Agenda Item 3: Thematic discussion on achievements, challenges, gaps and emerging issues in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, as well as of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation in Asia and the Pacific

Roundtable D: Partnerships and regional cooperation

As delivered by Undersecretary Monina Josefina H. Romualdez, Office of the Undersecretary for Operations Group, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines

Distinguished panelists and esteemed colleagues,

The Philippines actively espouses the importance and essential role of international partnerships and cooperation in advancing integrated population and development agenda not only at the regional and global levels, but at the national level as well. This emanates from the recognition that, more than ever, the current global dynamics and issues are affecting national socioeconomic conditions particularly those related to human resource.

To foster global cooperation and to create a platform for learning and knowledge-sharing, the Philippines has an active South-South Cooperation arrangement with the People’s Republic of Indonesia on population, reproductive health, and gender equality concerns. We continue to expand this cooperation through knowledge-sharing mechanisms with other countries in Southeast Asia. We also continue to work with various United Nations agencies and other development partners to foster cooperation in addressing national population and development concerns through financial support and technical cooperation.

Moreover, in line with our commitment towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, we continue to improve our mechanisms to monitor our progress in achieving the SDG targets. For this purpose, we have adopted the SDG indicators in the Results Framework of the Philippine Development Plan, which is the overall development blueprint of our country. The Philippines remains committed to fostering global cooperation for people-centered development.

Thank you very much.