



Permanente Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

Statement at the 49th Session of the

Commission on Population and Development

"Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post 2015 development agenda"

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you and the other bureau members for the exemplary way in which you are coordinating the 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Last year, we all agreed on an ambitious development agenda which offers a broad set of goals and targets centered on our people and the world that we are living in.

And this year, we are moving towards its next step, which is the implementation of our strategies to reach towards completing these goals and targets within the next 15 years.

Mr. Chairman,

In our quest for implementing our strategies, one fundamental aspect that directly relates to the successful implementation comes to the forefront. That is the monitoring and evaluation of implementation. The monitoring and evaluation of implementation of

SDGs cannot be done without having reliable data on the evolving socio-economic situation on the ground. This is why Goal 17 of the SDGs calls for "high-quality, timely and reliable data"

Socio-economic data or Demographic data lie at the heart of the monitoring and evaluation of any development agenda.

Therefore, I would concur with all the previous speakers, who stressed the importance of strengthening the demographic evidence base as one of the cornerstones in the whole process of fulfilling the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

The most commonly used and traditional method in collecting demographic data is by way of conducting a census.