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STATEMENT BY

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

of Tanzania for your election as the Chair of the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Madame Chair,

Population development issues are an important priority for Tanzania. We are subsequently reviewing the National Population Policy with the aim of strengthening systems for vital statistics. Our efforts so far has seen significant progress in reducing under-five mortality, increasing life expectancy, improving health and education and are in the process to meet gender equality

targets. However, maternal mortality is still unacceptably high; we need to improve

the quality in health and education; ensure access to employment opportunities for young people, in particular young girls. Tanzania places special attention on these areas.

Madame Chair,

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Tanzania, like other countries on the African continent, is experiencing a youth bulge. 65% of the population is below 25 years, while those 10 to 24 years account

31%. This is an unique opportunity for the country and region to unlock the potential of this important human capital to reposition our economy. Delivering on the demographic dividend is thus of critical importance for my country. As we continue to gain a better understanding, we are expectant on results of the ongoing demographic health survey at the end of the year to inform the modeling and policy positions needed.

In integrating population issues into sustainable development, Tanzania is still

Madame Chair,

...the future where human rights and reproductive rights will

be recognized by all citizens with respect to Tanzania's legal framework, norms

and culture. Tanzania reaffirms its commitment on the implementation of the ICPD

PoA and supports its integration in the Post 2015 development agenda. We shall build on the important experiences focusing on population issues as we implement the ICPD PoA and the MDGs.