India – Statement on Agenda Item 3 on

Consideration of the draft Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

India is continuing its steady progress in implementing the Programme of Action and realizing the vision of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the COVID-19 pandemic has slackened the pace of progress around the world including in India, the Government of India accords very high priority in terms of policy and financial allocations to the health and education sectors as well as other social sectors important for achieving the said Goals. Budget allocations to social services now stand in excess of 7 per cent of the GDP.

2. Monitoring of progress of implementation of the SDGs has received priority attention at national and subnational levels. The National Indicator Framework (NIF) adopted for capturing progress on SDGs is an elaborate one comprising about 300 indicators and is thoroughly customised in keeping with the outcomes of programme implementation and availability of data in the country.

3. At present, no Tier-II and Tier-III indicators are included in the framework. As and when more data become available, such indicators can be appropriately included through the regular review mechanisms in force.

4. Regular compilation of data and reporting of progress on the National Indicator Framework is taking place. Gradually, more and more indicators are being reported upon according to increasing availability of data.
5. National monitoring of progress has been taken forward to the subnational and local level with the regular reporting on the India SDG Index spearheaded by the NITI Aayog. The index is constructed on select indicators on which comparable data are available across the country. Since subnational governments are rated and ranked according to the SDG Index, programme implementation on the ground has been very positively impacted across various sectors.

6. Provincial governments are in the process of devising and adopting State Indicator Frameworks and District Indicator Frameworks which is leading to localisation of National Indicators and alignment of the State and local monitoring systems with national and Global Goals. Considering India’s vast diversity, it has been a challenging as well as rewarding exercise in terms of active pursuit of global visions of development including that of the ICPD. Deliberations around the indicators have also provided unique opportunities to build up awareness and accountability among the key stakeholders around issues of development implementation and performance.

7. The draft Asia-Pacific Indicator Framework for monitoring progress (towards the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development) contains a very useful selection of Indicators to be adopted by the countries in the region. Many of these indicators are already either part of India’s National Indicator Framework and the SDG India Index or represented there by comparable alternative indicators. There is also the possibility of several more indicators from the proposed Asia-Pacific Indicator framework being included in coming years as more and more data become available.

8. The Government of India sets great stores by monitoring of Global Goals and development of instruments and tools for the purpose. Therefore, India appreciates the initiative to adopt the Asia-Pacific Indicator Framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

    With this I would like to conclude and offer my gratitude for this opportunity to participate in the discussion.