

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

STATEMENT BY
H.E. Mr. MASOOD KHAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN,
and VICE-PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

TO THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

New York, 25 April 2013

Your Excellency, Vlad Lupan,
Mr. Jorge Bravo, representative of the Population Division,
Department for Economic and Social Affairs
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you today and deliver a statement on behalf of the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Nestor Osorio of Colombia. Ambassador Osorio asked me to highlight the importance that the deliberations of the Commission on Population and Development have for the development agenda of the United Nations, and in particular, the valuable contribution of population matters to the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by making brief remarks on the on-going process to strengthen the Economic and Social Council and the system that includes the functional commissions and other subsidiary organs of ECOSOC. As noted recently in the sessions of other functional commissions, there are three main aspects to consider in this process:

First, to sharpen the focus on thematic areas, benefitting from the knowledge and expertise of the specialized bodies in the system;

Second, to review the work of the functional commissions in order to achieve a closer integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as prescribed in the International Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20;

And third, to improve the dialogue and cooperation between the different organs of the system.

In connection with this last point, since 2009 the sessions of the Commission have included an agenda item on the contribution of population to the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). This practice constitutes a good example of the reinforcement of substantive relationships that the Economic and Social Council has been forging with the functional commissions. We must aim to expand and strengthen these linkages in the system of the Council as a whole.

Distinguished delegates,

As you know, the theme of the AMR this year is “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”. As noted recently in the regional meetings held in Africa and Europe for this year’s Annual Ministerial Review, scientific and technological innovations are essential to modern societies. Without nurturing them and applying them systematically, there is little hope for countries to develop and to achieve healthy, well educated and integrated societies.

Historically, scientific advances and technological innovations have helped to improve substantially the living conditions of the population, both in the currently more developed regions as well as in developing countries.

New technologies in medicine and diagnostic tools, including those that operate through mobile phones, are expanding access to health services and to diagnostic tests at affordable costs. Over the past several decades, innovations that have improved personal hygiene and public health, as well as the eradication of

global reduction in fertility from four and a half children per women in 1970, to two and a half children per women today.

With regard to migration, scientific progress and innovations have reduced the time and financial costs of transportation by land and sea. This, together with the extension of information and communication technologies, has made internal and international migration much easier and has greatly facilitated the contact of migrants with their places of origin. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on new trends in migration that was prepared for this session of the CPD, the global number of migrants has increased substantially during the last 20 years.

Mr. Chairman,

Continuing the application of scientific knowledge and technological innovations,