



**STATEMENT BY DATO' DR. SITI NORLASIAH ISMAIL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
NATIONAL POPULATION AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT BOARD MALAYSIA  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**FOURTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
11-15 APRIL 2016, NEW YORK**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL DEBATE ON NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN  
POPULATION MATTERS: "STRENGTHENING THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE  
BASE FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA"**

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Madam Chair,

Allow me to join other delegates before me in congratulating you for being elected as Chairperson for the Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission.

2. My delegation also would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for the comprehensive report on "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda". Malaysia shares the view of the Secretary General that reliable and timely demographic data is essential for planning and implementing interventions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to monitor progress towards its achievements. This requires efforts to integrate disaggregated demographic and other data sources via geo-referencing and leveraging the use of ICT to disseminate information through interactive online databases.

Madam Chair,

3. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has been responsible for undertaking the Population and Housing Censuses of Malaysia every years since 1970. The Census remains the main source of data collection aimed at providing a comprehensive set of statistical information about the population in the country in terms of its size and spatial distribution, its demographic, social and economic characteristics as well as housing stock at a specific time reference. The census provides essential information not only for policy development and planning, but also for managing, monitoring and evaluating programs and activities across a broad spectrum of sectors. The 2010 Census round utilized improved ICT technologies and new approaches in the different phases of the census operation. The emerging technologies are transforming the way the Census is conducted in terms of operations management, quality assurance, data capture, mapping (GIS, GPS), data processing and storage. With the ever increasing individual privacy and accessibility of internet, the e-Census was introduced in 2010. An internet based questionnaire for data collection, was found to be more effective to capture respondents mainly in large urban areas and the gated communities.

4. The dissemination of the latest 2010 census publication has been uploaded in the Census Portal website where all information pertaining to Census is available. Moving forward, Department of Statistics Malaysia will explore innovative ways of data generation, methods of presentation and dissemination.

5. Malaysia also has a comprehensive civil registration system. The National Registration Department is responsible for registration and issuance of birth and death certificates. Birth certificate is needed for utilization of maternal and child health services, school enrolment, application for personal identity card, and passport, and for many other identification purposes. The Department of Statistics Malaysia has also been generating vital statistics reports annually since the 1960's. The statistics report contains information on live birth, still births, perinatal mortality, neonatal mortality, infant mortality, toddler mortality, maternal mortality, including total fertility rate and age specific fertility rate.

6. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health collects and publishes more detailed information on utilization of maternal and child health services, deaths and causes of death through the Health Management Information System. There has been a significant decline in maternal mortality from 540 per 100,000 live births in 1957 to 25.2 per 100,000 in 2013, due to the comprehensive and efficient health care system.

Madam Chair,

7. Apart from the population censuses and the vital registration system, several large-scale demographic household surveys have also been carried out by other agencies in the country. These surveys, which are conducted with the view to monitor changes within the general population and family system, provide vital inputs for planning, particularly for the preparation of the national and state development plans. The Household Income Survey (HIS) which has been conducted by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia since 1973 aims to measure the economic well-being of the population using income distribution pattern of households classified by various socio-economic characteristics. It helps the government to identify the low-income groups by collecting information such as basic households amenities and study the effects of the implementation of national development program.

8. Another major study, the Malaysia Population and Family Survey (MPFS) has been carried out every ten years since 1974 by the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB), the latest in the series being the MPFS-5 conducted in 2014 to collect time series data on the population, family and reproductive health of Malaysians. The information serves as a critical input for formulation of effective socio-economic development policies, strategies and programs. The other large-scale demographic household survey is the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) carried out by the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. NHMS provides community-based data on the pattern of common health problems, health service utilization and health expenditure in the community. This will then help the Ministry of Health to review the priorities of the national health program, planning for future allocation of resources and evaluate the impact of strategies, programs and services.

9. While there has been marked improvement in the collection, analysis, dissemination of demographic data, many gaps remain with regards to the coverage of certain population related sectors. Measurement of migration, particularly at the sub-national levels, is also among the areas least covered. Information or data on the ageing situation is usually available through census data. As these are usually in the form of aggregated data, more micro information

should be made available for planning purposes. Specific demographic and socio-economic research is clearly needed to enable programs to take into account the needs of their intended beneficiaries, especially women, the young, the aged, the disadvantaged and other less empowered groups.

Madam Chair,

10. In Malaysia, the implementation process of the MDGs has obtained the highest political commitment at the national level and involved multi-stakeholders engagement. This commitment has enabled Malaysia to achieve almost all of the MDGs. As for the post-2015 development agenda, a similar approach will be used to achieve the goals under the platform of the 11th Malaysia development plans. Malaysia will further improve the availability of online interactive databases and access to geo-referenced datasets disaggregated by relevant characteristics such as income, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, as to ensure that no one is left behind.

Madam Chair,

11. On my last note, I wish to reiterate that we will give our full support to all deliberations of this 49th Session of the UNCPD. Malaysia is proud to join the international community in supporting the strengthening of the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.