

**Talking Points for the Philippines**  
For United Nations General Assembly 29<sup>th</sup> Special Session  
On the Follow-up on the Programme of Action (PoA) of the  
International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)  
September 22, 2014, UN Headquarters, New York

- The Philippines is pleased and honored to take part in this gathering of the leaders of the various UN Member States to collectively assess the status of the implementation of the twenty year-old ICPD Programme of Action. Our participation today reflects the country's renewed commitment towards the realization of the ICPD promise in our country and among all country members.
- Within the context of the population and development situation in the country, the Philippines wishes to emphasize the strategic significance of the following actions:

**DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

- **The reduction and elimination of poverty remains the core policy and program framework of the current government in its pursuit of inclusive growth.**
  - Recognizing that social and economic inequalities converge among the poor, the country is working hard to translate the fruits of this economic gain to generate employment and sustainable livelihood and provide basic services to around 4.2 million poor families.
- **The Philippines remains among the frontliner States in championing the empowerment of women and ensuring gender equality.**
  - The economic and political status of Filipino women has been lauded at the 2013 World Economic Forum as one of the 10 highest in the world. A policy on gender and development (GAD), allocates at least 5 percent of the total budgets of all government agencies for the implementation of GAD-responsive interventions.
  - The country likewise supports initiatives to eliminate discrimination of the most marginalized groups of women and girls, including those experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on age, economic status, language, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, and other social categories.

- **The Philippines remains a champion in ensuring universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights of all couples and individuals.**
- The constitutionality of our Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 has been affirmed.. And within the Universal Health Care framework, institutional capacities among government and the civil society organizations are being mobilized and enhanced to improve access to a wide range of family planning information and services of the highest quality
- **The Philippines is likewise supportive of all initiative towards the protection and fulfillment of the rights of adolescents and youth to accurate information, comprehensive sexuality education and health services for their well-being and lifelong health.**

## **POPULATION MOVEMENT AND URBAN MANAGEMENT**

- Appropriate policies are being set in place to support people’s right to move internally and provide equal opportunities and access to social protection, basic services, employment, and use of natural resources, fulfill the need for housing and support infrastructures and establish effective database on the needs of migrants’ and local residents’
- **Our government puts premium on the promotion and protection of the rights and wellbeing of our 10 million overseas Filipinos who are sustainably keeping our economy on the upward track.**
- **POPULATION MANAGEMENT**
- **Recognizing people as the most vital resources of the nation, the country is making rational and conscious effort to integrate population dynamics in all development initiatives particularly in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management strategies.**
- In relation to this, we would like to take this opportunity, in behalf of all the Filipinos who have been adversely affected by the Typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda, to express our

most heartfelt gratitude to the country members and organizations of the United Nations who have extended their aid and support to the relief and on-going rehabilitation of the affected Filipinos in the calamity areas.

- Now that we have reached twenty years of implementing our commitment to the ICPD, we recognize that there remain significant challenges that we have to address. We make special regard to the challenge of promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in the country.
- We recommend the inclusion of the issues and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Report and the recommendation stated in this Statement in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- We also express our support for the ICPD Beyond 2014 Monitoring Framework as a basis for national and global reporting on progress that can enhance the review and appraisal of implementation of the Programme of Action functions of the General Assembly and its commissioned bodies including the Commission on Population and Development.
- Finally, we welcome, congratulate and support the Secretary General for his index report wherein conclusions and recommendation must be carried forward to the Post 2015 discussions.

