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Statement by
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TO THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

New York, 11 Apri12008

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to address the Commission on Population and
Development for the first time as Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.

This week, the Commission has considered issues that are fundamental for development: the changing spatial distribution of the growing world population and the process of urbanization. Your rich and detailed statements have made plain the variety of national experience. In some countries, the number and size of cities has been growing rapidly. In others, the population of major cities is declining. In developing countries, natural increase still makes a major contribution to urban growth. In developed countries with very low fertility, migration, whether internal or international, helps to balance the excess of deaths over births. In some countries, urban-to-urban migration has surpassed rural-to-urban migration. In others, rural-to-urban migration is rising. Given such variety of experience, government responses are being tailored to each particular situation and your

Lastly, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, together with the
members of the Bureau, for the thoughtfulness and care with which you guided the organization of this session and for efficiently conducting its proceedings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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