

Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly

As written



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

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**STATEMENT BY
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**TO THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTING AS
THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset allow me to join other distinguished delegates who took the floor before me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this meeting. I wish also to take this opportunity to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. My delegation commends the Secretariat for doing thorough work for the PrepCom meeting.

The United Republic of Tanzania is in full agreement with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate from Guyana speaking as Chairman of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chairman,

The review process that has been done at various levels, namely national, regional, interregional and now international has, apart from taking stock of achievements, failures and constraints, also provided opportunities for exchange of ideas and experiences which will greatly influence performance and enhance achievement of goals.

It is not my intention, Mr. Chairman, to list in detail Tanzania's experiences in the implementation of ICPD/POA goals. The Report of the Secretary General, the statement of Dr. Nafis Sadik and statements made by colleagues in this meeting are, in general, a fair account of the Tanzanian situation.

May I therefore dwell on strategies being put in place for further implementation of the population programme.

To begin with, measures to create an enabling environment have been taken for the purpose of creating an enabling policy and legal framework, supportive sector policies and the National Population Policy 1995 are being formulated and reviewed. The Law Reform Commission is reviewing all outdated or repressive laws with a view to amending or repealing them including land, family and property laws. The civil society, particularly NGOs, have been helpful in identifying such laws and lobbying for their review.

In the field of Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (RHRR), the following have been done to enhance programme implementation:

- ◆ Revision of the National Population Policy 1995 to include RHRR to individuals, couples and adolescents.
- ◆ Development of an IEC strategy.
- ◆ Collaboration with journalists and assisting them to form an RHRR Journalist Association.
- ◆ Development of a national Reproductive and Child Survival Strategy.

- ◆ Development of policy guidelines, regulations and standards for service delivery and training in areas identified by ICPD POA.
- ◆ Development of a comprehensive community based services distribution programme in which elements of nutrition, breastfeeding, immunization, safe motherhood and STD/HIV prevention is promoted.
- ◆ Formulate strategies to control HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- ◆ Institutionalization of family life education in the formal school system.
- ◆ Establishment of a National Youth Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

I shall add a few details on this. Tanzania's population is characteristically young with those aged below 15 years comprising about 60%, while the aged (60+) is at 5%. The population momentum is therefore a reality on the way. Tanzania is keen to address the concerns of this population in order to ensure they get the requisite skills and abilities to enable them to live responsible lives.

In the area of equality, equity and empowerment of women, the following actions are being taken:

- ◆ The Ministry responsible for community development, women and children has successfully managed to raise gender awareness through advocacy and IEC activities.
- ◆ Emphasis at all administrative levels on economic empowerment of women through credit schemes, building women's entrepreneurial and management skills and increasing access to appropriate and affordable technology.
- ◆ The government has taken deliberate efforts to expand women's access to and participation in politics and leadership positions.
- ◆ Enhancement of women's legal awareness, their rights and gender equality through NGOs and the Commission of Human Rights:
- ◆ Programming girls' education, training and employment so as to increase girls' participation rates and advance and empower them socially and economically.

Partnership with the Civil Society: Under the policy of liberalization of economic activities and social services provision, the private sector and the civil society are increasingly being accepted by the government as partners. There is now a clear recognition that development has to be through a tripartite framework involving the State, the private sector and the civil society.

For enhancing this collaboration, the Government is currently developing a policy that will guide relationships with the civil society (particularly NGOs). The policy is being developed in close consultation with the NGOs. Also the Government is participating in capacity building for NGOs and urging them to form a representative apex body which can negotiate for them.

Resource Mobilization: Policy measures to mobilize resources internally have been introduced in the past three years and the existing ones have been rationalized. Apart from direct fiscal measures, mobilization of resources through cost sharing and cost recovery has also been introduced in the social sectors. Resort to external sources has been another way of mobilizing resources and this has been the traditional method.

In general, the allocation of resources to the social sectors has been on the increase from Tsh. 500.1 million in 1995/96, Tsh. 730.1 million in 1996/97 to Tsh. 915.8 million in 1997/98. Nevertheless, total resources available to population activities were far from meeting the needs. Government contribution was about 2% while bilateral donors contributed 52%, NGOs 23%, private sector 10% and multilateral sources contributed 22%. It has to be remembered that over 40% of government internal resources go to debt servicing annually.

Mr. Chairman,

There are, nevertheless, some concerns that need international consideration for enhancing implementation of ICPD POA goals. I shall mention those that were not mentioned in the Secretary General's report:

- ◆ Debt Burden: Though it may be said that this is not an issue for this forum, it should be recognized as a very critical aspect to the programme implementation. Resource mobilization is compromised when about half of the internal resources go to debt servicing. This forum has to note this and make the right conclusion.
- ◆ ICPD Goals: After five years of implementation and from the revised process, some targets appear either too optimistic or too pessimistic. Can we come up with a review of those targets but without renegotiating what was agreed in Cairo?
- ◆ Incidence of poverty: Though this issue is a subject of the Social Summit, it is also critical to the achievement of ICPD/POA goals. Poor families are likely to be bigger as they cannot access RH services. With the current incidence of absolute poverty in some states, setting goals for reducing MMR, IMR is not feasible due to poor nutrition and disease.
- ◆ Migration: Tanzania, immigration is not a significant issue but the country is a net receiver of migrants who flee their countries in the Great Lakes region because of civil strife. While Tanzania will continue to respect international conventions and therefore receive and protect them, the burden, the environmental degradation and disruption of internal social tranquility resulting from the influx of refugees is beyond the capability of our resources. Tanzania urges the international community to address this problem by providing assistance to countries hosting these refugees.

In concluding my statement, Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the delegates that Tanzania has criminalised abortion in her Statutes. Nonetheless, Tanzania is concerned by the increasing incidences of unsafe abortions which impair the lives of especially young women and consume considerable resources in a resource-starved society. To reduce to the minimum possible incidences of abortion, Tanzania is determined to expand and strengthen reproductive health services including effective family planning education.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you.