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STATEMENT

BY

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ON

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ICPD POA TO THE
INTERNATIONALLY AGREED GOALS, INCLUDING MDGs**

**PRESENTED AT THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

30TH MARCH - 3RD APRIL, 2009

**Madam Chairperson,
Members of the Commission,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to address this 42nd session of the Commission on Population and Development. Let me begin, Madam Chairperson, by commending you and the Population Division on your work in preparation of this Session and reaffirm our commitment as a member state to support the recommendations made regarding the principles and objectives of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement made by the Representative of Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chairperson,

It is now fifteen (15) years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was successfully held in Cairo, Egypt and a Plan of Action agreed upon. The Programme of Action (POA) set the agenda on how to improve the quality of life of our populations. I feel honoured to have an opportunity to share with you Kenya's experience in the implementation of the ICPD POA and internationally agreed Goals, including MDGs as follows:

1. *Integrating Population and Development Strategies*

The Kenya Government developed and implemented the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS) 2003-2008. The government also introduced devolved funds such as the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) that addressed the issues of planning and implementation of development programmes / projects and resource allocation at local levels. The successful implementation of the ERS enabled the economy to recover from 0.5% in 2002 to 7% in 2007. The quality of life improved and poverty levels declined from 56% to 46% during the same period. Furthermore, the government in 2008 developed the Kenya Vision 2030, and launched its first Implementation Phase, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2008-2012.

Madam Chairperson,

The development of ERS, Vision 2030 and its MTP (2008-2012) were informed by and incorporated ICPD PoA and MDGs concerns. The MTP in particular, devotes a chapter on Population, Housing and Urbanization.

2. *Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty*

The ICPD PoA called for raising the quality of life for all people through appropriate population and development policies and programmes.

Madam Chairperson,

After the 1994 ICPD, Kenya developed and adopted the National Population Policy for Sustainable Development (Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2000) and developed its implementation plan.

The integration of population issues into all spheres of development is also being undertaken by incorporating population variables into National, Sectoral and District Development Plans. Policy makers and opinion leaders at all levels have been involved in population matters through networks.

3. Population and Environment

The Kenya Government since the ICPD has established and strengthened the institutional capacity of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to facilitate incorporation of population and environmental concerns in national and sectoral development plans. The first Medium Term Plan for Vision 2030 has also identified flagship projects that address environmental and poverty issues.

4. Gender Equity, Equality and Empowerment of women

Madam Chairperson,

Policy and institutional arrangements have been put in place and strengthened in Gender to promote women participation in the development process. These measures include: establishment of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development; legislation of the Gender and Development Act of 2003; and, establishment of the Gender Commission. In addition, the Sex Offences Act (2006) and the Children's Act (2001) were enacted to protect the rights of women, men boys and girls. Family Courts were also established to address gender concerns.

5. The Family, Its Roles, Rights, Composition and Structure

Madam Chairperson,

One of the measures the Kenya Government has undertaken is affirmative action in education and Public Sector Employment. High poverty levels and increasing numbers of orphans attributed to HIV/AIDS pose a serious threat to family stability. To address this problem the government introduced free primary education in 2003 and subsidized secondary education in 2008

6. Population Growth and Structure

Kenya's high population growth rate and its youthful age structure are core issues of concern in the attainment of the MDGs. The current population growth rate is estimated at 2.5% per annum.

Madam Chairperson,

A draft Policy on the Elderly is being finalized and a pilot study on Ageing will be undertaken this year to give insight on the issues of the elderly. Plans are also underway to transform the National Social Security Fund and the National Health Insurance Fund to

incorporate issues of the elderly. The Government has made efforts to integrate persons with disabilities into all aspects of life.

7. Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health

The Kenya Government has: formulated and adopted Reproductive Health policies and implementation plans; and, introduced and enhanced budget line item on contraceptive commodities.

Madam Chairperson,

In Kenya 60% of births take place outside health facilities and only 40% of the deliveries are attended by skilled personnel.

8. Morbidity and Mortality

Morbidity and mortality rates still remain high in Kenya, especially among women and Children. Malnutrition accounts for about 54% of the deaths among children under- five years. HIV/AIDS continue to pose health and socio-economic challenges and the prevalence was 7.4% in 2007. The uptake of VCT services is still low.

Madam Chairperson,

The Kenya Government has formulated the National Health Sector Strategic Plan II (2005 - 2010) and Community Health Strategy; and, established the National Aids Control Council.

9. Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal Migration

Madam Chairperson,

Urbanization in Kenya has recorded tremendous increase in terms of the urban population growth rates, population size, and number of urban centers. About 25% of the population lives in urban areas today and by the year 2012 the urban population will account for about 32% of the total population of Kenya.

Conclusion and way forward

In conclusion, I wish to state that population concerns is one of our national development challenges in Kenya. The ICPD Programme of Action provided a useful framework for the formulation and implementation of our current national population policy and programmes. It has also been used during reviews of the implementation of other policies and programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs. We must all work together to implement the ICPD POA so as to improve the well-being of our people. We owe this to our coming generations.

May I appeal to the international community, through this Commission, to continue collaborating with Kenya by investing on capacity building in data collection, advocacy and research on population dynamics. In this regard, I wish to announce that Kenya will be undertaking its seventh national population census in August this year.

Thank you.