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**STATEMENT BY
THE PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC,
H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI (MALAYSIA)
AT THE 43RD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
15 APRIL 2010**

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to address the 43rd session of the Commission on Population and Development. I believe that I am the third consecutive Council President to address this Commission, and my presence here today is part of the effort being undertaken to strengthen the linkages between the ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery and to mutually reinforce the work of the Council and its functional commissions. Your kind invitation is testament to the interest that exists in strengthening the linkages with the Economic and Social Council.

I note that the special theme for this session of the Commission is “Health, morbidity, mortality and development”, and is closely linked to the Council’s Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) theme of last year, which focussed on the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health. Indeed, the organization of a ministerial roundtable breakfast on the implications of population ageing for global public health held during the 2009 AMR and led by both the chairpersons of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Commission, namely, Mexico and Israel, was an important contribution to the Council’s work. By focusing on this special theme during this current session, the Commission could certainly build upon and add specificity to the outcome of last year’s AMR, as part of the follow up to that theme.

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Council’s AMR theme this year will be devoted to “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women”. As you may know, this new mandate of the

Council aims to assess progress achieved towards the MDGs and provides a forum to highlight lessons learned and successful practices and approaches that merit scaling up and replication. To date, two significant preparatory meetings have been held in preparation for the AMR. The first, a regional preparatory meeting on "Women and Health", was held in Dakar, Senegal, in January. The second, held in February, brought together a large number of philanthropic organizations and corporations to discuss how engaging philanthropy could help promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The linkage between global health and gender equality, in particular, the nexus between violence against women and HIV/AIDS, was highlighted at that Special Event. In addition, a global preparatory meeting for both the AMR and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will be held here in New York on 22 April 2010. The outcomes of these preparatory events will serve as important inputs to the Council's high-level segment this summer.

Also to be considered at its substantive session this summer will be the inputs received from ECOSOC's subsidiary machinery, and I note that this Commission will be considering an additional item devoted to the "contribution of population and development to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2010". The Council welcomes this initiative and looks forward to receiving a contribution on the relevance of population issues to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Furthermore, the Council also welcomes the invitations extended by the Commission to the Permanent Representatives of the Member States making National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) during the AMR to join in the work of the Commission, in particular, during the general debate on the above-mentioned item, in order to engage in an interactive dialogue highlighting the relevance of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development for the empowerment of women. I urge these colleagues to actively participate in the discussions that will follow.

Once again, I wish to thank the Commission for its kind invitation to address you today, and I wish you continued success over the course of the rest of this commission session.