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PHILIPPINE STATEMENT delivered by

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Madam Chair,

The Philippine delegation congratulates you and the members of your Bureau on a well-deserved election. We commit our full support to the fruitful discussions and successful completion of our agenda in this historic 50thSession. We also align ourselves with the

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adolescents .. In 2013, 13.60/0 of women aged 15-19 began childbearing - a significant increase from 60/0 in 2002. The poorest 200/0 of the population have a total fertility rate of 5 children per woman. The Philippines remains within a high population growth scenario.

Given prevailing fertility levels, change in the age structure of the population has been slow. The proportion of children (14 years old and below) decreased from 460/0 in 1960 to 330/0 in 2010. On the other hand, people of working age, 15 to 64, increased from 520/0 in 1960 to 630/0 in 2010. The older population (65 and over) is growing at a slow pace, from 3% in 1960 to around 40/0 in 2010).

Across the regions of our country, differences in age structure reflect varying levels of development. In highly urbanized regions, there are more people of working age compared with the country average.

The change in the Philippine age structure is indeed slow. But there
is a steady increase in the working age population. If sustained, this could provide a window for a demographic dividend. Moreover, our highly urbanized regions are now actually facing the prospect of such a demographic bonus. Recognizing the impact of changing age structure on national progress, the Philippine Development Plan for 2017-2022 has included policies and strategies to help us achieve a demographic dividend.

The national strategy includes strengthening the population management program to hasten a decline in the population growth rate; improving the quality of human capital for mote inclusive participation in national development; sustaining economic growth anchored on improved

2

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human resource use, and good governance based on transparency, accountability and good practice.

The full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health law is a key component. Legal barriers to the implementation of the said law remain. But the government, in close collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and local government units continues to intensify demand generation and service delivery interventions to promote access by Filipinos to reproductive health services, especially maternal health and family planning services. Interventions include the promotion of comprehensive reproductive health education among adolescents to reduce teenage pregnancies.

For human capital development, the government continues to improve and sustain its strategies for improving public health with a program of universal health care coverage. Our continuing conditional cash transfer program among the poorest in society, or the Pamilyang Pilipino Pantawid Program provides investments for various human capital development initiatives among the poor, such as the provision of child and maternal health services, primary and secondary education, skills development, livelihood assistance, and resiliency training against natural disasters, in addition to cash grants. Educational reforms are underway, like the K12 Program which has instituted vocational and technical skills development programs to improve the employability of the youth. These initiatives are operationalized under principles and systems of good governance that ensure transparency, integrity, accountability, and gender-responsiveness. It includes interventions on peace-building, and

3

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