

**Statement by Mr. Björn Andersson,
Director, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
ESCAP 6th Committee on Social Development
20 October 2020
Agenda item 3**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon, it is a pleasure to be able to join you for the discussion on the Monitoring Framework for the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

The Asia and the Pacific region has made substantial socio-economic transformation. However, at the current pace of progress, the region will not achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Rising inequalities have resulted in increasing poverty, insufficient access to health and social protection services, which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These inequalities have reminded us that no path to 2030 will be successful unless we ensure that our efforts reach all, especially those who are left behind.

The ICPD Programme of Action articulated a bold new vision about the relationships between population, development and individual well-being – resulting in a major shift in attitudes in regard to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning as well as population growth. By linking social development with sustainable economic growth and sustainable environment and promoting policy coherence, the ICPD Programme of Action in many ways was a precursor to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Being able to monitor and report on our progress is all the more important to ensure that policies and programmes are implemented in an integrated manner to leave no one behind. The monitoring framework will not only contribute to strengthening accountability for implementation, it will also help foster the critical linkages between ICPD and the 2030 Agenda and provide us the opportunity to learn and to adapt our approaches as well as build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Responding to the recommendation by the mid-term review of the Asian Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development for a region-specific monitoring framework, this voluntary reporting framework will help us to ensure that ICPD continues to be monitored in this region and reinforce the importance of taking holistic and rights-based approaches to population and development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ESCAP for our long partnership and close collaboration in taking forward the ICPD Programme of Action, in the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.