



**56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**  
**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mohan Pieris**  
**Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations**

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

As we will be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing the International Conference of Population and Development in the next year, it is incumbent upon all of us to revisit the progress made in the implementation of the same and to determine the areas that need to be improved in the coming years, in relation to the contemporary global developments and challenges the world is experiencing today.

We have a world population which was projected to reach 8 billion November 22 and go beyond 9 billion in 37 and to go even beyond 10 bln by 2058. Ironically, the increase in global population is concentrated among the worlds poorest nations, and that happens to be a group below the age of 65. To make matters worse between today and 2050 the global increase in the population under 65 years will be essentially in low income and lower middle income countries.

notably the growth in the population in high income and upper middle income countries will happen only among those who are 65 and over. What then is the answer it must be the case that wealthy countries and the international community should rise to support Sustainable Development in low income and lower middle income countries by providing those countries require technical and financial assistance so that they can develop using technology that minimizes environmental degradation. It is important that we understand and plan for future demographic changes in achieving continued progress towards the sustainable development goals if we are to really build back better.

We cannot deny the fact that the growth in global population on the one hand is due to the gradual increase in human longevity and on the other hand, the high level of fertility in many parts of the world. It is a fact that the pace of her delete it go declining across the world and the continuing reduction in mortality show that births outnumber deaths at a global level. The result the world population continues to increase. It is believed that a decrease in the worlds population will not be seen for another half a century, having regard to the factors that govern the phenomena. demographic foresight is an essential factor in planning for the populations of the future.

When the ICPD 25 was held in Nairobi in the year 2019, the world has been able to witness the positive side of the initial inception of the ICPD, such as the 25 % prevalence rate of the global contraceptive prevalence.

While we should commend all the stakeholders involved for the achievements made, we are of the view that we must not be complacent and let the progress slow down.

As we are struggling to build back from the impact of the pandemic, it is prudent that we assess the new realities that have arisen due to a multitude of factors like environmental problems, climate change, scarcity of food and water, lack of access to decent jobs and renewable energy.

It is a very known fact that environmental damage often arises due to economic reasons, one such being the higher standards of living has come at a cost particularly when the damage from pollution and recent destruction of the habitat, are not built-in to the pricing factor. Studies have shown that countries with high per capita consumption emit the highest greenhouse gases, high population growth in contrast to countries where income is lower, and the population was growing rapidly

We must also take note of the reality that global for food, production and consumption must necessarily change in addressing the climate crisis, notwithstanding the fact that food production has been adequate to meet the growing population. And but let us be mindful of the fact that the production of adequate food has come at a price. It is therefore important that new effective policies are put in place to direct the production of food to adopt a sustainable practices that preserve biodiversity and address to issues of climate change, whilst offering the world nutritious, safe affordable, and a balanced diet

Mr. Chair,

Even though ICPD was primarily intended to provide a systematic and comprehensive integrated approach to population issues, the developing countries are still facing a number of difficulties, stemming from the unfavorable economic environment. At the time we are speaking today, more than 2 billion people still live in poverty and remain left out of this progress. The great challenge leaders of the world face today is to reduce poverty and inequity, and improve people s lives without compromising the environment and the well-being of future generations.

Mr. Chair,

Sri Lanka is cognizant that despite the progress made in the ICPD, several gaps remain in the implementation. In this regard, voluntary commitments made by the Member States to further the 2030 Agenda are of high importance.

In our national capacity, Sri Lanka has been actively engaging with the UNFPA in line with its national development priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development

Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) aimed at strengthening UNFPA's Country Programme Document or CPD. This CPD is structured to provide guidance in areas such as sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, including maternal health; addressing gender-based violence; strengthen population data and to promote evidence-based policy and decision making in the area of population and development. The 10<sup>th</sup> Country Program Document (CPD) of Sri Lanka was presented in the last year and during that session Sri Lanka acknowledged the setbacks that it is having vis-à-vis the economic crisis and the measures we are taking to address them, while keeping our renewed commitments to ICPD 25.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, while reiterating our commitment to the ICPD, my delegation strongly believes that reviewing the progress made by the ICPD at this juncture would provide us with the catalyst to determine the road map of the ICPD and focus on our priorities in a pragmatic and meaningful manner. Sri Lanka is committed to realizing these objectives for the betterment of our societies and the planet we live in.

I thank you

