Statement by H.E. Mr. KIM Je Bong, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Kingdom
of Thailand

at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

(15-17 November 2023, Bangkok)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of
Korea, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Seventh
Asian and Pacific Population Conference, and express my confidence that this
Conference will bear good fruits under your able leadership.

At the same time, my deep appreciation goes to the UNESCAP Secretariat as
well as United Nations Population Fund for their efforts exerted for the successful
opening of this Conference.

This Conference is an event of deep significance that the countries in Asia-
Pacific region exchange their successes and experiences achieved in population
matters during last ten years since the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population
Conference, and strengthen the cooperation for the population and socio-economic
development in the region.

Mr. Chair,
For thirty years since the adoption of the "Cairo Programme of Action", the cognition and concern about the Population and Development were raised on a world-wide scale, and the International Society is paying much efforts for the implementation of the strategic targets set in the "Cairo Programme of Action".

However, many challenges are still existing on the road ahead of mankind.

Availing of this opportunity, DPRK delegation would like to refer to some issues relating to intensifying world efforts for implementing the "Cairo Programme of Action" and 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

First of all, it is essential to oppose all kinds of war maneuvers which bring about instability from all parts of the world as well as threat the lives and development of mankind in pursuit of maintaining hegemony and to create peaceful environment.

The current reality shows that the people's right to live as well as the socio-economic development are unable to be secured as far as the unilateral economic sanctions and blockades, disputes and confrontations do not come to an end.

Regarding the realities of differences in socio-economic environment and development level, cultures and traditions between countries, the attempts by specific country to dictate its values to others should be thoroughly rejected which also negatively affect on the efforts of world society for the improvement of mankind's well-being.

Next, mutual cooperation between countries of the region should be strengthened in order to effectively cope with several main factors such as severe natural disasters
due to the climate change, pandemics and economic insecurity and etc. that affect badly on population dynamics.

It is important for each country bearing responsibility for population and development to make population policy applicable to its actual conditions and draw up national action plans for realizing socio-economic equality and economic development and implement them, and to preferentially draw nationwide and social concern, concerted efforts and pay invest.

Along with this, the sovereignty and right to development of the sovereign states should be respected, the true cooperative relationship must be established based on principle of equality and reciprocity, and common efforts have to be paid for achieving development and prosperity in the region.

Mr. Chair,

The DPRK Government is pursuing popular policy for development of population giving top priority to the dignity and rights of the people, their requirements and interests. As a result, valuable fruition was achieved in securing the stabilized and qualitative increase of the population.

Thanks to the Socialist Health System based on masses, the Law on Public Health, the Law on Sex Equality, the Law on Ensuring Rights of Women, the Law on the Care of the Aged, the Law on Family and etc., health and rights of the women and aged people are being firmly guaranteed by legally and systematically.
State investment to health sector is systematically increasing, and the constant introduction of the system of free medical care and the district medical care system results in keeping almost one hundred percent of assistance rate at childbirth by health workers.

In DPRK, the literacy rate of population aged 10 years and older is ninety nine point nine eight seven percent with little difference by sex or region. This is the fruition of our State's superior policy on prioritizing the education such as the universal 12-year compulsory education system.

In addition, a number of successes have been made in the work to enhance the status and social role of the youth and children in pursuit of the policy of giving priority to the youth and to provide the elderly by the State and different public societies with social insurance, medical care and elderly home support programme and to realize equal distribution of the population through the development of urban areas in a balanced way.

The DPRK Government is intensifying cooperation with other countries and international organizations by the activities of regularly submitting the reports of implementing "the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", "Cairo Programme of Action", the Ministrual Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region Population Conference and etc.

The DPRK delegation participated in the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 2013, the Nairobi Summit marking the 25th anniversary of the
International Conference on Population and Development in 2019 and other relevant international meetings, and reaffirmed its commitment to undertake the "Cairo Programme of Action" in good faith.

The DPRK Government, in future too, will make active contribution to the world efforts for the settlement of population issues by continuously developing the close cooperative relations with the countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the international organizations.

Thank you.