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Ageing, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, and our UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Excellencies,

The Philippines is now undergoing a strategic demographic shift. While we remain one of the countries with the highest populations in the Asia Pacific, our population growth has declined from 2.3% in 1994 to 1.5% in 2022. This is driven by the progressive decline in the total fertility rate, which was at 1.9% in 2022, already below the replacement fertility level. This is impacting our country's age structure, marked by a declining young population and an increase in working-age and older individuals.

Moreover, we continue to face critical population concerns tied to socioeconomic factors such as women in lower income brackets facing challenges in attaining their reproductive rights and uneven income levels impacting population spatial distribution. Women's lower labor force participation also remains a challenge as studies reveal that this disparity can be associated with marriage and childbearing duties.

Despite these challenges, we continue our efforts to accelerate actions to reap demographic dividends in line with the ICPD PoA.

The Philippine government implements wide-ranging and data-

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The Philippines remains, more than ever, committed to the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the realization of the SDG promise of leaving no one behind. Our efforts center on the quality of growth more than growth itself. We are driven and inspired by our collective ambitions not just for the Philippines and our own people but for current and future generations.

Thank you.

PARLINGING MARCONIC TO THE LANDER ASSOCIATE

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