

Sambutan Wakil Presiden RI Pada Pembukaan Board Members Meeting of Partners in Population and Development

HE Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia, Ibu Endang

HE Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chair of the PPD Board,

Dr. Werner Haug, Director Technical Division, UNFPA

Governour of the Special Region of Yogyakarta

Mr. Sugiri Syarief, Head of BKKBN

The PPD Board Members,

Distinguished delegates and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to Yogyakarta, the great cultural center in this country. I am told that this is the second time Indonesia has had the honor to host the PPD Board Meeting and International Conference. The first was in 2008 on the occasion of the 8th Board Meeting. I am particularly pleased to note that since its establishment in 1994 the PPD, the product of a genuinely South-South initiative, has been growing in strength and importance in the global forum. Its 25 member countries now constitute the home of more than half of humanity and include the most dynamic economies in the world. The rapidly growing demographic and economic power of and the probable widening of disparity among the PPD countries and within countries underscore the need for a fresh thinking about the future role of the PPD for it's members and for the world at large. As the global demography and the global economy become more complex, the problems of population and development will also become more complex, significantly so than they were perceived 16 years ago at that historic Cairo conference. Some old problems will have new twists and some qualitatively new ones will emerge.

Yet the old population problems are still with us and continue to require our utmost attention and maximum efforts. Let me just take an example relating to maternal and child health or more generally to the MDG number 4 and 5, where many developing countries are well behind their committed MDG targets. Their achievement in 2015 is still possible with hard and coordinated work, within and among countries. We need to develop bigger, better targeted and more effectively executed programs in individual countries. We also need more active and engaged role of the PPD, UNFPA and many other agencies.

Let me take the case of Indonesia. Infant mortality rate had dropped significantly from 68 for every thousand live births in 1991 to 34 in 2007. But we need to lower it still to 23 per thousand live births by 2015. It remains achievable and we intend to achieve it, but requires extra hard work.

In the case of maternal mortality a lot also need to be done. In 1992 this mortality rate was 425 per 100 thousands live births. By 2007 we could reduce it to 228. Our MDG target in 2015 is 102. We need an extra, extra hard work.

We resolve to achieve both targets. That is why we significantly enhance and completely revamp our programs in this area giving a greater role and bigger responsibility to local governments. That is also why last April I joined the UN Secretary General and a number of officials and heads of government in New York to declare our joint commitment to redouble our effort to achieve the MDG number 4 and 5 as planned.

But as I said as we move on into the future the problems of population and development will become more complex.

Spread of HIV/aids, malaria, tuberculosis, drugs, human trafficking, threat of pandemics and so on will increasingly impact on our populations' welfare.

Some 50 kilometers north of where we are now a volcano is erupting, thousands of people are being evacuated. Several weeks ago in West Papua flood had caused 124 people dead and 123 missing. Last night strong earthquake hit West Sumatra region, the extent of damage and number of casualties are still being enumerated. These macro events have had direct impacts on the population and their lives. I

think, following recent global news, Indonesia is not alone. The whole world seems to be increasingly prone to disasters, natural or man-made.

We are living in a more uncertain world. But I believe in human ingenuity. If we resolve to work harder, to do better, more imaginatively and in more coordinated fashion none is insurmountable. I believe that is the spirit in this meeting. Let me therefore wish you have a productive meeting and a memorable stay as well.

Thank you.