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ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. HARYONO SUYONO

STATE MINISTER FOR

POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA / CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL

FAMILY PLANNING COORDINATING BOARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)

CAIRO, EGYPT, 6 SEPTEMBER 1994

Honorable Chairman, Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed by the grace of Allah, God the Almighty, that we are
assembled today in this very distinguished forum; a forum where voice of
happiness and plight are listened to with keen attention. The various
voices expressed in this forum will, God's willing, guide our concerted
actions in order to make our only one world a better place to live for

the future generations.

Permit me at the outset to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your well deserved election as the chairman of this historic meeting. It is a source of great satisfaction to my delegation that this Conference is convened in Cairo, the capital of a country that has provided outstanding leadership, particularly to the developing countries, being one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement. We would like also to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Egypt for the warm welcome and hospitality that have been extended to us since our arrival and for the excellent facilities provided for the conference. Permit me also to extend our sincere appreciation to the Conference's Secretary General, Dr. Nafis Sadik and her devoted staffs for their untiring and valuable efforts in preparing this Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Fast and fundamental world changes continue to shape the global agenda. On the one hand, we witness the changing configuration in the post Cold War era, rapid technological innovation, growing interdependence between countries and the emergence of a single world-wide market. But on the other, we observe the widening prosperity gap, widespread underdevelopment and pervasive poverty with its attendant characteristics of hunger and want, illiteracy and disease. All these have made the need for a responsive international agenda in the next century to be of paramount importance.

In the field of population, although a few countries in the developing world have managed to score encouraging progress, many of

them are still struggling to manage their populations in a way that would allow them to achieve sustainable economic growth and development. Failure to do so would cause these countries be faced with rapid and unprecedented population growth which constitutes a real threat to the limit of growth. If this happens, the world's natural resources would be depleted and the fate of future generations jeopardized. Sustainable development is highly dependent on several closely interrelated factors such as the promotion of sustained economic growth, the alleviation of poverty, the redress of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and the timely management of population growth.

All these concerns should lead everyone of us in this Conference to seriously endeavour to forge a new global consensus which, I believe, can only be achieved through a constructive dialogue and partnership based on mutual interest and benefit and equitably shared responsibility. Indonesia as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement attaches great importance to such a dialogue. To this end President Soeharto, as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement had taken steps to invite the Group of 7 most industrialized countries, during its Summit meetings both in Tokyo in July 1993 and in Napoli this year, to enter into such a dialogue on various issues of common concern to both developed and developing countries. This initiative was subsequently endorsed in the United Nations General Assembly and Resolution 48/165 entitled "The renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" was adopted by consensus. In the context of this dialogue and global partnership, this Conference, in my view, presents the international community with the golden opportunity to seriously address the management of population in such a way that enables us to formulate our population and development policies and programmes which integrate population concerns into sustainable human development strategies.

Furthermore, Indonesia as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement is pleased to relate that the Movement has indeed made significant contribution to the substantive preparation of the Cairo Conference. It may be recalled that at its Tenth Summit in Jakarta in September 1992, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement decided to convene a Ministerial Meeting to consider the population issues of importance to its member states in preparation for the present Conference. The meeting was held in Denpasar, Bali, last November and its final documents was made available to the Third Preparatory Committee. My remarks today, therefore, will not only reflect Indonesia's thinking on the major themes of the Conference, but will also take into account important inputs made by the Bali Ministerial Meeting.

In this connection, President Soeharto had written to the Leaders of the Non-Aligned countries inviting them to sign the Statement on Population Stabilization. To date, there are 69 Heads of Government representing 3.4 billion people who support the goal of national and international population stabilization in order to have a sustainable development which gives primacy to human dignity and welfare and addresses human beings in their entirety. The issue of sustainable human development was thus put at the center of the global agenda.

Furthermore, it is my delegation's conviction that the programme of action that this Conference could produce should constitute a blueprint for a sustainable humane development. The blueprint ought to be realistically based on the relative strength and different kinds of population problems of each respective country. Much works have been done during preparatory process to make this Conference a success. The

draft Programme of Action, which is now before us for our consideration, although still contain a number of pending issues, in the view of my delegation, has laid a solid foundation on the basis of which the population and development policies could be implemented.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me now to touch briefly on some key issues that need to be resolved in this Conference. With regards to the principles, we believe that the formulation and implementation of population policies is the sovereign right of each nation and should be consistent with its religious, cultural norms and values, traditions and national laws. There has to be a balance between the rights and responsibilities of individual and the rights of family and the community or society as a whole.

Indonesia adheres to the belief that the family is the basic unit of society and ought to be continuously strengthened. It is encouraging to note that these issues have been given particular attention in the draft Programme of Action. The draft does promote the idea of strengthening the family and encourage all governments to formulate policies which are sensitive to the needs of the family and its impact. In this regard, Indonesia has been promoting and implementing a family centered development programmes during the last four years. By doing so, we hope that the family will be able to perform its main functions as well as preserve the basic fabric of the society.

In accordance with the socio-cultural traditions and national laws of our country, we only recognize families which are legally and/or religiously formed between men and women. Under this concept, the family consists of husband and wife or husband and wife and their

children or widows with their children and or widowers and their children. We note, however, that other countries recognize other forms of family realizing fully that there is no international model of family which is suitable and acceptable to every country.

Closely related to the issue of the family, the gender issue is also at the center of our development policy and programme. Women not only constitute more than half of the Indonesian population but they also have been playing important role during the period of the struggle for our independence as well as in the subsequent stage of political and economic development of our country. In Indonesia, men and women are guaranteed equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities in our nation's development.

Despite intensified efforts since 1978 to advance the status of women in the family and society and to enhance their role in development, both as agents and beneficiaries admittedly gender gaps still remain in some areas. To this end, our endeavours towards achieving a more balanced and mutually beneficial gender relations have been made during the past few years. Promotion of gender awareness and training in gender-sensitive and responsive development planning have been carried out both at the national and grass-root levels through partnership between the government and the NGOs. The ultimate objective is to achieve harmonious gender relation not only based on equality between women and men but also on the principle of sharing and caring for each other in the family and society in all spheres of life and at all levels of decision making beginning in the family.

My delegation is of the firm belief that the empowerment of women should be done through wider provision and access to educational

opportunities, skill training and employment opportunities. In this respect, since 1993 the Indonesian Government has increased compulsory education from 6 to 9 years, and this is applied to all Indonesian, regardless of race, sex, religion and ethnic origin. This policy in itself is providing the basic means for empowerment in the sense of empowering women and men to enable them to live and work together in facing the challenges and opportunities based on equality, sharing and caring for each other's dignity and welfare. In addition, special and innovative activities are implemented to keep young girls in school and to motivate them to pursue higher educational attainment as well as expertise and careers in science and technology for development. This is further reinforced by the efforts to create non-discriminatory employment opportunities and treatment which eventually will result in a more gender-sensitive and responsive employment system. Within the family and in the realm of family development, Indonesia has done, and will continue to promote and encourage male participation and equitable share of family's responsibilities which include household management, parental responsibility and other family responsibilities such as caring for the elderly and the sick as well as traditional and religious obligations of the family.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me now to address the closely-related subjects of sexual and reproductive health, sexual and reproductive rights as well as family planning. I simply wish to caution that we consider these subjects with great sensitivity, understanding and empathy. I believe our approach should be in accordance with each country's own culture, tradition and religion taking into account the level of its development without ignoring their individual and community rights as well as their responsibilities. Underlying the debate on these issues is the basic

right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the necessary information and means to do so. This is fundamental, and it is upon such a premise that various related notions contained in the Programme of Action should take into account the religion, culture, norms and values, cultures and stages of development of each country. Needless to say that the involvement of the family, particularly the parent, is of critical importance in the provision of such services which should take into account such questions as: who are the clients, what kinds of services are appropriate for certain types of client, in what ways certain services would be best delivered, which channels are effective and when and where certain services should be delivered. Furthermore, it is also our conviction that decisions concerning sexual and reproductive matters are family decisions and therefore are not solely the exclusive rights of an individual. Instead, the exercise of these rights should, to a certain degree, be carried out in consultation with other relevant family members.

Regarding the issue of abortion, I wish to make unmistakably clear to this distinguished forum that in Indonesia abortion is essentially prohibited and permitted only for health reasons and strictly regulated by law. Obviously, Indonesian family planning programme has never been and will never be promoted through abortion using it as one of its methods. If there are treatments given to solve complications of unsafe abortion then these treatments are purely out of humanitarian and health considerations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have learned from experience that success in development

efforts depend very much on the extent to which various segments of our society at various levels, including those at grass-root levels are involved. Therefore, consistent with our people-centered national development policy, we have continuously endeavoured to mobilize our people to shift gradually from a population programme management which is planning and implementing for the people to planning and implementing with the people and hopefully will lead to planning and implementing by the people. Numerous local institutions and organizations, especially at grass-root levels such as women organizations, religious education institutions, private sector and NGOs have been indispensable partners in our country's population and family planning programme. The involvement of all segments of society is based on the belief that the ultimate goals of national development is the empowerment of the people, men and women, young and old to manage their own life individually as well as members of the family and society.

In this regard, we in Indonesia are proud of our 25 year old National Population Programme which, in fact, has just recently entered its second 25 year phase. Our success in significantly curbing total fertility rate from 5.6 to 3.0 children per woman during phase one of our national programme, is by all accounts encouraging. It stems, I believe, from an emphasis on certain key elements. Primary among them is that a strong and consistent political commitment right from the top to the lowest level. So too, the active involvement of public officials both at the national and local levels together with NGOs, women's organization and other community leaders, is critical for raising awareness on the importance of population and development issues among the people. Equally important, I believe, is our focus on grass-root participation, especially at the village level and has been one of the strength of our societies and therein lies the basic foundation of community participation.

The underlying philosophy is that, in essence, people like and want to be heard, respected and be part of their respective community. It is in this light that Indonesia has instilled upon the general population and the local communities that the family planning programme is actually theirs and not the governments. Within a relatively short period, most local communities particularly those in the rural areas are ready to take over the leadership and the management of their own family planning programme. Our official planning field workers then began to assume a different role, from direct motivating and other tasks which directly deal with clientele to providing guidance and supervision. With this shift, the role of local community leaders and the private-voluntary cadres is increasingly being felt. The Indonesian family planning programme has thus converted itself into the family planning movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Permit me now to turn to another issue, namely the international cooperation in the field of population and development. It is in this spirit of cooperation that several developing countries have initiated a unique form of collaboration among the South, called: Partners in Population and Development: A South-South Initiative. This initiative was based on the following assumptions: (1) at present there have been quite a considerable population and family planning experts available in the South; (2) these experts would be enriched much more if they exchange and share each other's experience in the field of population and development; and (3) by doing so the spirit of solidarity and partnership would be enhanced and strengthened further.

In this regard, I am privileged to share with you all that up to now Indonesia has become the host to more than 2,000 participants from 75 countries. Indonesia has indeed, for many years, opened herself to share her experience with other countries. We emphasize the importance of sharing and not preaching to others on how to get things done. We share both our strengths and weaknesses. We showed them our past mistakes and our efforts to learn from other countries which were applicable in our country's condition and situation.

The promotion of South-South collaboration in no way excludes the North from any meaningful international cooperation. On the contrary, since its inception stage, the North - which were represented by some donor agencies and countries, have participated. In addition, some countries of the North have indicated their intention to join this new endeavour. It is my delegations conviction that this unique initiative represents the spirit of renewed North-South dialogue and partnership. It goes without saying that all countries, especially those from the South, are whole-heartedly welcome to join this endeavour initiated by the eleven countries. In the Group's last meeting in Jakarta, several understandings have been agreed. Among others, the initiators agreed to submit a draft resolution for favorable consideration and hopefully endorsement by this very Conference.

My delegation believes that although national action is of primary importance - and indeed the bulk of resources are being raised domestically - there is also a growing need to mobilize significant new and additional resources for population programme. Additional resources could be ideally mobilized from Official Development Assistance by an increased effort on the part of the international community to meet the agreed ODA targets. Only through the provision of adequate resources can significant progress in the field of population be achieved. We

therefore concur with the call to increase the percentage of ODA directed toward population programme from its recent 1.4 % level to at least 4.0 %.

Before concluding Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to the need for an effective follow-up measures by the Conference. The achievement of this will largely depend on the extent to which Government and Non-Government organizations both individually and collectively and the international community as a whole concur on the need of implementing the Programme of Action to be adopted. The spirit of sharing and partnership should be the overriding drive in implementing the Programme of Action. Each country should therefore be encouraged to establish national network to disseminate the products of this Conference and to ensure adequate monitoring system.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as we chart our journey into the 21st century and beyond, it becomes evident to all of us that population problems are still at the heart of the development agenda with strong emphasis on the need to pursue a humane sustainable development. We all realize that indeed the ultimate goal of any national development is the empowerment of people -especially women - and the strengthening of the main building block of any society - the family. My delegation pledges its cooperation to you, Mr. Chairman, and all the other distinguished delegates so that our deliberations will be crowned with great success for the sake of the whole humankind to which this conference is dedicated.

Thank you.

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