

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. Mr. OH Joon,  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
TO THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**New York, 9 April 2014**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of Ambassador Martin Sajdik, the President of the ECOSOC, and the ECOSOC Bureau, I have the pleasure to address the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on this most significant year, which marks the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Cairo Conference affirmed the fundamental role of population issues in global development, and there is no doubt that both population health and population dynamics will be key elements of the new development agenda for the post-2015 era.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Last year, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council. This resolution cements the role of the Council in providing guidance and coordination to the United Nations development system, through various innovations.

*Firstly*, the Council will select an annual theme at least two years in advance based on inputs received from subsidiary bodies and Member States. The annual theme will be addressed by the entire ECOSOC system. The CPD already has a relevant

mechanism in place, in the form of agenda item 5, which addresses the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review in 2014. But more can and should be done in this connection.

*Secondly*, the Council established an integration segment to consolidate inputs from various sources, including subsidiary bodies, on how best to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. This Commission can play an important role in that regard.

The Council recently decided that its first integration segment, to be held at the end of May this year, would be devoted to “sustainable urbanization”. While we are aware of the time constraints to provide inputs at such a short notice, this represents an opportunity for the CPD to contribute to the work of ECOSOC by incorporating key demographic trends and issues raised in the Council’s deliberations.

*Thirdly*, the Council will conduct action-oriented reviews of the activities, reports and recommendations of its subsidiary bodies. Resolution 68/1 requests all ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to include in their reports an executive summary and to clearly identify recommendations and substantive issues that require further attention by the Council.

*Fourthly*, the annual report of this Commission will be considered at one of the Council’s coordination and management meetings, or CMM. This Commission is scheduled to present its report to the Council in July. This CMM will give another opportunity for direct engagement of the Chair of the CPD with the Council

#### **Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

The theme of this year’s Annual Ministerial Review is “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”. This Commission has in the past

identified key connections between population trends and achievement of the MDGs, including the contribution of reduced fertility and population growth to poverty reduction and other major development goals.

In these areas, population trends and policies have made significant contributions to the achievement of more sustainable and equitable development. I am confident that during this week, your deliberations will lead to concrete recommendations to address new challenges and gaps in implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, which will contribute to sustaining current and future development gains.

Among the emerging trends of the post-2015 era, the increasing urbanization and ageing of the world's population, the implications of the changing spatial distribution of the population for the environment, as well as the increasing intensity and diversification of migratory flows both within and across countries should certainly be taken into account.

**Mr. Chairman,**

There is little doubt that future demographic trends will shape the opportunities for development in the years and decades ahead, as has been recognized in the outcome document of the Rio+20 conference. I would like to assure you that the Council is committed to ensuring that the reform process that I have just outlined, will lead to a fuller consideration of population issues and a better integration of the work of this Commission in the ECOSOC machinery as a whole.

**Excellency, Distinguished delegates,**

In closing, on behalf of the President, let me reiterate my appreciation for the invitation to participate in this session of the CPD. I look forward to learning about

the outcomes and receiving from this Commission substantive recommendations that require attention by the Council.

Thank you.