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### Commission on Population and Development

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**General debate on national experience in population matters:  
“Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015  
Development agenda”**

### **Statement submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council<sup>2</sup>**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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<sup>1</sup> E/CN.9/2016/1.

<sup>2</sup> The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### **Strengthening internal national population migration policies and ideologies in promoting the post-2015 development agenda**

#### Introduction

The concept of globalization towards the post-2015 development agenda is becoming an inclusive prospectus of interwoven and interdependent needs that combine or create impacts in order to build a positive force for development. Our world today is on the move with some 215 million international migrants and 740 million internal migrants (IOM, 2010, 2013; UNDP, 2009) through increasingly migratory patterns are evolving in ways that create new challenges for migrants and for origin and destination countries alike. In recent times, inequality factors that were predominant within countries have now begun shifting towards cross-border considerations. These are measured through different parameters including income dispersion due to country of citizenship, steepened inter-native or interracial resentments especially based on the country of origin and the thought of one another having limited patriotic feelings within foreign territories.

In perspective, the dilemma is caused by the indifference of the international community to collaborate or produce adequate and significant multilateral agreements that seek to lower barriers to migration. This also correlates with the fact that countries are unlikely to cede national control over such a sensitive issue. Though many countries may be reluctant to negotiate access to their territorial jurisdictions in a multilateral forum on the basis that this may extend such privileges to a wider range of the forum members thereby, undermining other regional strongholds, it remains practically obvious that increased migration flows can generate very large aggregate benefits for both the source and destination countries. In fact, with the exception of Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade and Services, the lapses in international migration policies are numbered in several global initiatives which focus mostly on the protection of migrants' rights, the collection of data, research, policy dissemination, technical assistance and training, and discussions and promotion of migration-related development initiatives.

Where are the national government commitments and policy placements to reduce the current migration barriers?

However, since the autonomous pride of countries makes it difficult for cross-border movement, the will of a people with trust in their leadership can effectively harness internal migration prospects within limited parameters that will reflect the post-2015 development potential of migration in areas that may build heavier impacts. This includes national concern in areas and issues of health, education or employment which act as accompanying elements, but, due to their cross-cutting nature, it only becomes possible when internal policies of migration are suited within broader policy implementation considerations than standalone phenomenon.

#### Objective

To strengthen internal national population policies focusing on migration that govern movements from urban and rural areas in fostering the post-2015 development agenda.

### Purpose of Statement

Generating potential entry points to assess the demographic patterns within a single country that serve in understanding growth perspectives from a sustainable development measure and advocating for the need for internal government policy placements and support to build trust among its people towards their own development needs.

### Issues at Stake

(1) The psychology of prospective livelihood opportunity-seeking migrants is a major barrier that undermines self-development perspectives within national territories. This is felt especially through misleading images and stories spread among peers. Daily realities in current times have proven that individuals within source countries suffer huge losses and wastes of family resources in the quest for unrealistic international migration dreams. In reality, if such investment opportunities had been duly utilized within the same country, the proceeds would have been more promising. What if such victims were aware that migration to another more densely populated zone within the same territory could be a better government-supported option?

(2) National governments' failure to transmit or propagate encouraging demographic growth information benefits investments within certain zones. Especially within developing countries, it is an obvious phenomenon for foreign aid-seeking countries to identify problems regarding their health systems and overall economic status. This frightens men and women living in diaspora communities in countries of destination from returning to invest back home for fear of losses in financial and health status. It gives a degrading image to people who are often regarded as being less well-off and easily available for cheap and unequal labour to both home-based and foreign investors. In such country situations, the 'brain drain' phenomenon stays perpetual and slows probable prospects for the agenda;

(3) Inadequate utilization of in-country demographic data for economic assessment potentials. It is noticeable that most developing countries with large parts of their population aspiring for better opportunities abroad are not aware of the recent country population statistics, implying, they are ignorant of any official government assessments based on demographic advantages for economic progress within different regions or provinces in the country. This barrier undermines development assessments brought about by internal country movements for in-country growth targets but encourages the transfer of resources from less developed countries towards countries of destination that are more developed.

### How Can Governments Address these Issues?

(1) Engage with people to generate more value and respect for in-country area development prospects led by people who feel very patriotic about their countries. This includes making general assessments on people's income and wealth statuses and the territorial investment conditions and zones that are more likely to generate more benefits for investors. The patriotic and common citizens in countries need to feel effective government policy support for moving and engaging in self-development opportunities within the same country.

(2) Create focal points or small regional or provincial centres focusing on demographic data analysis and assessment for human development units across the national territory. These units should provide specific advantages for sustainable development priorities based on the demographic data within their zones. They should identify population growth rate factors that can relate and accommodate varying economic opportunities on sustainable bases.

(3) Build regional, national and international platforms for sharing specific and up-to-date demographic statistics. These should be accompanied by local-level analytical information on all economic options within different zones in the country. Such data exposition should serve as both internal for home-based investors and external guides for the diaspora groups aspiring to assist in developing their country of origin.

Though broadly generalized assessments from major world development bodies including the International Organization for Migration and the World Bank and expressed at the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, demonstrate the critical importance of international migration towards the post-2015 agenda, if perspective values for internal national migration growth are minimized, then, the demographic aspirations towards the agenda may become biased. Inequalities between countries might become stronger since most migrants from developing countries will prefer to migrate to developed countries.

Our world is one, its people and their positions on it are the only true source of wealth it has, so these people should learn to bring value to every part of the country that they belong to by engaging in global exchanges and transferring knowledge and opportunities such that everywhere would become a sustainable home for all, on equal and fair distribution bases.

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