

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement By:

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Implementation of the plan of action for

International conference on Population and Development(ICPD) beyond 2014

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**Mr. President,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentleman,**

It is my pleasure to attend the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on implementation of the Plan of Action for International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014. Within the last two decades, The ICPD has provided a global road map to address population and development issues. Even today, the objectives stipulated in the 1994 Plan of Action seem valid and pertinent to the current circumstances and requirements though, we need to be progressive as the world population ages. I commend the forward looking approach of the founders of this comprehensive and balanced document.

The world is undergoing a historical transition in its population age structures with fundamental impacts on the economic and social lives of its inhabitants. Enhancing healthy, educated and prosperous populations as the engine and fortifier of sustainable development requires combating poverty including through empowerment of the poor deprived people and those who live in vulnerable situations. Addressing the challenges call for support for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development through enabled national societies and on enabling international environment. To lessen inequalities, governments should undertake more robust steps in support of equitable distribution of development gains. Provision of basic social services should remain as an integral part of national and international measures to the eradication of poverty.

Mr. President,

More than half of Iran's population is under 30. This young and energetic generation is considered as a golden opportunity and asset for achieving sustainable development. However,

Iran's population is fast heading towards aging. Such development would have noticeable economic and social implications. Decreasing number of efficient expertise is deemed as an obstacle to secure resilient and sustained development in long term. Following a few decades of successful low fertility promotion policies, the Islamic Republic of Iran has recently decided to shift the gear in order to sustain population combination, capable of ensuring an empowered, educated and prosperous society.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been successful in achieving many of the ICPD and MDG goals even prior to their deadlines. Iran's impressive achievements in the areas of decreasing child and maternal mortality rates, enhancing access to medical services including prenatal healthcare services and provision of HIV/AIDS care, treatment and prevention are well distinguished and highly recognized by relevant international bodies. From a more important and sustained perspective, Iran's continuous efforts to provide access to inclusive education for all, boys and girls even in the remotest parts of the country-training and health for all without discrimination.

I would also like to call your attention to the illegal and inhuman economic coercive measures and sanctions imposed against my nation with negative implications on their enjoyment of essential human rights as well as on the country's development agenda, in stark contravention with the spirit of the UN Charter and content of the ICPD. The sanctions have impeded timely and affordable access to medicine, vaccines, equipment, commodities and technologies necessary for ensuring health services. This is incumbent on the world community to stop such inhuman and merciless acts.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that a safe and healthy world can only be claimed if no longer a mother loses her life giving birth, no kid sees his or her childhood lost, and if every girl and boy find the doors of school open to them as having easy access to quality training, healthcare services and nutritious food.

Thank you very much