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Statement

by

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Ambassador and
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of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

at the 50st Session of Commission on Population and Development

**Priority Theme: *Changing population age structures and
sustainable development***

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Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, let me congratulate you and other members of the 50th Bureau on the election and thank the Secretary-General as well as UNFPA for providing the substantive report to the Commission.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China.

This year's special theme, entitled "Changing population age structures and sustainable development" is very timely as it provides the opportunity for the Commission to contribute to the follow-up and review of **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** with regard to demographic trends.

In this respect, we strongly support the Commission to align and revitalise itself with the larger agenda while remain committed to its specific task in achieving goals set out in **Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994** and **the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (APMD)** adopted in 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.

Madam Chairperson,

As Thailand's population growth is predicted to decline further in the near future with rapid ageing, Thailand has thus developed and updated its 20-year National Population Development Plan to tackle emerging population concerns. The plan provides for a **three-pillar strategy – namely promotion of quality childbirth, enhancing productive workforces, and supporting active ageing.**

First, on quality childbirth, the Government sees urgency to address teen pregnancy to achieve quality birth. In July last year, 'Prevention and Remedial Measures for Adolescent Pregnancy Act 2016' took effect. The Act aims to halve teenage pregnancy rate by 2025 by giving all young people between 10 and 19 years of age access to services and information on sexual and reproductive health, prevention of unwanted pregnancy and HIV infection, access to proper care, and right to continue their education during pregnancy and after giving birth.

In addition, the 2nd National Reproductive Health Development Policy and Strategies (2017-2026) on the Promotion of Quality Birth and Growth aims to maintain birth rate at 1.6 percent and to implement measures for safe childbirth for both mother and the child as well as proper physical and mental development of the child.

Second, on enhancing productivity in the context of demographic shift, assistance for families have been put in place, such as tax deductions and subsidies to families with three children, support for woman participation in labour market, parental leave for both father and mother, as well as affordable child care.

Madam Chairperson,

Third, on support for active ageing, it is forecast that within 2030 the number of Thai elderly population will almost double from current number, i.e. increasing to about 17.7 million persons or equivalent to one-fourth of the total population. The 2nd National Plan and Policy on the Elderly (2002 – 2021) was revised in 2009 to serve as the national strategic plan to achieve quality ageing. Legislations such as extension of retirement age for some professions and income and social security programmes for elderly have already been put in place.

Since 2002, Thailand has been implementing the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which also covers all chronic diseases. The National Plan and Policy for the Elderly provides numerous services for the elderly such as home health care (HHC), elderly clinics, services for dentures, preventive and curative care for dementia, well-being programmes for the elderly.

Madam Chairperson,

Demographic shift is taking place both globally and across many regions. Such change has significant implications for sustainable development. Thailand is ready to work with partners and stakeholders to invest in population development. Such investment would improve both personal well-being and productivity, thus laying solid foundation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, on the national, regional and global levels.

Thank you.