



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

STATEMENT BY

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**“Forty-Eighth Session of the Commission on
Population and Development”**

Item 4 General debate on national experience in population matters:

Realizing the Future we Want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable
Development Including in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

New York, April 13-17, 2015

Madam Chairperson
Distinguished Delegates and Representatives

I am honored on behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to address this session. As we welcome the theme for this year, in Africa we celebrate the adoption of Agenda 2063, the continental long-term vision which encapsulates “the future we want” for Africa and provides a framework for structural transformation and inclusive, people-centred development over the next 50 years.

The Common African Position (CAP) on the Post 2015 Development Agenda is a critical milestone towards realising the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and completing the unfinished business of the MDGs. It recognizes rising trends such as population growth and the youth bulge, urbanization, climate change and inequalities among others, and reiterates the importance of leveraging population dynamics for Africa’s structural transformation and achievement of sustainable development.

Madam Chairperson

We are experiencing mega demographic trends in our region which will have far reaching implications on our aspirations. While the potential for a “demographic dividend” remains strong in many countries in the region, this requires that appropriate policies and measures be put in place.

And in the not so distant future, urban populations in Africa will triple. Such urbanization and colossal population increases will have important consequences

as currently, up to two thirds of inhabitants in urban areas do not have running water, decent sewage, sanitation, housing, and adequate transportation networks.

Migration, both internally and internationally is also expected to surge in the future due to improved regional integration, transportation, infrastructure, trade, communications and social networks. Largely ignored in this regard is the aspect of intra-African migration, which comprises the bulk of migratory movements on the continent.

As we frame the vision and ponder on ‘the future we want’, Africa remains committed to tackling poverty and inequality, providing productive employment and decent jobs for its youth, empowering women, and prioritizing the welfare of African children to ensure a robust and vibrant 2063 generation.

Madam Chairperson,

We are at a defining moment for concrete actions to push for structural transformation while leveraging population dynamics. For your consideration today, I would like to highlight a few that are important for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 and realization of the SDGs:

- **Strengthening linkages between planning, mobilizing and financing** as inclusive, well-articulated and well-resourced development plans play a critical role in spurring structural transformation. We must therefore commit to improving planning processes in our countries by strengthening institutional and human capacities at various levels

- **Domestic resource mobilization:** While official development assistance has been necessary, it is a fragile platform on which to base Africa's structural transformation agenda. Agenda 2063 and the Addis Declaration must be anchored on domestic resources and we look forward to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development for bold decisions to be made on how this can be achieved.
- **High-quality statistical information and data:** a data revolution in Africa would allow our continent to generate its own vibrant data to enable proper planning and better measurement of development outcomes, including the goals and objectives on population and development.
- **Political support:** African people must be mobilized to support the integration of population issues in the continent's development agenda.

At ECA, our technical and capacity development support to member States on integrating population issues into the post 2015 development framework will continue to be strengthened by our empirical research, and we will continue to work with the African Union Commission and other partners to ensure implementation and periodic review of the implementation of the Addis Declaration on Population and Development beyond 2014.

I thank you for your attention.