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**General debate on national experience in population matters:
“Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015
development agenda”**

Statement submitted by Asabe Shehu Yar’Adua Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council²

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

¹ E/CN.9/2016/1.

² The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Strengthening the Demographic Evidence base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation's statement reflects on the impact of age discrimination, gender inequality, and low income on lower standards of living. Emigration and low educational standards continue to affect developing regions. These issues are constantly contributing to widening the gap between the rich and the poor and the developed and the developing regions. They also affect discrimination. The Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation would appreciate if these topics are highlighted in regards to other topics pertaining to the demographic evidence based that will be discussed at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development.

This statement hereby describes that age and sex discrimination should be considered in this context and has led to economic deflation and unemployment.

Recent statistics have shown that with more older persons in the workforce there has also been an increase in the number of people filing age discrimination law suits. This trend has resulted in economic hardship and social strives among the citizens of the developed and developing regions.

The number of discrimination claims has increased since 2007, while at the same time employees have lost their jobs across all sectors of the economy. With fewer opportunities for re-employment, older persons faced with the hardships associated with unemployment have resorted to unlawful acts at a higher rate than usual. For older workers, finding a new job can be very difficult, contributing to the tendency to seek help through social services.

Economists, demographers and other social scientists have long debated the relationship between demographic change and economic outcomes. In recent years, general agreement has emerged that improving economic conditions for individuals can contribute to declining fertility rates. It is very important for the Commission on Population and Development to examine recent demographic evidence in this regard. Research findings increasingly support a positive link between demographic change and economic development. The argument is that countries representing the last development frontier, those of sub-Saharan Africa, should be well advised to incorporate policies and programmes to reduce high fertility in their economic development plans.

Migration is one of the demographic components, along with mortality and fertility. In pre-modern populations, migration over very long distances (between countries) usually had a small impact on overall population change since populations were largely sedentary. But internal migration over shorter distances, for instance between an urban centre and the surrounding countryside, could play a major role in shaping the demographic characteristics of a population.

Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation indulges the Commission to assist countries to amend their rigid migration policies to ease migration and immigration. This also plays a crucial role in strengthening the demographic evidence base in regards to goal eight and goal ten of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The population in many developing countries continues to increase and will most likely double by 2050 depending on the source of data. The United Nations *2009 Revision of the World Population Prospects*, which projects Africa's population to exceed 1.7 billion by 2050, was based on sharply declining fertility rates. This makes it the fastest growing continent, and Africa's rapid population growth will also shift the global population balance. This will make Africa home to over 20 percent of the world's population and presents a development challenge for the region.

The topics highlighted in this paper should be discussed at the forthcoming session of the Commission on Population and Development and an action plan should be formulated and communicated to the developed and developing regions. This action plan should form part of a government policy on population issues at the local, state, regional and international levels.
