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**Statement by Mrs. Mahabbat Bekbosynova,
Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Family and
Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the
69th United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the follow-up to the
Programme of Action of the International Conference on
Population and Development beyond 2014
New York, 22 September 2014**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a great honor for me to address, on behalf of Kazakhstan, the General Assembly on the follow up to the Programme of Action of the historic International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014. Twenty years ago, back in 1994, Kazakhstan, together with 178 other countries, endorsed the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA). We are also at the most significant juncture in UN's history, when following the 15-year successful trajectory of the Millennium Development Goals, we are now about to usher the post-2015 era of sustainable development. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for us to determine the future of more than 7 billion people of the world, and while we forge global policies and strategies, we have to take cognizance of effective action at the national level, which collectively will create new momentum across nations.

We are now in a position to review the achievements made by the country and to discuss future priorities related to Kazakhstan's population and development, as part of a multilateral effort.

Kazakhstan has made significant progress since 1994, reaching the target of MDG I on Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger in 2007. This year, we can report on achieving MDG5 in terms of decreasing maternal mortality from 55 per 100,000 live births in 1999 to 12.6 in 2013, registering a reduction by more than three quarters. Strides were also made in implementing the ICPD Agenda, and its Programme of Action remains highly relevant for us, as in all other countries.

In accordance with the Agenda, Kazakhstan national policy is focused on increasing investments in the protection and fostering capabilities of our children, adolescents, and youth, especially girls and young women, in accordance with

internationally agreed commitments. The thrust is to equip the younger generation to realize their full potential and to meet the labour demands of present and next-generation economies.

President of Kazakhstan in his last address to nation underlined the importance of ensuring strong support and guarantees for better quality services to persons with disabilities. Legislation has been enacted and programmes provided with a view to eradicate all forms of discrimination and enabling their full participation in the social, economic and political life of the country.

In order to sustain the progress made in decreasing maternal mortality and to reach levels of developed countries, Kazakhstan hopes to provide universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services with particular attention to adolescents and youth. Recognizing the importance of comprehensive sexuality education, we strive to offer it both within the formal and informal educational systems for better protection and averting unwanted pregnancies, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

The focus on persisting inequalities, including the need for greater gender equality and empowerment of women as well as the inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health services, have significant implications for development policy.

Valuing the importance of effective institutions, Kazakhstan is strategizing the effective integration of population dynamics into development planning, both at the national and sub-national levels. In particular, demographic trends are necessary to better plan and build sustainable cities and strengthen urban-rural linkages.

To conclude, let me to thank UNFPA for holding this momentous Special Session on ICPD beyond 2014. We call for the inclusion of the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's report and the regional review outcomes in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Kazakhstan reaffirms its commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and the goals of sustainable development through the equitable achievement of dignity and human rights, good health, security of place and mobility. We will secure these through building capacity, technical assistance and true partnership with others to promote good governance and accountability. Singly and collectively we, the Member States, bear responsibilities to achieve integrated social, economic and environmental sustainability not only now but up to 2030 and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.