

GHANA



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STATEMENT

BY

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HON. MINISTER IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL AND ALLIED
AGENCIES, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

AT THE

48TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ON

Agenda Item 4: General Debate On National
Experience In Population Matters: Assessment Of The Status Of Implementation Of
The Programme Of Action Of The International Conference On Population And
Development

NEW YORK, 13 - 17 APRIL, 2015

Madam Chair,

My delegation congratulates H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet on her election as Chair to the 48th Commission and reiterates our commitment to the leadership of the Bureau. It is our belief that under her esteemed leadership this session would be a productive one.

Madam Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China and wish to make the following these brief remarks. Ghana was a signatory to the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. The ICPD-POA sought to promote the strong interrelationship between population and development and the centrality of integrating population variables into development planning for sustained socio-economic development.

Distinguished delegates,

Ghana's commitment to the ideals of the ICPD-Programme of Action has been exhibited through the various initiatives undertaken by the Government of Ghana to effectively manage the population of the country for national development. These include the revision of the 1969 National Population Policy in 1994 to include new and emerging issues and the subsequent establishment of the National Population Council under the National Population Council Act, 1994, Act 485 to advise Government on population issues and coordinate population programmes in the country.

Although the National Population Policy was revised prior to the 1994 ICPD Conference, the document has among other key objectives, the systematic integration of population variables into all aspects of development planning. This key objective have been incorporated into the national development policy

frameworks of the country - Ghana Vision 2020, Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) (2003-2005) the Growth and Development Agenda (GPRS II) (2006-2009) the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA I) (2010-2013) and GSGDA II (2014-2017).

Madam Chair,

In order to facilitate the integration of population variables into planning, Ghana developed the Population Integration Modules and accompanying computer software application to assist Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies to prepare their development plans. Thereafter district planning and budget officers were trained to use the modules and monitored to ensure that the skills acquired were effectively utilized to develop targeted plans to improve the quality of life of the people. The National Population Council has also spearheaded advocacy on population and development interlinkages and target policy and decision-makers at all levels, national, regional and districts.

These interventions have contributed to enhancing the effectiveness of development plans particularly with regard to poverty reduction and ultimately improvement in the quality of life of local communities. However, this approach to development has been beset by considerable logistical, funding and capacity challenges. Consequently the Ghana Country Report: ICPD Beyond 2014 (NDPC, 2013) has made strong recommendations to address population issues in national development policy frameworks.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as we approach the new era of the Sustainable Development Goals, my Government fully supports the integration of population into the Sustainable Development Goals to help address the specific needs of target populations. In particular, the integration of reproductive health and rights including family planning, maternal health, issues

concerning the youth, older persons, persons with disability, urbanization, internal and international migration. Ghana would therefore sustain advocacy on the interrelationship between population and development targeting policy and decision-makers at different levels and build capacity for the incorporation of population integration analysis into development in country.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, Ghana would like to reiterate our commitment and support for the implementation of the ICPD-PoA, the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda as well as the various regional and global instruments and frameworks agreed by African Heads of Government and member states on population and development. Ghana is ready and prepared to work with all to uphold the dignity of the human population towards enhanced quality of life for all as enshrined under the ICPD-PoA, the Maputo Plan of Action, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development Beyond 2014, among others. Let us all rally around the many issues that unite us rather than the few that divide us as we forge ahead a common development agenda beyond 2014.

Thank you.