Dear participants of the 7th Asia and Pacific Population Conference,

My name is Fatemeh Torabi, from Iran.

I am representing the Asian Population Association, which is an academic organization for assembling demographers in the region to get the correct understanding of population dynamics based on statistics and data.

As many presenters have already mentioned, the region faces diverse population issues such as below-replacement level fertility, population aging, and internal and external migration flows. We need to accept such diversity and look at regional population trends, to inform policy and programme implementation. We can exchange experiences and good practices through regional cooperation.

Measures to realise work-life balance, including flexible working hours, provision of maternity leaves, and provision of child care services at work place will empower women and the population.

In terms of population ageing, the growing demand for long-term care should not become a burden for women and a new care provision framework, and healthcare technologies should be leveraged to reduce the burden of care on women. In this UN decade of healthy aging, active older persons are sources of the silver economy and that will create social innovation. Older people, especially women, are often disadvantaged in terms of employment, financial security, and social inclusion. The development of integrated person-centred approaches to health, social and long-term care that delivers quality of life with dignity, will be crucial to a society that can add meaningful life to years. These activities should cover primary, secondary and tertiary health care for the well-being of older persons.

We will be organizing the 6th Asian Population Association Conference in November next year in Kathmandu, Nepal and we hope to continue this regional conversation together with you.