



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HORACIO SEVILLA BORJA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (New York, 3 April 2017)**

Madame Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Allow me to express our warm congratulations to you as Chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development and to the members of the Bureau, and our appreciation for the reports submitted by the Secretary-General, which are central to the special theme of this session.

The Group of 77 and China continue to support the principles, goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which is a major outcome document representing a comprehensive framework on population and development matters. We also wish to stress that the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action remains crucial for the eradication of poverty and hunger in all its forms in an irreversible manner.

We support the full implementation of the Program of Action; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which we regard as crucial instruments for the eradication of poverty and the protection, respect and fulfillment of human rights.

The Group of 77 and China welcomes the special theme of the Fiftieth Session. We recognize the linkages between changing population age structures and sustainable development, and the need to articulate policies to support cooperation that strengthens capacities in developing countries.

We take note with appreciation of ongoing regional developments for the well-being of older persons, and we aim to strengthen efforts for further cooperation and legal frameworks. We believe that the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action is key, and we should look for the most appropriate

ways and means of achieving the development, well-being and full enjoyment of all human rights of older persons.

Population issues require a broad approach at the national, regional and international levels. The Group recognizes the need to integrate into planning population dynamics, the analysis of changing population age structures and the availability and use of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated demographic data; including implications for human rights, human dignity and quality of life at all levels, with special attention to the poor and people in vulnerable situations to ensure that no one is left behind.

We recognise that population and ever changing age structure has important implications for climate-related vulnerabilities and the resilience of societies, both nationally and locally; and that children, adolescents, youth, girls, women, older persons and persons living with disabilities, in particular those living in poverty, experience heightened yet differential climate-related vulnerabilities.

Most of all, the Group recognizes the right to development as universal and inalienable. It is an integral part of fundamental human rights and human beings are its central subject. The right to development must be fulfilled to equitably meet the population, development and environment needs of present and future generations.

In closing, the Group of 77 and China emphasizes that sustainable development is a central goal in itself, and the economic, social and environment aspects it encompasses constitute key elements of the discussions that will take place in this occasion. Let us use this opportunity to join efforts towards a productive and successful session.

Thank you,