



**Dr. M. Hulki Uz speech note for the opening session of ECO-CRO workshop
in
I.R. Iran/Tehran
6-7 November 2012**

- Mr. Parsaei, Deputy of the NOCR**
- Mr. Altaf Asghar, Deputy SG ECO**
- Prof. Abbasi and Prof. Gubhaju**
- Distinguished participants from the ECO Member States, and**
- Ladies and gentlemen**

It is my immense pleasure to be here today on the opening session of the ECO-CRO workshop on the Analysis of Registered Data for the ECO member countries. On behalf of the UNFPA, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers, and welcome you all to such an important workshop.

During the past months, staffs from four national and international organizations including Economic Cooperation Organization, National Organization for Civil Registration (NOCR), Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) and UNFPA CO along with the distinguished professors from the University of Tehran and the Australian University have worked closely together to make this event possible. I'd like to thank them for their hard work.

The 5th UNFPA Country Programme in Iran (2012-2016) is very much focusing on the promotion of evidence-based programming in the areas of population and development, reproductive health and women. There is no doubt that the vital statistics along with the population and housing census and DHS are the main sources for production of basic evidence for planning and programming in any country.

Among others, registered or vital statistics are crucial for formulating national and subnational policies and for measuring progress toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ICPD. Many developed and developing countries also have a wealth of computerized data banks and registry systems that can be used to model demographic and economic trends. But many of the least developed countries lack baseline data and have weak record-keeping systems.

However, there are reliable registration systems for production of vital data in many developing countries, for instance I have been informed recently that the NOCR in Iran is able to report vital data on daily basis at national level through its portal which is a milestone in production of data in country; perhaps absence of sufficient analysis is the main pitfall on the way of generating baseline information for development of programming and planning.

I'm confident that this two-day training workshop provides theoretical and practical framework for the analysis of vital statistics which are key demographic indicators in addressing development issues.

Before I close, I am pleased to inform you that UNFPA has supported SCI and NOCR to work together on a project for improving the quality of registered data in Iran. The report will be available by end of December 2012, and I look forward to seeing the report.

Let me once again express my sincere appreciation to the organizers of the workshop. I hope you enjoy the workshop and your stay in Tehran.

Thank you.