

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## Statement

By

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At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forty Seventh Session of the Commission on  
Population and Development - (7-11 April 2014)

***Please check against delivery***

New York, 11 April 2014,

1. Thank you Chair,
2. Rwanda aligns itself with the statements delivered by Kenya and Bolivia on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, respectively.
3. At the outset, Rwanda reaffirms the continued relevance of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) in the post 2015 development agenda and calls upon all stakeholders to urgently demonstrate the will and commitment to its agenda by mobilizing financial resources to address the world's population and development challenges.
4. We reiterate our support expressed in the context of the regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014, when we joined the adoption of the regional plan of action for further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
5. As a session devoted to the assessment of the status of the implementation of the Programme of Action, this 47<sup>th</sup> session of the CPD provides a great opportunity to advance all efforts geared at improving the lives of our people, with equity and dignity so as to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development.
6. We reiterate the vital importance of gender desegregated and research-evidenced data in guiding the implementation of ICPD beyond 2014. We further call on all stakeholders to strengthen the capacities of local experts and institutions in generation, analysis, and use of data and related evidence to ensure evidence-based decision-

making and transparent monitoring and accountability processes for all aspects of the ICPD beyond 2014.

Mr. Chair,

7. Rwanda believes that Sustainable Gender Equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda should be based on a comprehensive vision enabling the promotion of women's rights. In addition, Rwanda has understood that meeting the social, economic, environmental and health needs of current and future generations is a pre-requisite if we are to ensure sustainable development. In that regard, we have reinforced integration of population dynamics and the environment at all levels of development planning and in the implementation of our programmes.
8. To achieve our objectives, Rwanda has reformed and harmonized formal and non-formal education systems and curricula to ensure quality education that fosters innovation, development of productive skills, spirit of entrepreneurship, and visionary leadership to meet emerging needs. Ensuring universal enrolment, retention, and progression at primary, secondary and tertiary levels has closed the gap in gender inequities.
9. Rwanda would not have made huge strides in population development without a healthy society. In this respect, we have embarked on operationalizing the health sector by putting in place a universal health coverage system and by adopting equity and rights-based planning and resource-allocation, universal access to family planning and other reproductive health services. Furthermore, we have facilitated

community participation in health decision-making and programming, and educated healthcare providers and communities on the importance of the right to health in service provision.

10. With regard to human security, Rwanda has embarked on ensuring food security through strengthening agricultural productivity and livelihoods by supporting ecological agriculture and securing ownership of land especially for women, and by strengthening capacities to adapt to climate change and related natural disasters.
11. On inclusive economic transformation, Rwanda is harnessing the Demographic Dividend by ensuring empowerment of women, investments in education and public health, and economic reforms that facilitate savings, investment and promotion of industries that reinforce value addition, with particular attention to job creation and livelihood opportunities for women and youth.
12. Rwanda has also strengthened good governance, including establishing political, social and economic systems that are grounded in the human rights framework. It has further ensured integrity and accountability in the use of public resources as well as in service delivery and invested in human development making sure to include the most vulnerable notably women, children and persons with disabilities.

Mr. Chair,

13. The impact of population dynamics on the micro and macro levels requires their integration into development planning at national, regional and international levels. Rwanda population has doubled between 1978

and 2012 from 4.8 million to 10.5 million respectively with 16.5% living in urban areas. The results of the 2012 Census confirm that 62% of the populations are under the age of 25 years and as many as 41% are under 15 years. The dependency ratio using international definition of working age (15-64) is at 80 while the ratio is revealed to be at 93 if using Rwanda definition of working age (16-60).

14. In that regard, Rwanda is confronted with development challenges that require systematic participation of all stakeholders. Some of the responses crafted to address those issues include a decrease in the total fertility rate from 6.1 in 2005, to 4.6 in 2010 and down to 4.0 in 2012. The contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 10 in 2005, to 47.7% in 2012. Finally, child mortality reduced from 102 in 2002, 27 in 2010 to 25% in 2012 while under five mortality reduced from 152‰ in 2005 to 76‰ deaths per 1000 live births in 2010/11.
15. Maternal mortality also decreased from 1070/100,000 in 2005/6 to 487 per 100,000 live births in 2010/11. Similarly, progress was made on skilled birth attendance moving from 39% in 2005 to 69% in 2010. Those trends show clearly that we are moving in the right direction, despite challenges highlighted above. Our aim is to implement the recommendations and all rights-based approaches to achieve the goals of the ICPD agenda and other development frameworks.
16. Our government will continue to invest in rights-based universal access to family planning and reproductive health services, public health, quality education, and adopt economic policies that will create employment and ensure an accountable use of public funds.

17. In addition, bearing in mind that women play a key role in economic development and in order to ensure women and girls employability, the Government of Rwanda will continue to put forward a legal and institutional framework for the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment, supported by a strong political will and commitment.

18. Efforts to emphasize the role played by other stakeholders including the private sector, civil society and international development partners will also continue to be enhanced.

19. I thank You