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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

Bangkok, 16-20 September 2013

Agenda item 3

**Consideration of the draft outcome document of the
Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference**

**Draft Asian and Pacific declaration on population and
development**

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I. Preamble

PP1. *We, the Ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, assembled at the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013,*

PP2. *Recalling* the Programme of Action¹ adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, and its annexes, and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development² adopted in 1999 and the recommendations arising from their subsequent 5-, 10- and 15-year reviews,

PP3. *Also recalling* the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action³ and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews,

PP4. *Further recalling* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,⁴ adopted in 1995,

PP4 bis. *Further recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session,⁵

PP5. *Welcoming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶ in which the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives reaffirmed the Rio principles including common but differentiated responsibilities, and committed to promoting a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities,

PP5 bis. *Reaffirming* the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and its Programme of Action as well as other international instruments relating to all human rights, including the right to development and international law, and emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status,

PP6. Expressing grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity,

PP7. *Further recalling* Commission resolution 74 (XXIII) on regional cooperation in the field of population, by which the Asian Population Conference was established as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years, for consideration of all aspects of population questions and their impact on social and economic development,

¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

² General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 65/1.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

PP8. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/234, in which the Assembly decided to convene a special session during its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

PP9. *Also recalling* Commission resolution 68/6, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok in 2013 with a view to utilizing the Conference as an intergovernmental platform for the Asia-Pacific preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014,

PP10. *Further recalling* the commitment to improve maternal health by 2015, and to achieve universal access to reproductive health, as set out in the targets under Millennium Development Goal 5,

PP11. *Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration⁷ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,⁸ adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011, and the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, held in December 2012,

PP12. *Also recalling* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,⁹ in which Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments declared their commitment to ending the epidemic with renewed political will and strong, accountable leadership,

PP13. *Further recalling* Commission resolutions 66/10 and 67/9, on achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific and on a regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, respectively,

PP14. *Recalling* the outcomes of all relevant United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, as well as the previous outcomes and declarations of the Asian and Pacific Population Conferences,

PP15. *Also recalling* the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council pertaining to sexual violence, such as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent relevant resolutions on women, peace and security,

PP15 bis. *Recalling* the Moana Declaration: Outcome Statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for Population and Development adopted on 15 August 2013, in which the Pacific parliamentarians committed to promote a rights-based approach and good governance in advancing the International Conference on Population and Development agenda for all peoples of the Pacific region, taking into account the unique circumstances and needs of the Pacific peoples,

⁷ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

⁸ *Ibid.*, chap. II.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

PP16. *Welcoming* the overall success of population programmes implemented by members and associate members of the Commission since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly in the areas of increased access to sexual and reproductive health services and reduced maternal and child mortality,

PP17. *Recognizing* that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the impact of the financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security and safety, as well as the increasing challenges posed by natural disasters, conflicts, complex emergencies, climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains,

PP18. *Noting* the specific development challenges and barriers faced by fragile and conflict-affected States in shaping their development agendas, including those related to population and development,

PP19. *Recognizing* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Key Actions for its Further Implementation, as well as the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and that population dynamics are all-important for development,

PP19 bis. *Further recognizing* that the freedom and ability to make informed and responsible decisions empower individuals to fulfil their potential and participate fully in economies and societies,

PP19 ter. *Noting* that despite the considerable progress made in the region, challenges from multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, disempowerment and discrimination still need to be addressed, through commitment to equality before the law and non-discrimination for all persons, without distinction of any kind, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights, including the right to gainful employment, residence and access to services, as well as the need to promulgate or enforce laws that punish any kind of discrimination, violence or hate crimes, and to take active steps to protect people in the region from discrimination, stigma, and violence,

PP19 quarter. *Recognizing* the importance of considering the impact, in terms of potential marginalization of the status of individuals in society and on public health, of laws and practices on consensual adult sexual behaviours and relationships,

PP19 sexies. *Recognizing* the critical role of policymakers, parliamentarians, community leaders and media in fostering an enabling environment for the full and equal enjoyment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights,

PP19 septies. *Further recognizing* that professional groups such as health-care providers, members of the judiciary, teachers, social workers, and law enforcement personnel need the necessary training to enhance their understanding of human rights-based, gender-sensitive and responsive, non-discriminatory approaches to all individuals, without distinction of any kind,

PP20. *Recognizing* that poverty is a major common denominator in health-related issues and is responsible for the serious worsening of common health

indicators, deterioration of living standards, shortening of average life expectancy and persistence of, and, in some cases, the increase in preventable disease and death, particularly among children,

PP21. *Noting* with concern that, despite some progress made in public health in the last decade, for millions of people throughout the world the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, vaccines and commodities, equipment and other supplies and to comprehensive primary health-care services, health promotion and disease prevention, remains a distant goal and that, in many cases, especially for those living in poverty and populations in vulnerable or marginalized situations, the attainment of this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

PP22. *Reaffirming* that good public health is better achieved through a combination of good public health policies, including multisectoral policies that stress better nutrition, safe drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and sustainable urbanization and that combat major risk factors effectively,

PP23. *Also reaffirming* our commitments regarding the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger and acknowledging that food security, safety and nutrition have become pressing global challenges, and recalling Millennium Development Goal 1,

PP24. *Acknowledging* the negative impact of nutritional insufficiency on the health of infants, children and their mothers,

PP25. *Recognizing* the need to implement policies and programmes on adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health and child health that fully respect all internationally recognized human rights, and further recognizing the need for countries to learn from each other on approaches towards achieving universal health care, including universal health coverage, and the use and mutually agreed sharing of all relevant technologies and know-how, including information and communications technology,

PP25 bis. *Reaffirming* that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental aspects constitute a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

PP26. *Acknowledging* that increased inequalities in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in lack of access for many to healthy nutrition, quality education, safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, productive employment, decent shelter and acceptable standards of health and living, and that addressing inequalities will continue to be a challenge in the region,

PP26 bis. *Further acknowledging* that increased inequalities in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in lack of access for couples and individuals to safe, acceptable, affordable, effective and voluntary forms of modern contraception and that demands for these services will continue to grow over the next several decades, especially for those who face greater barriers in accessing such services,

PP27. *Also acknowledging* the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cancers, including reproductive cancers, and noting the linkages between non-communicable diseases, mental disorders and some

communicable diseases, such as HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the effect of morbidity in reducing quality of life,

PP27 bis. *Recognizing* the significant progress that has been made in the region in preventing and treating HIV and AIDS, and noting the need to continue and accelerate efforts to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care and to address the continuing barriers faced by key affected populations at higher risk of HIV infection in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support,

PP28. *Further acknowledging* the need for analysis of population data to inform policy formulation, and the need to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms in countries in the region to generate, analyse and disseminate reliable and comparable population data, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant categories, and accessible to all, as needed to monitor the achievements of the objectives and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

PP29. *Emphasizing* that priority actions are required to harness the benefits and address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty and sustainable development, taking into account the needs and human rights of people living in the most vulnerable situations, keeping in mind that universal reproductive health-care services, commodities and supplies, as well as information, education, skill development, national capacity-building for population and development and transfer of appropriate technology and know-how, on mutually agreed terms and conditions, to developing countries are essential for achieving the objectives and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014,

PP30. *Acknowledging* the importance and effectiveness of utilizing and promoting science, technology and innovation and with the experience of past learning for achieving progress in the field of population and development,

PP31. *Affirming* that well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems, including birth and death registrations, are crucial for inclusive and sustainable development in the region,

PP31 bis. *Recognizing* that discrimination based on gender is inextricably linked to other factors, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, disability, age, class, caste, or all other status, and that these multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination can compound women's and girls' experience of injustice, social marginalization and inequality,

PP32. *Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the Asian and Pacific region and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable and can constitute a violation of their human rights, as well as of international humanitarian law and international criminal law,

PP33. *Recognizing* that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and

women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

PP33 bis. *Recognizing* that implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development requires the establishment of common ground with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds,

PP34. *Also recognizing* that a number of forms of violence against women and girls throughout the life cycle derive from harmful cultural practices, in particular the effects of certain traditional or customary practices, and that all acts of violence against women and girls linked to race, ethnicity, age, sex, language or religion perpetuate the lower status accorded to women and girls in the family, the workplace, the community and society,

PP35. *Further recognizing* the importance of empowering all women through education and training in Government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

PP36. *Stressing* the need for States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices, such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, thereby creating imbalances in the sex ratio at birth that have negative social and economic impacts on society,

PP37. *Noting* with concern that there are still many challenges to be addressed to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, have the right to equitable access to economic and social opportunities and political participation and all other aspects of life,

PP38. *Recognizing* that the region is undergoing a historically unique transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of fertility and mortality, known as the demographic transition, which has strong effects on the age structure of populations, and cognizant of the fact that countries are at different stages of this transition, with some countries still experiencing higher levels of fertility and mortality, and others experiencing fertility that is below the replacement level,

PP39. *Mindful* of the unprecedented pace of the demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asian and Pacific region, which is home to the largest segment of older persons in the world, the majority of whom live in developing countries,

PP39 bis. *Recognizing* that Governments must play a catalysing role in preparing for and responding to an ageing society in order to respond to the social, economic and political implications of population ageing,

PP40. *Further recognizing* that older persons make vital contributions to the economy and society and that they often face challenges, including age discrimination, abuse and violence, limited access to health-care services, social protection measures and labour markets,

PP41. *Recognizing* that the change of family structures in the Asian and Pacific region is resulting in an increased number of older adults living alone,

PP42. *Also recognizing* the vulnerability of older persons, especially women, and the particular risks of poverty, discrimination and violence they face, and the need to promote and protect their human rights and address their specific needs,

PP43. *Acknowledging* that, at the same time, more than 60 per cent of the world's youth live in the Asian and Pacific region and that they require policies and strategies to promote and protect all their human rights, including the right to development, and address their specific needs, including in reproductive and sexual health,

PP44. *Recognizing* that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to improve the economic conditions of youth and to promote their interests, including the full enjoyment of their human rights and opportunities, among other things, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

PP45. *Noting* that evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education and life skills, which are consistent with evolving capacities and are age appropriate, are essential for adolescents and young people to be able to make responsible and informed decisions and exercise their right to control all aspects of their sexuality, protect themselves from unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to plan their lives, while recognizing the role and responsibilities of parents, as well as of teachers and peer educators, to support them in doing so,

PP46. *Recognizing* the need for States to adopt a life course approach in building and strengthening social protection systems that acknowledge differing needs at different stages of life,

PP47. *Noting* that the number of urban dwellers in developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region is growing significantly and that future population growth will be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries,

PP48. *Also noting* that internal migratory flows in Asia and the Pacific will continue to have a significant impact on the distribution and concentration of populations in cities and large urban agglomerations, and recognizing the growing numbers of urban poor who often have no other option but to live in slums,

PP49. *Recognizing* that a significant portion of the world's poor live in rural areas, and that rural communities play an important role in the economic development of many countries,

PP50. *Acknowledging* the link between international migration and development in the Asian and Pacific region, and the need to address both the opportunities and challenges that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants, and to the global community,

PP51. *Recognizing* the importance of preventing and eliminating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, while acknowledging the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children,

PP52. *Concerned* that the Asian and Pacific region is the most disaster-prone region of the world, noting the severe impacts of disasters on women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, and recognizing the need to build the resilience of populations in the region, including vulnerable groups in mitigation and adaptation strategies, to reduce vulnerability to disasters,

PP53. *Noting* with appreciation the secretariat's overview of regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹⁰ which offers a valuable contribution to identifying the progress and gaps in its implementation in Asia and the Pacific and areas for future action,

PP53 bis. *Recognizing* the need for greater resource flow and assistance for the Asia-Pacific region, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, to effectively attain the goals, objectives and actions set out by the International Conference on Population and Development,

PP54. *Recommend* the following set of policy directions and priority actions in the Asian and Pacific region to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014, and inclusion in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

II. Policy directions

OP1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹ the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,² and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and by doing so, thereby commit to address remaining implementation gaps and to address new and emerging challenges and opportunities in the nexus between population and sustainable development;

OP2. *Reaffirm also* the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or the proposals contained in the present Declaration, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

OP3. *Reaffirm further* that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stress that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of all States regardless of their cultural, political or economic systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

¹⁰ E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/1.

OP4. *Commit* to promoting development, peace, prosperity and happiness through the incorporation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, as appropriate, in national development plans and their successful implementation, taking into account the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 to improve the quality of life of the people in the Asian and Pacific region,

OP5. *Reaffirm* that education is closely linked with socioeconomic development and demographic change, and hence a key factor in sustainable development and at the same time a component of well-being through its links with economic, social, cultural and demographic factors;

OP6. *Accord* high priority to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as an integral part of national health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations and expenditures;

OP7. *Recognize* that sexual and reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents and rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, and the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

OP8. *Note* the importance of human security, which focuses on individuals, including youth, women and girls, as well as older persons, by protecting and empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty, including by building their resilience to any potential changes in their circumstances and environment, and fulfil their potential;

OP9. *Resolve* to strengthen access for all to the primary health-care system through appropriate public spending on health care as determined by national contexts, with appropriate allocation on primary health care, as this is necessary in attaining the goal of universal health coverage, which is not just about health financing but requires strong health systems to provide a range of quality, affordable services to address diversified health needs, including sexual and reproductive health needs;

OP10. *Resolve* to promote the right of women and girls to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to achieve gender equality, and reaffirm further that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and education and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services is essential for achieving the goals enshrined in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews;

OP11. *Resolve* to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive rights, without which the ability to exercise other rights is significantly constrained, and to

create an enabling environment, including national rules and regulations, enactment of laws, as appropriate, for the exercise of those rights and the right to access to justice, as well as the right to equal and full participation in parliamentary and policymaking processes;

OP12. *Resolve* to take all possible preventive and remedial measures, by all relevant stakeholders at all levels, to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including by empowering women and girls and protecting them against all forms of violence, informing them of their human rights, disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information and support, including remedial, legal, health and other support and services, as may be necessary, is available to all women and girls who have been subjected to violence, at all levels of the social service system and justice system, and raising public awareness of women's and girls' rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

OP13. *Recommit* to the importance of addressing the social determinants and structural and underlying causes of inequality at the national and international levels in order to effectively reduce them;

OP14. *Ensure* that a people-centred approach is at the core of sustainable development policies and programmes to promote social integration and foster social harmony and social cohesion;

OP15. *Work* to reduce vulnerability and eliminate discrimination based on sex, gender, age, race, caste, class, migrant status, disability, HIV status and sexual orientation and gender identity, or other status;

OP16. *Adopt* a life course approach in order to address the needs and fulfil the human rights, including the right to development, of young people with a focus on adolescents, as well as to respond to and prepare for the process of population ageing;

OP17. *Develop* evidence-based policies and ensure accountability in meeting commitments, including through the implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and community-based monitoring, in accordance with national laws and regulations, as appropriate;

OP18. *Increase* regional and international cooperation and global partnerships in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development and implement its Programme of Action and the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as their follow-up beyond 2014;

OP19. *Reaffirm* the important role of partnerships among key stakeholders, including Governments, community-based organizations, civil society, the not-for-profit sector and the private sector, in implementing the Programme of Action and the Key Actions as well as their follow-up beyond 2014.

III. Priority actions

A. Poverty eradication and employment

(a) Accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels;

(b) Commit to address poverty and hunger as matters of urgency, reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

(c) Create enabling environments at all levels for poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration and protection;

(d) Enhance food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations;

(e) Revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors and take the necessary actions to better address poverty and the needs of rural communities through, *inter alia*, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples, people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care and social services, education and training, employment knowledge, and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated waste water, water harvesting and storage;

(f) Empower rural women and men as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security, safety and nutrition;

(g) Focus on bolstering agricultural productivity and output quality, as a sharp increase in agricultural productivity could accomplish several things simultaneously, including: reducing hunger; reducing child mortality through improved nutrition; reducing maternal mortality through improved nutrition; and increasing household incomes and economic growth;

(h) Adopt forward-looking macroeconomic policies for job creation that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development;

(i) Enhance employment and income opportunities for all, especially for women and men living in poverty and, in this regard, support national efforts in the Asian and Pacific region to provide the poor in both rural and urban areas with new job opportunities, including support to small and medium-sized enterprises, including by promoting equal skills development and employment opportunities, and reducing wage gaps between women and men;

(i) bis. To promote policies and programmes aimed at encouraging the active participation of women in the labour force;

(j) Address the challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies and policies that provide young people with

access to decent and productive work, as over the coming decades, decent jobs will need to be created to be able to ensure sustainable and inclusive development and to reduce poverty;

(k) Encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices on ways to address the high levels of unemployment and underemployment, in particular among youth;

(l) Increase access to decent and productive employment and promote entrepreneurship as a fundamental component of pro-poor growth and the efforts to address poverty and hunger;

(m) Widely apply successful programmes, especially employment-intensive initiatives, small and medium-sized enterprise promotion, employment guarantee schemes and conditional cash transfers, as well as vocational and technical training and entrepreneurial skills development, especially for unemployed youth to cover larger parts of the population, especially women and people living in rural areas;

(n) Address the special needs of persons with disabilities in national population policies and programmes.

B. Health

(a) Adopt appropriate policies and programmes to achieve universal health coverage;

(b) Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability, affordability, quality and comprehensiveness of health-care services and facilities through well-functioning and responsive public health services for all people, in particular for the poorest and marginalized segments of the population in accordance with national commitments to provide access to basic health care for all, as well as the need to increase the healthy lifespan and improve the quality of life of all people, and to reduce disparities in health status, morbidity, mortality and life expectancy among and within countries in the region;

(c) Promote science and the exchange of knowledge in addressing communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases with a view to increase life expectancy, improve the quality of life and reduce morbidity and mortality;

(d) Strengthen national health systems and implement multisectoral national policies for the provision of equitable universal health coverage, and promote quality and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases;

(e) Strengthen health systems so that they can deliver equitable health outcomes on the basis of a comprehensive approach by focusing appropriate attention on, among other things, increasing health financing, training and effective deployment of human resources for health, strengthening procurement and distribution of medicines and vaccines, infrastructure, information systems, service delivery, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, universal access and political will in leadership and governance.

C. Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights

(a) Accord priority to policies and programmes to achieve universal access to comprehensive and integrated quality sexual and reproductive health services for all women, men and young people in order to, among other things, reduce the unmet need for family planning with special attention on ensuring access for adolescents and unmarried persons, as well as to eliminate maternal, newborn and child mortality, decrease morbidity and to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

(b) Provide a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health information and other services that includes adequate counselling, information and education, access to a full range of acceptable, affordable, safe, effective and high-quality modern contraceptives of choice, comprehensive maternity care, including pre- and postnatal care, access to safe abortion under the criteria permitted by law, post-abortion care, safe delivery services, prevention and treatment of infertility, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, employing a rights-based approach, paying particular attention to women, newborns, adolescents, youth, and hard-to-reach and underserved groups;

(c) Ensure that national laws and policies respect and protect reproductive rights and enable all individuals without distinction of any kind, to exercise them without discrimination on any grounds;

(d) Prohibit practices that violate the reproductive health and rights of women and adolescent girls, such as spousal or parental consent requirements to receive health services, including: (i) sexual and reproductive health services; (ii) denial of access to sexual and reproductive health services; (iii) violence in health-care settings, including sexual harassment, humiliation and forced medical procedures or those conducted without informed consent, and which may be irreversible, such as forced hysterectomy, forced Caesarean section, forced sterilization and forced abortion and forced use of contraceptives, mandatory HIV testing; (iv) early and forced marriage; (v) female genital mutilation other harmful traditional practices; or (vi) discrimination in education and employment due to pregnancy and motherhood;

(e) Prioritize the provision of free education for girls at all levels, access to sexual and reproductive health information services and efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage;

(f) Fully engage the participation and involvement of men in ensuring the promotion and protection of their own, and their partners' reproductive health and rights;

(g) Implement evidence-based policies, including in low- and high-fertility countries, that are based on the rights of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the means to do so, taking into account that the need for such policies is to be based on evidence and best practices;

(h) Ensure access to contraceptive services for all couples and individuals, with comprehensive information about, and voluntary access to and choice of, the widest possible range of safe, effective, high-quality, affordable, acceptable and modern methods of contraception, so that all

couples and individuals are able to voluntarily exercise free, responsible and informed choice;

(i) Strengthen partnerships in communities between professional bodies, civil society, community-based organizations, including village health and sanitation committees, grass-roots democratic institutions, municipal bodies, not-for-profit entities and the private sector, and increase involvement of elected government officials, in order to improve the delivery of sexual and reproductive health information and services;

(j) Eliminate preventable maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity through increasing the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, particularly in developing countries, the use of prenatal and postnatal care, access to family planning services and information, access to emergency obstetric and newborn care, and management of complications arising from unsafe abortion and comprehensive abortion care where it is not against the law, as well as training and equipping health service providers and take other measures to ensure that abortion is safe and accessible in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls;

(k) Significantly scale up efforts to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, free of discrimination and bearing in mind gender perspectives, and the goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015, in particular by integrating HIV and AIDS interventions into programmes for primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, and maternal, neonatal and child health, including by strengthening efforts to eliminate the vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child, by preventing and treating other sexually transmitted infections, expanding access to essential commodities, including all required medicines for treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS, and to male and female condoms, through the adoption of measures to reduce costs and improve availability;

(l) Address the legal and policy barriers that impede access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, particularly among key affected populations, including sex workers, persons who inject drugs and men who have sex with men, transgender and mobile populations;

(m) Strengthen existing health services and health systems to increase the capacity of prevention, early detection, treatment and palliation of cancers of the male and female reproductive systems, especially prostate, breast and cervical cancers;

(n) Promote evidence-based innovative communication technologies and approaches to increase access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including for young people, the poor and the most vulnerable;

(o) Ensure timely, accessible and affordable essential reproductive health commodities, within the context of comprehensive, safe, acceptable, affordable and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services;

(p) Integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health services and programmes, as part of a broader, multisectoral, coordinated response, including within maternal, newborn and child, adolescent and youth health, family planning and HIV-related services, and ensure that all victims and survivors of violence have immediate access to critical services, including emergency contraception and safe abortion;

(q) Support the active engagement of community and religious leaders in the promotion of reproductive health and rights;

(r) Ensure that the human rights of women and girls, including their reproductive health and rights, receive increased attention in humanitarian assistance and post-crisis recovery by providing access to timely, safe, high-quality, affordable and acceptable information and services on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, in particular for women and girls in accordance with the World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews.

D. Education

(a) Ensure the right of everyone to education and emphasize that education should be directed towards the full development of the human person and his or her dignity and should strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and implement commitments made at the international level that emphasize inclusive high-quality learning, including early childhood education, and universal access to complete, free and compulsory high-quality primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and skills training, and lifelong learning, without any form of discrimination that is necessary to successfully transition from school into the labour force, as well as equal access to education and successful schooling for all people living with HIV and AIDS and children from indigenous communities and in orphanages and institutions;

(b) Ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, including for married adolescents and young mothers, especially educational opportunities, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education and promoting the empowerment of girls through improving educational quality and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools, physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities and childcare, and increasing financial incentives for women and their families where necessary.

E. Gender equality and women's empowerment

(a) Increase and track the investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the diversity of needs and circumstances of women and girls, including victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective and gender-sensitive budgeting in resource allocation, and ensuring the necessary human, financial and material resources for specific targeted activities to ensure gender equality and the advancement of women and girls at the local, national, regional and international levels within comprehensive multisectoral national plans for gender equality, as well as through enhanced and increased international cooperation;

(b) Mainstream gender dimensions into strategies, plans and programmes in all socioeconomic sectors and develop and implement strategies, policies and programmes to prohibit and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(c) Review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that have a discriminatory impact on individuals, without distinction of any kind, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(d) Review, and where appropriate, repeal laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions, where applicable, as well as end their imprisonment for such acts, bearing in mind that in no circumstances should abortion be considered as a family planning method;

(e) Strengthen legal frameworks and develop comprehensive and multisectoral national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and resource allocation aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(f) Ensure that all victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, rape and incest, including indigenous people and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, have immediate access to critical services, including: 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services; police protection; safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; referrals; and longer-term support;

(g) Fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in promoting gender equality and preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, and develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility of men and boys in preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls; and in this context address and eliminate intimate partner violence and expand and ensure the availability and access to services to prevent, respond to and protect survivors of such violence and their children;

(h) Design, adopt and implement evidence-based and effective policies and programmes focusing on the empowerment of female-headed households through providing them with adequate socioeconomic support and health services;

(h) bis. Focus employment policies to enable parents to play an active role in the development of their children and balance the demands of these responsibilities with those of caring for older adults in the family;

(i) Establish and implement legal and institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, build capacity of doctors, midwives, law enforcement agencies and judges, and increase public awareness on the value of the girl child including in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child, child and forced marriage and the root causes of son preference, which reinforce traditional gender roles impeding the advancement of women and girls and contribute to harmful, unethical and illegal practices, such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, which result in an imbalance in the sex ratio at birth and a distorted population composition;

(j) Undertake, where appropriate, legislative, administrative, financial and other measures to give women full and equal access to economic resources, particularly women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, assets, investments, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, among other things, by means of international cooperation; prioritize and intensify initiatives towards the economic empowerment of women at the grass-roots level, including through entrepreneurship education and business incubators, as ways of uplifting their status and increasing choice and opportunities;

(k) Take all necessary legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities as they are especially vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, discrimination, violence and abuse, including in the workplace, educational institutions, the home and other settings;

(l) Encourage and empower women's full and effective leadership at all levels in order to maximize their contribution to policymaking;

(m) Ensure the implementation of programmes that increase women's participation in political processes and other leadership activities, including the removal of discriminatory hiring practices, increasing peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and promoting civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

(n) Improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and relevant indicators to inform policies, and ensure the collection and dissemination of internationally comparable gender statistics.

F. Adolescents and young people

(a) Ensure that adolescents and young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to youth-friendly sustainable health and social services without discrimination and judgement, including marginal groups, such as youth with disabilities, HIV and AIDS, ethnic minorities and other status;

(b) Respect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people and give full attention to meeting their sexual and reproductive health, information and education needs, with their full participation and engagement, and respect for their privacy and confidentiality, while acknowledging the roles and responsibilities of their parents, as well as of their teachers and peer educators in supporting them to do so and that in this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services;

(c) Design, ensure sufficient resources and implement comprehensive sexuality education programmes that are consistent with evolving capacities and are age appropriate, and provide accurate information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health, while recognizing the role and responsibilities of parents;

(d) Address youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing

targeted and integrated youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society;

(e) Enable adolescents and young people to participate in decision-making, including planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to develop and strengthen opportunities for young people to be aware of their human rights and responsibilities, promote and enable their social, economic and political participation, and remove obstacles that limit their full contribution to society, and promote and support adolescent and youth associations, volunteer groups and entrepreneurship.

G. Ageing

(a) Adopt policies and national action plans to prepare for and respond to population ageing throughout the life course;

(b) Accord priority to addressing the rights of older persons in national legal and policy frameworks;

(c) Strengthen data collection and analysis on older persons to increase the knowledge base on ageing to develop evidence-based national policies on ageing;

(d) Establish and/or strengthen national coordination bodies or mechanisms on ageing, as appropriate, to promote and protect the human rights of older persons, develop sustainable social protection and health policies, consider increasing domestic and international resources to support developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,¹¹ and to coordinate and track resource allocations for ageing;

(e) Conduct regular reviews of national policies to ensure that ageing issues are mainstreamed into national development plans, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including older persons, to facilitate social and economic participation of older persons, remove barriers that limit their full contribution to society and to promote an enabling environment for healthy and active ageing as set out in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(f) Ensure that gender differentials in longevity and the well-being of older persons are taken into account in national ageing responses, and establish or strengthen programmes, policies and services that address the specific health and care needs of older persons, with a particular focus on older women;

(g) Assess the well-being and family situation of older persons and provide necessary support for those who live alone and/or away from their families and consider measures to encourage the role of families and communities in respecting and supporting older adults;

¹¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

(h) Develop or strengthen inclusive social protection systems, with particular attention given to older persons and their vulnerability to poverty and social isolation, including the provision of universal pensions and the strengthening of solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships, as well as bonds within families to ensure the care, protection, economic security and empowerment of older persons;

(h) bis Promote the role of older workers as transmitters of knowledge and experience to younger workers;

(i) Strengthen health and social protection systems to prepare for and respond to the needs of older persons by adopting a life course approach and by providing an integrated continuum of care, including preventive care, acute care, chronic disease management, long-term care and end-of-life care, and palliative care;

(j) Share experiences and implement good practices on ageing, especially with regard to social safety nets, such as pensions, health and long-term care insurance, and social protection systems that support populations throughout their life course, including specific forms of support for older persons, as well as community action;

(k) Develop strategies to meet the rising demand for care of older persons, acknowledging the linkages between ageing and disability, emphasizing home and community-based care and improving the coverage and quality of care in formal and informal settings;

(l) Implement and monitor laws and regulations on the basis of gender equity and equality to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against older persons, including ageism in employment, health care and other settings;

(m) Create and promote enabling environments to support active participation of all persons, especially older persons and persons with disabilities, including through increased investment in universal design, to ensure access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication;

(n) Support the formation of organizations of, and for, older persons that provide an effective community mechanism for strengthening the voices of older persons.

H. International migration

(a) Effectively promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹² and their applicable international human rights obligations in accordance with national laws and policies and where appropriate, and consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹³

(b) Address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced

¹² General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability and risks;

(c) Acknowledge the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin, transit and destination and consider the multidimensional and beneficial aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;

(c) bis. Examine the root causes of undocumented migration, including by promoting cooperation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and commitments at all levels so as to foster orderly, regular and safe processes of migration;

(d) Examine the causes of emigration to minimize the adverse effects of the migration of highly skilled persons on the development efforts of developing countries;

(e) Promote dialogue and establish cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, as appropriate, to provide social protection to migrants, especially health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, employment services, job training, social insurance, social assistance and remittances, to promote social inclusion and also to address the implications of deportation of migrants, taking into account the interests of countries of destination and origin;

(f) Provide access to relevant documentation for foreign residents to facilitate their access to social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services;

(g) Adopt and implement legislation and policies that ensure equal treatment of migrant workers with national workers, where appropriate, in employment and working conditions, while stressing that such migrants should not be punished for submitting complaints and by promptly investigating all alleged crimes against them;

(h) Incorporate a gender perspective into all policies and programmes on international migration in order to reinforce the positive effects that migration can have for the empowerment of women and the contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, coercion, discrimination, trafficking in persons and other types of exploitation and abuse of women and girls, especially of domestic workers, who are predominantly women;

(h) bis. Ensure that migration is safe and orderly and combat trafficking in persons, especially women, boys and girls, while ensuring access by victims and survivors of trafficking to counselling, rehabilitation services and alternative economic opportunities;

(h) ter. Consider, where appropriate, enacting national legislation and introducing further effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives

of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation and sexual violence;

(h) quater. Strengthen international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and, where appropriate, consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and implementing them as appropriate;

(i) Strengthen policies to ensure that international migration for the purpose of marriage does not lead to situations of exploitation or abuse, and to assist with the social integration of marriage migrants and their children;

(j) Ensure access to civil, economic, social and cultural rights for all children affected by migration, whether as migrants or those staying behind, regardless of their parents' migration status; and include children affected by migration in social protection systems, policies and programmes;

(k) Devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures and specific policies to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, sexual exploitation, violence or sexual abuse;

(l) Improve national data collection and pursue regional cooperation to harmonize the collection and analysis of migration data and statistics for evidence-informed policymaking, including by taking advantage of advances in methodologies and technologies for data collection and analysis, and regular collaboration in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of migration and other relevant data.

I. Urbanization and internal migration

(a) Consider population and migration trends and projections, including data on the number and situation of internal migrants, in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating regional, national, community, rural and urban development strategies and policies, and seize opportunities and address challenges associated with demographic change, including migration;

(b) Promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of, and promote equal opportunities for, internal migrants to combat all forms of discrimination against them, including the sexual violence and exploitation that women and girls face as rural to urban migrants, to provide them with access to education, health care and social services, to foster social integration, especially for marginalized migrants, and to ensure their safety and security;

(c) Harness the benefits of persons moving to urban areas and seize the advantages of higher population density, notably higher energy efficiency in transport and housing, as well as cheaper provision of basic services, including health and infrastructure development, while at the same time working to mitigate the adverse impacts of the rapid concentration of populations in cities of metropolitan areas and ensuring that urbanization is a planned, sustainable and equitable process;

(d) Reduce urban poverty, acknowledging that many urban dwellers work in the informal sector of the economy, and promote the integration of internal migrants from rural areas into urban areas by developing and improving their income-earning capability, with special attention to women, in particular female workers and female heads of households;

(e) Recognize the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes the upgrading of slums and regeneration of urban areas;

(f) Commit to improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing, water and sanitation and mobility;

(g) Enhance the capacity of Governments in sustainable urban planning and promote, where relevant, the decentralization of decision-making in order to better address local needs;

(h) Encourage the exchange of experiences and implement best practices for the successful management of population-related challenges in megacities (cities of 10 million or more residents), including the provision of basic services, as well as internal migration;

(i) Promote development that would encourage linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence including through strategies that are aimed at eradicating poverty by integrating a gender perspective and promoting interactions between cities and rural localities;

(j) Develop measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters in urban areas, and ensure the provision of necessary and prompt assistance to affected populations, especially vulnerable groups, such as persons with disability, migrants and older adults.

J. Population and sustainable development

(a) Promote sustainable development by proactively addressing population dynamics through the systematic consideration of population data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other factors, and the formulation of rural, urban and national development strategies and policies, as well as multisectoral development strategies for infrastructure and services;

(b) Recognize the need to increase efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including by increasing diverse methods of achieving sustainable food production and productivity to ensure food security and safety, and using limited natural resources effectively, such as effective use of water through irrigation systems;

(c) Promote sustainable development by directing individual choices and opportunities through incentives designed to empower and promote the participation of all sections of populations, which is an important and effective instrument for promoting the transition to sustainable development and green economies;

(d) Promote public education, giving special attention to youth, about the need for sustainable production and consumptions patterns,

sustainable natural resource use and prevention of environmental degradation;

(e) Ensure the collection, availability and use of high-quality data, disaggregated by sex, age, region and urban and rural residence, on the impact of disasters in order to promote effective policymaking for enhanced disaster preparedness and management;

(f) Promote participation of the affected sections of the population in the planning and decision-making processes on relevant natural disaster risk reduction strategies;

(g) Ensure forecasting of the consequences of climate conditions and climate change, and prioritize addressing the needs of people living in fragile ecosystems in planning and decision-making processes on economic activities that affect the environment, including through such policies as those for promoting employment;

(g) bis. Ensure collective efforts to halt global carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions, as part of protecting livelihoods and ensuring survival, as well as to support and facilitate adaptation and/or migration with dignity and respect for identity where countries can no longer support the lives of people due to adverse changes in their circumstances and environment resulting from climate change.

K. Data and statistics

(a) Strengthen national statistical systems at all levels to produce reliable, disaggregated and internationally comparable statistics on population, social and economic development in a timely manner to help monitor subnational, national, regional and international development;

(b) Support collection and analysis of data at the household level, in cooperation with research and statistical institutions, as appropriate, on issues related to the International Conference on Population and Development in order to design policy interventions;

(b) bis. Support the collection and sharing of data, statistics and qualitative information on the quality of life and dignity of older persons, including cases of violation and abuses of their rights, in order to design and implement appropriate, evidence-based policy measures;

(b) ter. Improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on, among other things, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants, domestic workers, indigenous peoples and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities in order to effectively protect their rights, and to design and implement policies and programmes to enhance their well-being;

(c) Develop national human capital through training, proper recognition and incentives to generate good-quality data and fully exploit the potential of the data for evidence-based management and programming;

(d) Use new technologies for data collection and processing to ensure their proper use and cost-effectiveness and sustainability;

(e) Ensure timely availability and easy accessibility of data files and statistics for national and international users through the Internet, including the World Wide Web.

IV. Modalities for implementation at the national, regional and global levels

(a) Confirm that the present Declaration should provide an effective response to population and development challenges beyond 2014 and link to the development agenda beyond 2015;

(b) Designate a national focal point agency to coordinate the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration at the national level;

(c) Ensure stronger political commitment and establish or strengthen national, subregional and regional mechanisms to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and the recommendations of the present Declaration, taking into account, as appropriate, the outcomes of national and regional reviews, including a review in 2018 of the progress achieved at the midpoint towards the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(d) Strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions to ensure effective integration of population issues into development planning, including ensuring effective coordination of all relevant planning bodies and multisectoral approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations contained in the present Declaration;

(e) Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation by relevant national authorities of progress towards the continuing implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its related follow-up outcomes, as well as the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, and reflect, as appropriate, the findings in national and regional policies and programmes;

(f) Ensure adequate financing to fully implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations contained in the present Declaration in all countries through new and additional resources, with a focus on domestic resource mobilization, resource tracking, public and private financing and ensuring the continuation and fulfilment of official development assistance commitments made by international donors;

(g) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and relevant national institutions and mechanisms to employ holistic approaches to generate, analyse and disseminate reliable population data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other categories as needed, and increase the use of data for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies by relevant national authorities;

(h) Conduct an assessment of civil registration and vital statistics systems, including birth and death registration, and develop a national

multisectoral improvement plan which includes strengthening the capacities and coordination of relevant institutions;

(i) Create effective partnerships and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration at the local, district, national and regional levels, with all relevant stakeholders, including through the involvement of political and opinion leaders, community and religious leaders, school teachers, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for the participation of civil society and community-based organizations and increased space for constructive dialogue at the local, national and regional levels;

(j) Strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and engagement with philanthropic foundations and the private sector for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the present Declaration;

(k) Empower communities to ensure the accountability of Governments in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration, as well as the accountability of health and social service providers;

(l) Promote regional cooperation, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations of the present Declaration, including on the use of information and communications technologies, and encourage the sharing of successful experiences and best practices among developing countries in the area of population and development, including sexual and reproductive health, especially for adolescents;

(m) Ensure, in support of national development efforts, an enabling international environment, supportive of universal, non-discriminatory, timely and affordable access to medicines, vaccines, commodities, equipment, technologies and other supplies required for the comprehensive provision of health-care services, to guarantee the basic human rights of women, children, adolescents, older persons and other groups in vulnerable situations;

(n) Request the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, and all other relevant partners:

(i) To accord priority to the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration;

(ii) To provide ESCAP members and associate members with support, upon request, in the implementation of the present Declaration at the national and regional levels;

(iii) To conduct a regional intergovernmental review meeting of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the

International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration in 2018, and to submit the outcome of the regional meeting to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session;

(iv) To ensure, while fully respecting the principles of national leadership and ownership, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Development Group regional teams, the integration of the outcomes of the Conference, in consultation with United Nations country teams and national Governments, into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, at the country level;

(v) To facilitate regional cooperation, including the sharing of best practices among member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, including the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, including on the use of information and communications technology in population and development-related issues and approaches on the provision of universal health care;

(vi) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, through the President of the General Assembly to the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, as the Asia-Pacific regional input;

(vii) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development;

(viii) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to the Commission at its seventieth session for consideration and endorsement.