



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE

**51<sup>ST</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Allow me to join other delegates in congratulating you and the Bureau on your election as the Chair of the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the CPD.

My delegation fully supports the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Nigeria behalf of the African Group and Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The theme of this 51<sup>st</sup> Session; **"Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration"** resonates very well with the global and national socio-economic and demographic transformation currently being witnessed. Today, more than half of the world's population is living in urban areas; this is projected to reach two thirds by 2060. In Kenya people living in urban areas increased more than double from 15.1 percent in 1979 to 31.3 percent in 2009 representing 12 million people. This is projected to increase to 16 million by the end of the Medium Term Plan III period (2018-2022) of the Kenya's Vision 2030.

Most of the increase of the people living in cities is due to internal population movements from rural to urban areas or cities, as well as international migrants. This is as a result of urban concentration of economic opportunities and availability of services.

The Kenya government is committed to achieving sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration as demonstrated by the various policies and programmes developed and legislations enacted. Kenya considers sustainable urbanization and migration issues as an integral part of socio-economic development as well as a security concern.

Kenya has witnessed a large flow of refugees and asylum seekers from surrounding countries.

**Chair,**

The Kenya Government is committed to the full implementation of ICPD Programme of Action on sustainable urbanization and migration issues.

**On Population Distribution and Sustainable Development:** Kenya in collaboration with various stakeholders developed and has been implementing the Kenya Vision 2030's key Medium Term Plans flagship projects/programmes on urban development, human mobility and international migration.

These include; rural infrastructure development including access roads, water supply, electrification and other rural programmes which are geared towards providing incentives for distribution and retention of population in rural areas and promoting rural development. In addition, the Kenya constitution 2010 has facilitated the decentralization and devolution of government functions and political power to 47

Counties which now serve as the centers of development, production, trade and employment.

Moreover, Kenya has been implementing the National Spatial Plan 2015-2045 in order to ensure optimal productivity, sustainability, efficiency and equity in land use and territorial space.

Kenya however still faces challenges including increasing rural-urban migration which has slowed down development in the rural areas due to inadequate skilled manpower.

**On Population Growth in Large Urban Agglomerations:** The Government of Kenya is undertaking the Slum Upgrading Program and the Street Families Rehabilitation Program since 2003, to ensure availability of land, housing, services and livelihood for the urban poor. In addition, The National Urban Development Policy (2008), The Disaster Management Policy (2009), Fire Fighting Policy (2011), and The National Land Policy (2009) have been developed.

Kenya has also enacted and implemented The Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 and developed integrated Development Plans for designated urban areas. The development and growth of small or medium-sized urban centres and townships have been promoted to ease pressure on Nairobi Capital City.

However, the rapid rural-urban migration poses challenges to urban authorities to provide adequate services to urban and peri-urban dwellers.

**On internally Displaced Persons:** The Government of Kenya with support from stakeholders has established a resettlement Fund and is in the process of developing a Internally Displaced Persons Policy.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission and the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission were established to promote national healing for historic injustices. Peace building activities using the local leaders is on-going in areas which are affected by displacement of persons for various reasons.

These interventions have resulted in most of the 2007/2008 Post Election Violence IDPs being resettled leading to peace and harmonious co-existence of the communities.

However, challenges related to accountability and management of the resettlement programme exists.

**On International Migration and Development:** The Government of Kenya has formulated the Migration and Citizenship Policy (2009) and the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act (2011) in line with the aspirations of the ICPD Programme of Action.

**On combatting trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants' persons:** The Government of Kenya has collaborated with IOM and UNHCR to combat trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants. In addition, in 2006, Kenya developed a Code of Conduct for foreign employment agencies to combat human trafficking and exploitation.

Moreover, the Kenya Government together with other stakeholders has been implementing the 2008-2013 Counter Trafficking in Persons National Plan of Action. Kenya is also a signatory to the East African Community (EAC) Protocol (2009) which, among other things, allows free movement of citizens of EAC within the region.

However, the country's long and porous borders remain a major challenge in combating trafficking and/ or smuggling of migrant persons.

**On Facilitation of the flow and use of remittances to support development:** The Government of Kenya has facilitated the flow and use of remittances by developing the Diaspora Policy of Kenya (2011) and the Labour Migration Policy (2011).

However, although Kenya has registered substantial increase in the amount of remittances, the actual size of these remittances is believed to be even larger since inflows through informal channels are unrecorded.

**On Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Displaced persons:** The Government of Kenya has enacted the Refuge Act, 2003 and hosted and chaired peace talks for neighbouring countries to facilitate conflict resolution. The government has also participated in security restoration in Somalia in collaboration with AU and the UN Security Council support.

The government has also conducted voluntary refugee repatriation programmes in collaboration with UNHCR.

These interventions have resulted in relative calm and peace in the neighbouring countries and a number of refugees have voluntarily returned to their home countries.

However, the scarcity of migration information has hindered development of effective policy measures and programmes.

**Chair,**

In conclusion, the Government of Kenya reaffirms her commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD programme of Action to ensure that urbanization, Human Mobility and International Migration issues are addressed effectively for the benefit of our People.

**I Thank You!**