



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

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General debate on agenda item 3
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Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate you and other Bureau members on your election and thank the Secretary-General for his reports submitted under this agenda item.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes the adoption of the Political declaration on the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which reaffirms Member States commitments to the Programme of Action. We recognize the critical role of the Commission in advancing the population agenda worldwide and emphasize the linkage between the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. As UNFPA Executive Director stated in her opening remarks this Monday, "The vision and values of the ICPD - that development must be people-centered, and attend to strengthening equal access to health, education and human dignity for all persons - anticipated the vision and values of the 2030 Agenda".

The Secretary-General's report (E/CN.9/2019/2) highlights that a considerable progress has been achieved in many key areas of the Programme of Action worldwide since 1994. However, progress has been uneven both within and among countries.

Mr. Chairperson, sustained and inclusive economic growth of Azerbaijan has seen remarkable rise in the standard of living as well as improvement of the demographic situation. Poverty and unemployment reduced, wages, pensions, social benefits increased, child and maternal mortality rate declined in the country. The amount of the state budget allocated to health care has increased. The State Mother and Child Health-care Programme has led to a significant growth in the provision of medical services to mothers and children. Life expectancy rose from 72 years in 2003 to 75 years in 2017.

Currently the population of Azerbaijan stands at 9, 9 million. It is projected to reach almost 12 million by 2050. Azerbaijan currently has one of the youngest age distributions among the Eastern European countries. The young people aged 15 to 24 years represent 25 % of our total population. We consider youth as a great asset and the Government is making necessary investments in quality education, health and employment in order to reap the benefits of a demographic dividend.

The State Programme on Population Occupancy and Demographic Development has already been elaborated and has been presented to the Cabinet of Ministers. The Programme encompasses a number of priority areas such as promoting family values, strengthening reproductive health of population, protecting mothers and children and reducing death and disease rates.

Mr. Chairperson, Azerbaijan will present the second voluntary national review to the high-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development this July to share its accomplishments made in a number of areas. In this regard, we took a due note of the Secretary-General's assessment that "population trends should feature prominently in voluntary national reviews presented at the HLPF".

In conclusion, let me reiterate Azerbaijan's strong commitment to implement SDGs, the ICPD Programme of Action and other internationally agreed documents.

I thank you.