

Statement by H.E. Mr. Gholamali Khoshroo
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations at the Fiftieth Session
of the Commission on Population and Development
(New York, 3 -7 April 2017)

Items 3: General debate

In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau for your election as the chair and the vice chairs of the fiftieth Session of the Commission on Population and Development. We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his reports.

The Islamic Republic of Iran associates itself with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of the G77 and China.

Madam Chairperson,

The changing population age structure continues to be an incontrovertible fact across the world. The demographic transition, though with a varying pace in all regions, provides countries with both opportunities and challenges in their endeavor towards realizing national development policies.

The multifaceted challenges stemming from the changes have to be addressed through international cooperation, bearing in mind the role of the UN development system. Poverty, hunger, malnutrition, poor public

health services, particularly in developing countries, severely affects the lives of billions of people; women, children and youth the most.

National Governments have the primary responsibility for their countries' development. Meanwhile, enhanced international cooperation, including fulfillment of commitments by developed countries, *inter alia*, for ensuring access to finance, market, technology and medicines is crucial for the well-being of those population in need and ultimately for implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and leaving no one behind.

In order to optimize opportunities of demographic dividend, it is also imperative to effectively embrace culturally sensitive population policies towards sustainable development. The principle of national ownership and leadership is central to formulate national policies, including in pursuing appropriate plans and priorities for tackling the demographic transition.

Madam Chairperson,

The Islamic republic of Iran has undergone tremendous changes in its population dynamism and structure during last 40 years. As a result, Iran is heading towards an ageing society. Currently, over 6 per-cent of the country's 80-million population is over 65 years old and over 25 percent is between 15 to 29 years old. However, in 2025 Iranian elderly will comprise over 10 percent of the population.

