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Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Desra Percaya

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations**

At the

22nd plenary meeting of the 69th session of the General Assembly

**Agenda item 13 (b): Integrated and coordinated implementation of and
follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences
and summits in the economic, social and related fields: Follow-up to
the Programme of Action of the International Conference on
Population and Development**

New York, 9 October 2014

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org

email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. President,

Indonesia acknowledges the great importance of the Twenty Ninth Special Session of the General Assembly as the culmination of the activities mandated by the General Assembly resolution 65/234.

We take note of the findings of the operational review, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report on the Framework of Action for the follow-up of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014. The review indicates that despite considerable achievements during the 20-year implementation of the Programme of Action, progress in some critical aspects has been slow, unequal, and fragmented; while new challenges and opportunities have emerged.

Indonesia believes that addressing the gap in the implementation of the Programme of Action requires new commitments, cooperation and concerted efforts by governments at all levels, with the support and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector.

As one of the pioneering countries in the ICPD programme, Indonesia has been implementing the ICPD PoA for 20 years and is strongly committed to making real contributions to the progress in various areas of population and development.

Some of Indonesia's notable achievements are as follows:

The poverty level has considerably decreased from 17 percent in 2007 to 11.4 percent in 2013 due to pro-poor, pro-job and pro-rural development policies. Indonesia has maintained the focus on expanding access to basic services, such as: universal coverage for 12-year education; healthcare and nutrition; family planning; and basic infrastructures such as sanitation and clean water; involving and enhancing the capacity of the poor communities in poverty reduction efforts; creating social security system for the vulnerable and the poor; and reducing the significant disparities among the provinces as well as among urban and rural areas.

Indonesia, known as an international leader in family planning, recognizes the manifold aspects in the relationship between population and development, through the changing emphasis of the stated goals in family planning. A substantial implication from this perspective is shifting the paradigm away from the orientation of being target-driven to one based on the concept of demand fulfillment. An increased attention to the quality of care has been seen as an effective way to address unmet demands for reproductive health information and services. In doing so, Indonesia is pursuing some critical steps primarily by developing human resources, improving infrastructure, developing medical protocols, promoting the integration of family planning services as benefit packages of national social health insurance, and tripling the budget for family planning over the past five years.

Indonesia will reach the top phase of the demographic dividend between 2028 up to 2031, given the youth potential of 65 million that will be contributing to the long term socio-economic development. Indonesia is committed to preparing and protecting the rights of young people in health, education, and employment as well as encouraging them to become active in community activities. The Government's initiative to include health and reproductive rights of young people in the policy agenda through a program called "Generation with a Plan" has become a national movement, which is rooted in family norms and values.

Women empowerment and gender equality as well as the health of youth and children have gained full recognition as an integral part of national development. Through this effort, Indonesia has managed to reduce the infant mortality rate from 57 to 32 for every 1000 live births in 1994 and 2012 respectively. In addressing the maternal mortality rate, the government has improved people's access to reproductive health services, including maternal health services, by gradually providing universal healthcare coverage for all Indonesians. This national social health insurance will cover 86 million poor and those at risk of falling into poverty in Indonesia, where the premium is paid by the Government. By 2019, all Indonesians (259 million people) are expected to be covered. Furthermore, Indonesia has increased its national budget allocation for social security.

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia is at risk of bearing the negative effects of climate change. Indonesia continues to provide education to its people, in particular those living in the coastal and agricultural areas, in order to reduce the risks of catastrophic climate change. We are also targeting to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions level up to 26 percent. Due to this effort, there has been an increase of understanding in the relationship between population dynamics and climate change, as well as improvement in the capacity of the local government to undertake mitigation and early warning system.

Mr. President,

The special session is indeed timely, to ensure that we draw lessons-learned from the implementation of the MDGs, as well as ensuring that the Programme of Action is inclusive and relevant within the post-2015 development agenda.

At this opportunity, we would also like to welcome the report of the Open Working Group of the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG SDGs) and the adoption of the proposed SDGs by the 68th Session of the General Assembly, earlier in September this year.

The post-2015 process will also provide opportunities for the ICPD to address new and emerging challenges, ensuring that no one is left behind, based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Indonesia would like to emphasize that the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action should be guided by its principles, including respect towards national laws and development priorities, as well as religious and cultural values and diversity.

We would also like to emphasize our view that in order to successfully address the remaining gaps of the ICPD Programme of Action, its overall balance must be preserved. Imposing one's priorities or value systems over the other is not acceptable and could threaten the hard-gained 1994 Cairo consensus.

To conclude, Mr. President, Indonesia would like to re-affirm its strong commitment to the Programme of Action of the ICPD and its further implementation beyond 2014. Indonesia stands ready to contribute constructively in the upcoming intergovernmental processes.

I thank you.

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