Statement by Vice Minister JIN Xiaotao
National Health and Family Planning Commission of China (“NHFPC”) for Agenda Item 3 at the 48th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development

New York 13 April 2015

Respected Mr. Chairman,

Respected Mr. Secretary-General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your election to be chairman of this session and to others on their election to the Bureau. I am confident that this session will be very fruitful. The Chinese delegation highly appreciates the Secretary General’s reports to the session. Among others, the report on incorporation of demographic issues into sustainable development and post-2015 development agenda and that on the program of population monitoring gave us a comprehensive and in-depth analysis and summary of the key issues and international experiences of population and development worldwide, and produced a systematic outlook regarding the world demographic momentum and
countermeasures in the next 15 years. The two reports echoed and supplemented each other with both forward looking guidance and practical operability.

The reports describe the global trends of demographic changes in the future, such as continuous growth of total world population in general in the next 15 years. In addition, the reports analyze key issues of population and development, such as population migration, urbanization, and opportunities for realization of population dividends. In the overall sense, the reports are characterized by objective and concrete analysis of the situation plus clear and explicit description of relevant issues.

Population and development have strong inertia and inherent rules. In face with the future realities that include growth of world population, continuous improvement of living standard and unsustainable models of consumption and production, we should have a profound understanding of the essential importance of demographic issues in global sustainable development. The Chinese delegation believes it is of strategic significance to incorporate demographic issues into sustainable development. We call for countries of the world to continue with the principles and purposes of ICPD, develop appropriate strategies on population and development under the framework of sustainable development, promote coordinated development between demography and society/economy/resources/the environment and maximization of
Population issues, in the final analysis, are issues relating to holistic human development. We should establish the concept of “making priority investment in holistic human development”, satisfy the needs of different population groups, upgrade human quality and capacity in an all-round manner, fully tap into human potentials and quality, and convert population into human resources as well as the driver and support for wealth creation in the course of promoting holistic human development.

We hereby suggest that, in the population and development areas in the future, it is imperative to construct systems and mechanisms that are based on the human life cycle and prioritize investment in human beings so that public resources will be invested in holistic human development as a priority consideration. For infants, we should emphasize the prevention of birth defects for better quality of newborns. For children and teenagers, more investment will be made in basic education, especially rural education, eliminate the gender gap in education, and enable all school-age children access to more energy and knowledge reserves at the starting lines of their lives. For the working age population, efforts will be made to help them establish the concept of lifelong learning, intensify vocational and skill trainings, realize the substitution
of labor quantity with labor quality, and thereby continue the population dividend. For the elderly population, old-age social security systems, old-age health support systems, old-age service systems should be set up to enable more seniors to have access to better physiological and psychological support and security. It should be emphasized that in line with their respective local conditions, different countries and regions should have different focuses in their human investment. By doing so, we hope to promote population and development programs worldwide, make greater achievements in these areas, and contribute more to human development as well as balanced development of population, society, economy and the environment.

Mr. Chairman,

2015 is not just the deadline for realization of UN MDGs, but a new start for sustainable development agenda. As a proactive supporter and implementer of global population and development, China stands ready to make greater contribution to population related sustainable development goals!

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!