



UNABLE TO RESIST HUMAN MORTALITY



**Mr. Chairman,**

I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). I wish to assure you and the Bureau of my delegation's cooperation and support in carrying out your onerous duties for this Session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and that of the African Group, and wishes to make the following comments in its national capacity.

Firstly,

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Since the adoption of the Programme of Action (POA) of the International

Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, the Commission

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distribution with cities and urban centers as major destinations. Ghana is experiencing rapid urbanization that has resulted in the concentration of the population in few urban centers of Accra, Kumasi and Sekondi-Takoradi. In 1970, less than one third of Ghanaians (28.9%) lived in urban areas, but by 2010 one in every two Ghanaians lived in urban areas.

Urban growth in Ghana has been driven mainly by rural-urban migration as well as natural increase, with a huge potential for future growth, as a result of high fertility rate due to child mortality, teenage pregnancy, unwanted sex, family

planning in the rural areas and attendant high poverty rates. The population of Greater Accra, the Region of Ghana's capital city is projected to grow by 2-10%

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employment to young people in these communities. Special programmes aimed at ending early, child and forced marriages are helping to stem the flow of young women and girls from rural areas to urban centres.

We all have a responsibility to make our cities welcoming by protecting the interest of migrants and refugees through policies and laws that seek their safety and integration or re-integration into society. Migrant rights are often flouted and

many of them are often subjected to xenophobic and racial attacks; they often live in very deplorable situations and have no access to reproductive and other health

services, especially for women and girls. Migrant women and girls are

