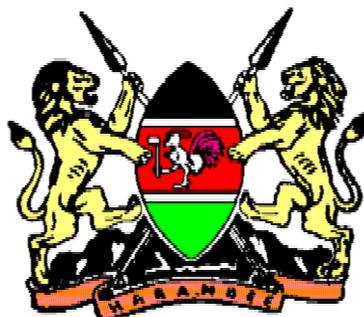


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



KENYA'S STATEMENT

PRESENTED BY

DR. JOSEPHINE KIBARU-MBAE

DIRECTOR GENERAL

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**TO THE 48TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

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Chair,

The Kenyan delegation is honored to participate in the 48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development. New and emerging population issues especially in the developing countries pose huge challenges in meeting the MDGs and will affect the implementation of Post 2015 Agenda.

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide yet another opportunity to advance the improvement of quality of life for the world population.

Chair,

Kenya has made progress in the integration of population issues into its policies, planning and budgeting.

Policies on **Population, sustained economic growth and development** have been developed and programs implemented incorporating population issues into national and county plans. Notable among them include; development of the third Population Policy for National Development (2012) and assigning higher weights to Population size and poverty index in the allocation of decentralized funds. However high poverty levels and low economic growth rate remain major challenges.

Chair

Kenya has advanced towards demographic transition. The population growth rate declined to 2.9 percent in 2009 from 3.4 percent in 1999. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined from a high of 8.1 births per woman in 1979 to 3.9 in 2014. Mortality, as measured by the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined from 88 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1979 to 39 deaths per 1000 live births in 2014. However, Maternal Mortality ratio has over the years remained high and was estimated at 488 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008/2009.

Chair

In seeking to end preventable maternal and child deaths, Kenya has benefited from the high profile Beyond Zero Campaign led by our First Lady, Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta which seeks to accelerate national and county actions around all health determinants with a view to reducing further the mortality of Kenyan babies and mothers.

Chair

Although fertility and mortality has been declining, Kenya faces a challenge on how to maintain this in order to register the desired target of population replacement level of 2.1 children per woman by 2030. The other challenge is dealing with the issues of youth who account for the largest segment of Kenya's population at 66%.

This enormous size of the youth in Kenya poses both a challenge and opportunities for attainment of sustainable development.

Chair

Kenya has in place legal frameworks to deal with international migration and development. However, the number of refugees entering Kenya has continued to increase posing a challenge to resources, environment and security.

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) affirms reproductive health rights and elaborates on the rights of individuals, family and society. A notable outcome in the health sector is the reduction by half in the national HIV prevalence rate from a high of 13.5 percent in 1998 to 5.6 in 2013. The high pregnancy rate among adolescents remains a major challenge.

The Constitution of Kenya (2010), Kenya Vision 2030, and existing legislation and policies are committed to Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women. The Government's agenda for women is premised on an unwavering political will and conviction that empowering women is key to the development of the nation. The Government is disbursing essential capital to finance business opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities. Further, the Government instituted an affirmative action policy for women, youth and persons with disabilities in public procurement. Under this policy, the Government has set aside at least 30 percent of public procurement

to this group translating to a minimum of USD 2.2 Billion per year worth of business from the Government.

Further, the Government is implementing programmes for the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence including Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C). The Government has made great strides in increasing the participation of women in decision making levels. Today, Women in parliament comprise 25% percent of elected representatives up from 9.9 percent in 2011. Out of a total Cabinet portfolio of 18 Ministries, women comprise 33 percent of cabinet ministers. The women Cabinet Ministers have been designated to significant and previously male dominated mandates such as Defense, Foreign Affairs etc.

However despite the concerted efforts, disparities in gender equality and equity still exist in regard to representation at decision making levels. Gender based violence also remains a challenge

Free primary education was introduced in 2003 which resulted in universal access to education and improved girl to boy enrolment ratio to near parity by 2012. The Government has subsidized secondary education and provides bursaries to needy students from poor families to increase the transition rate to secondary level. Tertiary institutions have been increased to provide both university and technical training.

In conclusion, Kenya is still experiencing challenges despite the achievements made in the integrating population into sustainable development. There is need therefore for this session to come up with new strategies which can facilitate this integration especially in the post 2015 development agenda. This will help mitigate continuing, emerging and new demographic challenges to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

THANK YOU