

UNITED NATIONS

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Remarks

**High-level plenary on “Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the
International Conference on Population and Development”**

Tuesday, 16

Distinguished Delegates,

The Commission on Population and Development is the primary mechanism to follow up and review the Cairo Programme of Action. Three months ago, the Commission adopted a political declaration, emphasizing that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The analytical work of DESA's Population Division highlights four key demographic "megatrends", that will shape the context of global population in the coming years, impacting the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

First, the global population is still growing, albeit at a slowing rate. Many of the fastest growing populations are found in the world's poorest countries, where population growth brings additional challenges to the effort to eradicate poverty, combat hunger and malnutrition, and to strengthening the coverage and quality of education and health systems.

Second, as population growth slows down, populations grow older. While population ageing is a sign of human progress, we must adjust our policies to ensure that no one is left behind.

Third, more people than ever before are changing their country of residence. The Cairo Programme of Action was among the first agreements committing goals and objectives to address the challenges and enhance the benefits of international migration for development.

Lastly, the world continues to experience an ongoing shift in population distribution,