in the proportion of births registered since 2000, still only 1 in 3 births in developing countries are registered. And despite recent improvements, censuses and surveys continue to be inconsistent and data often go unused.

Likewise, governments are the duty-bearers to ensure human rights. Many governments lack the human rights protections systems necessary to implement the ICPD agenda, and the monitoring systems to determine whether, for whom, and to what extent human rights have been fulfilled.

Population, Consumption and Climate Change

In the long term, population growth matters for climate change.

Yet the error habitually made is to equate each person with an equivalent unit of emissions. The fact is that only 2.5 billion people worldwide contribute to emissions, and far fewer are responsible for the majority of the damage.

Every person and every country has the right to development. In today's world, this requires economic growth, by which consumption increases, leading to greater contributions to climate change.

Low fertility countries have the highest consumption and emissions per capita. And high fertility countries tend to have extremely low consumption and emissions.

Yet as fertility declines, per capita consumption increases further. This means that any gains from slowing population growth depends greatly on the nature and distribution of consumption, and the technologies for production, energy and economic growth.

Population, Consumption and Climate Change

Vital solutions to climate change and other environmental threats include:

- o Innovation and technology for greener economies.
- o And incentives for high consumers to decrease their consumption

The biggest contributors to emissions are the infrastructure systems – the public services, housing, and transport.

Therefore, investments in public infrastructure and universal public services have the dual benefit of decreasing consumption and emissions per capita, and doing so in a way that improves equality.

Paths to Sustainability

We are at a critical threshold.

Before ICPD, large-scale global fears were too often prioritized over the human rights and freedoms of individuals and communities, and at worst were used to *justify* constraints on human rights. Debates over environmental sustainability, and about stimulating economic growth following the economic crisis, risk the same consequences.

On the occasion of the 20-year review of the Implementation of the ICPD, thereports reaffirm the core message of the ICPD – *that a fundamental commitment to individual dignity and human rights is the basis of a resilient and sustainable future.*

The reports highlight conclude with, the following seven paths emerge from the collected findings of the review for the further implementation of ICPD Beyond 2014 to ensure a sustainable world:

1. Dignity, human rights, non-discrimination for all
2. Lifelong investment in health and education, particularly for young people
3. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health
4. Security of place and safe mobility
5. Sustainable, inclusive cities linked to rural areas
6. A fundamental change in patterns of consumption
7. Stronger global leadership and accountability

I would like to conclude with the final recommendations of A/69/62. In addition to the actions identified in the report, effective collective action is required to address the global challenges outlined in the reports, on the basis of the findings of the review. This would require the leadership of the General Assembly and the Secretary General, in cooperation with the governing bodies of the UN system, to undertake a review of the existing institutional and

governance mechanisms for addressing global issues with a view to ensuring effective, coordination, integration and coherence at national, regional and global levels consistent with the scale of comprehensive response required to ensure rights-based sustainable development. The findings of the review present the United Nations with the defining opportunity to take action in order to fully extend principles of equality, dignity and rights to future generations and ensure sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention.