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AS WRITTEN

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HEAD of THE DELEGATION of THE

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of KOREA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

(September 1994, Cairo)

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and honour to address in this significant conference
which is being held in Cairo, capital city with a long history and

ancient civilization First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, I would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Government of Arab Republic of Egypt for its warm welcome and hospitality provided to us. Also I would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Nafis Sadik and to secretariat for your great efforts exerted for the success of this conference.

This conference is being held under the great attention of world and it is of great significance in dealing with the very important and complicated population issues on a predictable basis, of which solution is one of the strategic task facing the mankind, and thus hewing out the prosperous future for humankind.

Mr. President,

Today, population issue appears as an important and pressing task to be solved. Without the proper solution of the population issues, neither the social progress be achieved nor the prosperous future for mankind be created. From this point of view, the Government of the Democratic peoples Republic of Korea consistently paid deep attention to its solution.

The basis of our population policy is the Juche idea that man is the master of world and decides everything.

Population indicates the human collective and therefore, it is the question to be solved by man. Thus the Government has maintained the policy of keeping education and public health ahead of all sectors while adhering to the principle of man centered development in the solution of

population issues.

Education is the human development and giving priority to education precisely means that human development is being placed in the center of all development. The Government has taken various measures of increasing its investment in education, public health and improving its quality.

Therefore, in our country there has been enforcement of universal free medical care system long ago and the universal 9 - year compulsory education from 1967, the universal 11 - year compulsory education from 1975 which enable all children in school ages to study.

In particular, it has been paid deep attention in promoting the maternal and child health.

The Government adopted the " Law of Child Care " and thanks to this measure, at present, all the children are being brought up at the state expense in nurseries and kindergartens.

Due to the positive policies of eliminating all kinds of discrimination against women and providing them with opportunity to participate in the socio economic activities, the social status of women has been further strengthened and the Government is encouraging policy of women involvement in policy formulation and its implementation.

Thus the percentage of women reached 48 in national labour force and out of intellectuals 34 percent is women. At the same time, I would like to emphasize the fact that women occupy 21 percent among the deputies to the Supreme Peoples Assembly and a growing number of women are working in the responsible positions of state and economic organs.

In line with the improvement of education, public health, women's status and specially, -, the decrease of infant mortality rate, it appears as an increasing desire of our people to keep appropriate in numbers of their children and train them more able ones.

As a result, the fertility rate in 1991 was 22 which recorded more than a half of decrease compared by the year 1970 while the natural increase rate dropped from 3.7 in 1970 to 1.6 in 1991.

To prevent the concentration of population in the cities and provide its equal distribution is an essential problem to be solved in the field of population. Concentration of population in the cities is mainly relies upon the backwardness of rural areas compared by the urban areas.

Thus, the Government taken a series of policy of developing the medium and small scale industry in order to make an effective use of local labour force and material and decreasing the gap between urban and rural areas. Such were conducive to overall economic development and guarantee to equal distribution of population accorging to regions.

All these achievements we made during the past periods provide us the guarantee that our national fertility would reach the level of fertility replacement in a near future.

Joining with other delegates, I would like to extend our support to the idea set out in the draft programme of action of ICPD that man should be placed in the center of development in order to achieve the goal of population and development.

Mr. President,

Despite the international concern and efforts, population issue still poses a big challenges and its solution does not confine itself within a nation but has been one of important issues be solved on a world wide scale. My delegation considers that it is an important guarantee in the solution of population issues to adhere to independent attitude which enables to solve this problem in accordance with the interests of its own people and its own realities. And it is essential to maintain the principle of strengthening IEC activities and shifting population issues into the work for people themselves. As it is recognized, the achievement of sustained and stabilized development of economy is one of important way to solve the population issues and improve the quality of life.

My delegation recognize the need for strengthening the common efforts to establish a new international economic order for the promotion of national economic development in the developing countries

Together with this, cooperation between the countries should be further strengthened and the developed countries should make an efforts to increase assistance and funds for the population and development in developing countries.

My delegation would like emphasize that the prevention of new war and promotion of peace and security are the important premise for the successful implementation of the programme of action which is to be adopted in this conference and the promotion of happiness and welfare of mankind. In conclusion, I would like to express my confidence that the conference will produce its programme of action with a spirit of cooperation and solidarity and will contribute to creating the

prosperous future of mankind.

Thank you.

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