Statement

on behalf of the

Federal Republic of Germany

at the

Agenda item 3: General Debate

- a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels
  - b) Sust(e)-5iDn the

Mister Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the Secretary-General, the UN Population Division as well as UNFPA for the insightful reports to the Commission. Germany welcomes the Sustainable Cities, Human mobility and International Migration] it is as relevant as ever. We align ourselves with the statement made by Austria on behalf of 27 states who are members of the European Union.

Dear Mr. Chair,

Rapid urbanization is one of the biggest challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is expected that five billion people this means almost 60 per cent of the world's population will live in cities by 2030. This is the number of people that made up the world's total population in 1987! About half of the urban growth results from natural population growth, the other half is due to migration from rural areas.

Cities are engines of economic growth, they offer higher incomes, they are major markets and they have the potential to offer more opportunities for all. However, this is only one side of the story. All too often, urbanization goes hand in hand with poverty and marginalization. Nowhere is this more apparent than in informal settlements, where over 880 million people already live today more than the people currently living in the European Union and the United States combined.

What does this mean for global development? It means action in cities will be key for achieving sustainable development. With Goal 11, "Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable," the 2030 Agenda recognized the importance of urbanization and local governments. They are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable development worldwide. But of course this goal is closely connected with other SDGs: two thirds of the SDGs can only be achieved in and with cities!

Dear Mr. Chair,

Let me turn to another demographic megatrend the Commission is focusing on this year. Migration is a growing global phenomenon and an important reality that affects the future of both developing and developed countries. Currently, there are around 258 million international migrants, who represent 3.4 per cent of the world's population. 22.5 million persons are recognized as refugees. According to UNHCR, about two-thirds of refugees and around 80 per cent of Internally Displaced Persons worldwide live in urban areas.

Migration poses both risks and benefits. In order for migration to be beneficial for countries of origin, transit and destination as well as migrants themselves, migration must be well-managed and occur in a safe, orderly, and regular way.

On the international level, to foster the benefits of regular migration and reduce the risks of irregular migration, Germany actively contributes to the current negotiations and future implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration:

- Through the German-Moroccan co-chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and in particular at the Berlin Summit in 2017, Germany provided a unique opportunity to engage in multi-stakeholder discussions towards the formulation of the Global Compact for Migration.
- Under the joint chairmanship of Germany and Bangladesh, an ad-hoc Working Group of the Global Forum on Migration and Development submitted a report to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum as a contribution to the Global Compact for Migration.

Dear Mr. Chair,

In 2017, nearly 50 per cent of all international migrants were women the majority of them of reproductive age. Particularly in context of conflict and displacement, when social and structural support systems around them collapse, the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls are in danger. 60 per cent of the cases of maternal mortality occur in fragile settings.

This is why realising sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups among them people who live in fragile settings, people with disabilities and young people is a priority of German Development Cooperation in the area of health and population policy. We strongly advocate for a rights-based and gender-