

Statement by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization, in connection with the 50th session of the Human Rights Council, at the 50th session of the High Level Panel of Experts (3-7 April 2017)

The demographic data on global population trends show that while many countries experience demographic transition, others face low levels of fertility and ageing populations, which present both challenges and opportunities to development. In formulating effective policies for sustainable development, States must take into account population trends such as the changing population age structures and at the same time take progressive steps to ensure their human rights obligations are met. Only development, which is inclusive, based on human rights, and principles of equality and non-discrimination, can enable societies to benefit from demographic dividend, and empower more individuals to fully enjoy their human rights.

In the light of this, Amnesty International calls on States to consider the following principles with regard to their development policies:

- Gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity, and the full realisation of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, among which is the