



**Permanent Mission of The State of Eritrea
To the United Nations, New York**

**Statement delivered by Amanuel Giorgio
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations
at the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
10 April 2014, New York**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me extend my congratulation to you and the other members of the Bureau for your elections to steer the work of the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

This session of the Commission on Population and Development is mandated by General Assembly resolution 65/234 to assess the implementation status of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), adopted in Cairo in 1994, by 179 countries, including Eritrea.

Mr. Chairman,

I like to thank the Secretary General for his reports put to the consideration of the Commission on Population and Development; and I also like to thank UNFPA for preparing the "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014" and for organizing series of briefing sessions to assist the work of the Commission and to the upcoming special event of the General Assembly in September 2014. As stressed by the reports, many countries are faced with responding to the challenges of demographic changes; poverty and social inequalities; international migration; rapid urbanization; and climatic changes. In this regard, it is important to integrate population dynamics into development planning at national, regional and international level.

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea is pleased to reiterate its support to the regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 where it joined the adoption of the regional plan of action for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Eritrea believes that better cooperation and partnership are essential at all levels, and national governments must have the needed policy space in order to be able to develop home-grown strategies that reflect country specific conditions and priorities that place people at the center of the development agenda by ensuring equity and dignity.

Eritrea's social policy, guided by social justice and social cohesion, aims at promoting and protecting equal rights and equal participation and equitable sharing of resources among its population. As a result, most of its development activities have been to create development opportunities to the most vulnerable and hard to reach population, in rural areas that were historically denied of basic services. The heavy investment Eritrea made on basic social services has allowed the country to dramatically reduce maternal mortality ratio from 995 in 1991 to 245; cut under five mortality rate for children from 150 to 52; curb HIV/AIDS incidents to less than 1% and to also increase life expectancy from 48 to 61 during the same period. These achievements are significant and the men and women that are committed to saving the lives of the mother and the child should be saluted. Eritrea, however, recognizes that more needs to be done by consolidating and building on these gains and by further empowering women and girls; improving access to strengthened reproductive and health care services to all; intensifying efforts to end child marriage and FGM practices; continuing to build human capability, especially among the youth; and strengthening data collection, analysis and dissemination.

It is clear that national data and from the findings of the review that all countries need to do more to build individual capability and resilience to ensure the well-being of all their people and achieve sustainable development.

My delegation looks forward to a concise outcome document that assists in the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It is important to recognize the linkage between the outcomes of the assessment and the Post 2015 Development Agenda, so that we walk the talk in order to improve the lives of our people.

Thank you