

**STATEMENT**

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REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
AND VICE-PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON**

**POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Agenda item 5. General debate on the contribution of population and  
development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015**

**New York, 15 April 2015**

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Economic and Social Council at this session of the Commission on Population and Development, which has been at the forefront of monitoring the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development

As a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, this Commission has made effective contributions to the Council's work in the follow-up of the outcomes of the

Population issues are directly relevant to this year's discussions in the high-level segment of ECOSOC, including the high-level political forum, in several respects, including:

The role of demographic trends to development outcomes, including the enhancement of reproductive health and rights, as highlighted in the Cairo Programme of Action. The positive effects of increased contraceptive prevalence and reduced unmet need for family planning on maternal and child health and mortality are well recognized, as well as on the expansion of educational opportunities for women and children. These topics were included in the MDGs, and it only stands to reason that they have maintained priority consideration in the elaboration of the SDGs.

Reductions in fertility also open a window of opportunity for a "demographic dividend" brought about by the concentration of the population age structure in the more productive age—especially if coupled with educational and decent

work opportunities for the current and future generations of youth. It is indeed very likely that you will be dealing with these issues following the

regular and responsible migration are contained in the proposed sustainable development goals.

**Madame Chairperson, distinguished delegates,**

In closing, let me put on record my satisfaction with the improved alignment of the substantive work of the functional commissions with the ECOSOC annual theme, and with the overall goal of promoting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development as we transition to the post-2015 development era.

I am confident that with the collaboration of functional commissions, the ECOSOC system will become a more effective unifying platform for the transformative and universal post-2015 agenda, and for better linkages between the normative and operational work of the UN system.

Thank you.