



**Partners in Population and Development
A South-South Initiative**

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Statement by
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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Youth Representatives
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments, on behalf of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), at this High-level Meeting on Youth.

At the outset, PPD would like to convey its heartfelt condolences to the Government and peoples of Norway on their recent tragedy.

Mr. President,

As an intergovernmental organization of 25 developing countries, PPD is committed to the promotion of South-South cooperation in the field of population and development through supporting, especially in its member countries, the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the goals of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the World Programme of Action for Youth.

The year 2011 will be remembered as the year when the world's population reached 7 billion. According to the latest projections by the United Nations, the world population will continue to increase to 9.3 billion by the year 2050. To put these numbers in perspective, the world population did not reach one billion until 1804. It then took 123 years to reach 2 billion in 1927, 33 years to reach 3 billion in 1960, 14 years to reach 4 billion in 1974, 13 years to reach 5 billion in 1987 and 12 years to reach 6 billion by October 1999. Another billion will be added by October 2011. This growth in world population is phenomenal.

One crucial feature of the current global demographic situation with significant implications for the future is the fact that more than 3 billion people are under the age of 25, with close to 90 percent of them living in the developing countries. This

preponderance of young people, if and when combined with appropriate policies can become a great source of growth, prosperity and social change in the world. How effectively we will help these cohorts of young people in meeting their educational, employment, developmental, political, health, including reproductive health needs, as well as how rapidly we will help to empower them will surely influence the future pace and nature of peace and development in the world.

Mr. President,

While sincere efforts have been made by countries in the past to achieve the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Millennium Development Goals, as well as World Programme of Action for Youth, millions of young people live in poverty, and the progress towards youth development has been very uneven across the countries of the world. The youth are facing many challenges in the society including lack of access to quality education, meaningful employment, proper health care, including reproductive health care, political participation, suffering from violence against them and setbacks by climate change. Most severely affected among them are girls and young women, as well as the poor and disadvantaged. Young women and girls are particularly affected by their inability to complete education, exposure to pregnancy and child-birth related complications, risk of early marriage, being at risk for HIV infection and being forced as targets of human trafficking.

As the Outcome Document makes it clear, it is important to give priority attention to addressing these and other challenges that hinder youth development, especially through poverty alleviation, promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, full and productive employment and full participation of youth in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes at local, national, regional and international levels.

The Partners in Population and Development (PPD) strongly believes that building national capacity to address youth development is most crucial and the international community should make all efforts to support the less developed countries in this regard.

Based on its record of sharing experiences and innovative practices, as well as promoting capacity-building through training, research and knowledge sharing, PPD is convinced that South-South and Triangular Cooperation has a significant role to play in the future in national and international efforts aimed at youth development.

In closing, Mr. President, PPD would like to support the implementation of the Outcome Document, by all concerned.

I thank you for your attention.