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**General debate on national experience in population matters:
realizing the future we want — integrating population issues
into sustainable development, including in the post-2015
development agenda**

Statement submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The integration of migration policies and the human well-being orientation framework to foster sustainable development

Introduction

Since 1974 after the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference held at Bucharest, much emphasis has been laid on the systematic monitoring of population policies through which the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development demonstrated a growing consensus that migration is an integral feature of global development in both sending and receiving countries. For example, most recently, the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development has reaffirmed the importance of migration for development.

With improved prospects on sustainable development that suits the existence of the human person, it is acknowledged that increased longevity with better health and well-being has been one of the greatest human achievements of all times. In consideration, life expectancy at birth for the world's population has increased from 47 years in 1950-1955 to 70 years in 2010-2015, which together with fertility has contributed to an increase in the world's population from about 2.5 billion in 1950 to more than 7 billion today ([ST/ESA/SER.A/333](#)).

With regard to the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development, the collective overview of the sustainable development agenda which exposes human aspirations in realizing an all-inclusive human-desired future, therefore, needs an improved integral framework in local, national and global commitment to foster human health, well-being and an internal, transnational and international peaceful coexistence.

Objective

To foster local, national and international rights-based policy defence mechanisms for institutionalised individual rights on migration and healthy well-being as reflected within the Sustainable Development Goals.

Purpose of Statement

Goal 10 highlights the need to reduce inequalities within and among countries while goal 3 requires the need to ensure healthy lives and to promote well-being for all at all ages. With regard to migration and longevity in human health and well-being, if local, national, international and global aspirations are truly rooted within the goals, then, there is need for rights-based policy placements that should defend the above-mentioned values at the level of the human beneficiaries.

Issues at Stake

Through goals 1 to 8, the human rights-based parameters that protect human well-being and its resources for a healthy life and longevity are integrally and inclusively upheld. Through goals 9 to 16, the auspice reflections on values that should enable a more developed, healthier and peaceful existence for all of humanity are presented.

Considering the enormous risks involved if governments and other organs with sovereign autonomy should detain free-will prerogatives on deciding whether or not to enforce these human cherished values within the goals, countless vulnerable populations may become neglected, victimized or discriminated upon if appropriate local and national rights-based measures are left at the discretionary and autonomous wills of their territorial governors.

Based on the *International Migration Policies: Government Views and Priorities 2013* report (ST/ESA/SER.A/342) and the *World Population Policies 2013* report (ST/ESA/SER.A/341), the lapses or reduced degree in government actions and policies against appropriate international migration standards, in correlation to the aspired human health and well-being considerations, is a direct projection of the risks and dangers that awaits the implementation of the goals.

The Growth of Emigration Policies against the Goals

According to the report, in 2011, while 19 per cent of governments only allowed dual citizenship under specific conditions, 28 per cent did not have any provisions in this regard. To add, it is further assessed that governments in more developed regions had a total prohibition of dual citizenship (12 per cent) than in less developed regions (34 per cent) or least developed countries (37 per cent). This situation is detrimental to goal 10 in the case where the involved country policies could lead to an increased 'brain drain' phenomenon without other concurrent possibilities of a balanced mechanism for 'brain gain' on the victimized countries, such as, encouraging the return and support of their citizens in the diaspora. As well, the report highlights countries' weak adherence wills through streamlined bureaucratic procedures for investment and provision of tax exceptions or breaks. In 2011, 55 out of 101 countries failed to institute measures that should attract investment by diaspora which can be handled through special government units, departments or ministries that deal specifically with matters concerning the country's diaspora. Such an assessment therefore, tactically denies development opportunities for the in-country beneficiary citizens and institutions which most probably should be suffering from the 'brain drain' dilemma. This brings in or grows an unfavourable climate for goals 8, 9 and 16.

Irregular Immigration and the Risks on the Goals

Constrained country migration policies lead to several irregularities that promote human exploitation and abuses. This paves the way for organized criminal organizations to get involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling activities, thus, propagating crimes that constitute a serious violation of the human rights of the victims. Furthermore, the irregularities promote difficulties in the migratory processes of refugees and asylum seekers despite their protection granted by international law. These consequences are detrimental to goals 10, 11 and 16, wherein insecurity along country borderlines and within countries' legal sphere may steepen country differences and increase inequality amongst them, while promoting unsafe border cities and the refusal of access to justice for all through effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Pending National Commitments for Improved Health and Mortality Considerations

The report indicates a pending controversy between governments' positions associated with their country views on the acceptance and non-acceptance of assessed levels and reports on under-five mortality and maternal mortality rates within their respective countries. Such doubts affect government efforts to put in place effective and rigorous procedures for combating the particular health and mortality crises. The report also indicates that, despite encouraging progress in recent years, HIV remains a major source of ill health and death worldwide with which at the end of 2012, an estimated 35 million people (adults and children) were living with HIV, and over 2.3 million people newly acquired the virus. Such accessed health worries are major attributions that decrease the greatness of human achievement gained through longevity with better health and well-being of people, reflected in goal 3.

The Way Forward

- While there is need for all countries to make explicit legal provisions that permit dual citizenship or more as reflected within articles 13, 15, and 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights towards the effective application of goal 10, such provisions need to further elaborate on supportive individual and institutional rights-based development options which reflect and will effectively contribute to the implementation of goals.
- In view that irregular immigration severely propagates organized and transnational criminal activities which have corresponding negative effects on country border stability and the security of persons, development institutions and country relationships, there is need for countries to restructure their immigration laws and policies in such a manner that accommodates the spirit of improving the well-being of people within the goals.
- The provision for better health and well-being conditions to all persons everywhere is a cherished aspiration within the goals, thus, it is never enough for a government to deny the degrading health statistics of its people, rather, such values should enforce national will and government efforts towards bettering its current health situation and thus, build on improved opportunities to support the human health progress in the goals.

The growth spirit of the goals evolves and strives solely on a unidirectional human progress dimension which is to improve and better the living conditions and standards of all human beings everywhere. As such, if modern population growth issues which are based on migration and health have to be considered in relation to these goals, they need to be developed and enhanced within the same spirit of the goals. However, this mission may not be very feasible if the representatives of autonomous and sovereign governments are not properly guided and committed towards this global human evolution opportunity.

In brief, all governmental, intergovernmental and concerned non-governmental sectors need to develop and commit themselves to an accompanying conventional text that will guide their local, national and international efforts in implementing the goals, as well as, empower people benefitting from this with fully explicit and easily understood rights to such sustainable development prospects.