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STATEMENT TO THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE
PROGRESS MADE IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME OF
ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA ITEM 3. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for this opportunity to introduce the Report
of the Secretary-General on the review appraisal of the progress made in achieving

The Review and Appraisal report finds that much progress has been made in the implementation of the Programme of Action during the last ten years. The world is beginning to see the end of rapid population growth, couples are closer to achieving their desired family size and spacing, mortality is declining in most countries and there is evidence that many countries are taking the necessary steps to confront HIV/AIDS and other mortality crises, and Governments are initiating processes to address concerns related to international migratory movements.

However, progress has not been universal, and based on current trends, many countries are likely to fall short of the agreed goals of

pensions and health care for older persons.

Fifthly . Population distribution continues to be a concern for many countries, especially in the less developed regions. By 2007, 50 per cent of the world population will be residing in urban areas. More and more governments are expressing concern about high levels of migration from rural to urban areas and looking for ways to manage the growth of large urban agglomerations.

And sixthly, Mr. Chairman. As of mid-2000, approximately 175 million persons resided in a country other than where they were born, three-fifths of which are in the more developed regions. Although the vast majority of migrants are making meaningful contributions to their host countries, international migration entails the loss of human resources for many countries of origin and may give rise to political, economic or social tensions in countries of destination. The number of Governments adopting new measures to influence international migration has grown rapidly. In 2001, for example, 40 per cent of countries had a policy effect to lower immigration.

Mr. Chairman. As we look back over the past decade, national programmes to implement the Programme of Action have shown encouraging results. Much has been learned, including finding successful approaches, and striving at improved national programme implementation.

In summary Mr. Chairman, while much progress has been made in the implementation of the Programme of Action during the last ten years, there have also been shortfalls and gaps. The report shows that continued efforts and commitment are needed to mobilize human and financial resources, to strengthen institutional capacities, and to nurture partnerships among governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society. With such efforts and commitment, we can expect broader and deeper progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.