Mid Term Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

Agenda item 4: Indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

Statement of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (3 mins)

Delivered by the Cook Islands

1. Mister Chair, distinguished panelists, on behalf of 10 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, namely Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, I thank you for updating us on the status of monitoring our commitments in the Ministerial Declaration. We take note of and appreciate the proposed set of indicators outlined in the conference paper.

2. We recognise the need for regular monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its related follow-up outcomes by relevant national authorities. However, we are equally conscious of the range of monitoring requirements placed on national systems which may be under-resourced and lacking capacity. We therefore appreciate efforts to develop a monitoring system which builds on existing internationally and regionally agreed indicators and reporting mechanisms so as to maximise utility and minimise transaction costs. In this respect, UNFPA in collaboration with SPC, has been supporting Pacific countries to develop a seven year calendar of large data collection activities in the Pacific which should result in increased coordination among development agencies. The recent establishment of a regional Methods Board will also contribute to methodology which is relevant and culturally sensitive to Pacific countries. We recognize that we must continue to build a culture of evidence based decision making and advocate for data to be utilized at policy and decision-making level as well as at the program and service delivery levels.

3. Mister Chair, we are mindful of the need to continue to strengthen the capacity of national, subnational and local governments to collect, map, analyse and disseminate high quality data which is disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other relevant factors. To achieve this, we recognize the importance of sustainable and cohesive partnerships and the continued investment of development partners to improving national population data systems.

4. We look forward to further discussions on a common monitoring framework for assessing progress towards achieving the ICPD Programme of Action and the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration and appreciate the work of ESCAP and UNFPA in this regard.

I thank you for your attention.