

Statement by
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Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates

Mr. Chair, accept my warmest congratulations on your leadership. At the outset, I would like to thank, on behalf of my delegation (Government of Liberia), the Secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development for the enormous efforts invested in the organization of this Fifty-Second Session.

Mr. Chair,

1. The Fifty Second is dedicated towards a *“Review and appraisal of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population & Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*. This is of particular significance as we observe twenty five years since the Programme of Action of the ICPD was adopted in Cairo in 1994.
2. We have the opportunity to track progress that has been made so far, identify challenges, and take the necessary steps towards the implementation of the key action areas of the programme at all levels.

As many delegations have already indicated, this is fundamental to achieving the lofty goals we have set in the Sustainable Development Agenda. Thus, progress in this direction will enable us benchmark achievements that we have made at the global, regional and national levels on enhancing the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

3. Mr. Chair, it is incontestable that many developing countries are being left behind in implementation. This calls for partnership at all levels, in mobilizing resources that will facilitate the implementation of these lofty goals.
4. At the National level Mr. Chair, Liberia continues to make strides towards achieving the goals set in the program of Action as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Our national development plan, dubbed, Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), encapsulates a five year plan which seeks among others, to empower Liberians with the tools to gain control of their lives thru more equitable provision of opportunities in education, health, youth development, and social protection.
5. To this end, the Government has made significant achievements in the following areas among others:

The Creation of the Gender, Children and Social Protection MINISTRY:

With its establishment, a National Gender Policy was enacted which among others underscores social protection investments including wider and sustainable expansion in access to Essential health care; Basic income and food security; and provision of social grants for the poor.

6. **The Enactment of the National Youth Policy:** the policy Seeks to accelerate the process of transforming Liberia's demographic dividend into a potential driver of growth starting with expanding social inclusion through work and life skills opportunities; in addition to scaled-up Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) interventions.
7. **Additionally, Mr. Chair,** the Government established the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), in recognition that the successful implementation of these programs requires timely reliable, high quality, sufficient and related data at national, local and sectorial levels.
9. **Finally Mr. Chair, as we look forward to the Nairobi Summit,** we can only feel achieved when no one is left behind. This is a goal we all strive to accomplish. To do this we must reach the farthest first.

Chair,

My delegation also anticipates a successful session. Thanks for your kind attention.