

Philippine Statement
United Nations General Assembly 29th Special Session
On the Follow-up on the Programme of Action (PoA) of the
International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)
9 October 2014 , New York

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines is pleased to be able to take part in this Special Session of the International Conference on Population and Development to collectively assess the status of the implementation of the twenty year-old ICPD Programme of Action. Our participation today reflects the Philippines renewed commitment towards the realization of the ICPD promise.

Within the context of the population and development situation in my country, the Philippines wishes to share the following:

ON DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

For the Philippines, the reduction and elimination of poverty remains the core policy and program framework of President Benigno Aquino's Administration in its pursuit of inclusive growth.

Recognizing that social and economic inequalities converge among the poor, the country is working hard to translate the fruits of this economic gain to generate employment and sustainable livelihood and provide basic services to around 4.2 million poor families.

The Philippines remains among the front liner States in championing the empowerment of women and ensuring gender equality.

The economic and political status of Filipino women has been lauded at the 2013 World Economic Forum as among the 10 highest in the world. Our national policy on gender and development (GAD), allocates at least 5 percent of the total budgets of all government agencies for the implementation of GAD-responsive interventions. The country likewise supports initiatives to eliminate discrimination of the most marginalized

groups of women and girls, including those experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on age, economic status, language, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, and other social categories.

The Philippines remains a champion in ensuring universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights of all couples and individuals.

The constitutionality of our Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 has been affirmed by our Supreme Court. And within the Universal Health Care framework, institutional capacities among government and civil society organizations are being mobilized and enhanced to improve access to a wide range of family planning information and services of the highest quality.

The Philippines is likewise supportive of all initiative towards the protection and fulfillment of the rights of adolescents and youth to accurate information, comprehensive sexuality education and health services for their well-being and lifelong health.

ON POPULATION MOVEMENT AND URBAN MANAGEMENT

The Philippines is setting in place appropriate policies to support people's right to move internally and provide equal opportunities and access to social protection, basic services, employment, and use of natural resources. It is also working to fulfill the need for housing and support infrastructures and establish effective database on the needs of migrants and local residents.

Our government puts premium on the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of our 10 million overseas Filipinos who in 2013 contributed \$22.8 billion to our economy by way of remittances.

ON POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Recognizing people as the most vital resource of the nation, the Philippines is making a rational and conscious effort to integrate population dynamics in all development initiatives particularly in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and in the formulation of management strategies.

In the twenty years of implementing our ICPD commitment, we do recognize that there remain significant challenges to address. We make special regard to the challenge of promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in the country.

We recommend the inclusion of the issues and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Report and the recommendations stated in this Statement to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We also express our full support for the ICPD Beyond 2014 Monitoring Framework as a basis for national and global reporting on progress that can enhance the review and appraisal of implementation of the Programme of Action functions of the General Assembly and its commissioned bodies, including the Commission on Population and Development.

Finally, we congratulate and support the Secretary General for his Index Report wherein conclusions and recommendation must be carried forward to the Post 2015 discussions.

Thank you.