

Statement by Indonesian Delegation
at the 44th Session
of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 14 April 2011

Agenda Item 6: General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia fully appreciates the significance of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) 2011 theme: “Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regards to Education”. Our discussion today concerning the contribution of population and development issues to the implementation of internationally agreed goals and commitments relative to education will undoubtedly enrich that meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The relationship between population and development with education is undeniable. Successful management of the global

population dynamic will allow for easier access to and better results in education for quality human resources. In turn, educated population will have a positive impact on the population dynamic particularly with regard to fertility and mortality. On the basis of national experiences, we recognize that once fertility and mortality rates decline substantially the education attainment of the population significantly improved which in turn maintain economic growth.

We believe a change in smaller family size is associated with the rising demand for secondary and tertiary education since the reduction in family size will increase demand for higher level of education. The family substitutes quality for quantity by investing more in fewer children that allow girl to attain higher level of education. Higher level of education for girl is associated with increase median age at first marriage as well as the age at the first birth.

Our national experience suggests that the decline in fertility levels is largely due to the success of family planning programmes as a result of the widespread use of contraceptives, more extensive coverage of primary health care programmes as well as the increasing level of education attainment mainly of women.

A massive IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaign on family planning coupled with increase level of educational

attainment of women lead to positive attitudes and behaviour to family planning. Improving the educational status of population, especially of women, will enhance their decision-making capability to their reproductive life. The level of contraceptive prevalence rate increases almost eight folds in four decades that is from around 8 percent in the early 1970 to more than 61 percent currently.

Similarly, as the level of education increases the level of mortality tends to decrease as well. This is due to the fact that better educational attainment among women is associated with better use of health facilities and skilled health providers including prenatal and antenatal care. As a result infant mortality rate decreases from 142 per 1000 live births in early 1970 to 34 per 1000 live births currently.

In conclusion, population policy primarily in managing the population growth rate creates better opportunities to improve the quality of education available to all. Indonesia anticipates that “**Education for all to the year of 2015**”, will benefit the population dynamic.

We wish to point out that population and education policies in Indonesia are already consistent with international conventions adopted globally, particularly the ICPD and the MDGs.

I thank you.