



Statement of the delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan at the Special Session of the General Assembly of the UN on Population and Development

Your Excellency,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to welcome Report A/69/62 of the Secretary-General entitled “Framework of Actions for the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014”, and also the Report on the interactive discussion at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Tajikistan regards the process of implementing the ICPD Programme of Action as a most important opportunity to further global, regional and national efforts to improve the lives of populations, to grant equal rights and respect personal dignity, and to achieve constant global economic growth and sustainable inclusive development.

Having approved the ICPD Programme of Action, the Republic of Tajikistan adopted it as a basis on which to achieve national development priorities and took a number of political, strategic and practical steps to safeguard human rights and equality, which are essential factors for the country's development. The Government of Tajikistan has identified reproductive health as a key priority for healthcare reform, and has identified measures aimed at protecting reproductive health as priorities for the 2015 National Development Strategy and the MDGs. Family planning is part of the National Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health, which is intended to save lives and protect the health of women and children, to prevent early and unwanted pregnancies, and to reduce the level of childbirths and abortions that pose a risk to health. The Law on Reproductive Health and Rights promotes the implementation of a human rights-based approach to the protection of reproductive health. Tajikistan is

always open to the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and has made significant efforts to improve their reliability. A number of legislative and policy documents, including the Law on Gender Equality and the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the National Programme to Promote Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, have been adopted and implemented. HIV/AIDS has been identified as one of the most important public health problems; a policy, programmes and projects have been implemented in order to control the epidemic.

More than 70% of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan is made up of people aged 30 or under. The Government is therefore paying particular attention to problems faced by adolescents and young people, especially in terms of their access to healthcare and education. The laws of the Republic of Tajikistan guarantee access for young people to healthcare, reproductive health and family planning services and education on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. The minimum age for marriage has been raised to 18, and elderly people are a group to which the Government is paying particular attention. Thanks to the Government's efforts, the poverty rate decreased from 73% in 2003 to 35.6% in 2013.

It is worth noting that in order to implement the ICPD Programme of Action in Tajikistan, a National Population and Development Council has been created. It combines the efforts of Parliament, the Government and civil society to develop and implement legislation, identify and address joint objectives, and jointly monitor the implementation of population and development legislation.

It is obvious that the development problems that the global community faces require all interested parties to be systematically involved in the development of actions in response to these challenges, which in turn require partnership and global leadership under the supervision of the UN.

Today, we unequivocally affirm that the Republic of Tajikistan is ready to join with the international community and confirms its support for the historic ICPD Programme of Action, as well as the transformational vision set out in the Secretary-General's report.

We are fully committed to the continued implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and call for the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's

report and the findings of the regional reviews to be incorporated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you for listening.