



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT

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Nigeria aligns herself with the statements delivered by South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China; and Niger on behalf of the African Group. We also welcome the theme of this Session – *“Realizing the Future We Want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable Development Including the Post-2015 Development Agenda”*. Nigeria is of the view that this session of the CPD should rightly address population and development in an integrated fashion, rather than isolating subjective matters like the so-called sexual and reproductive health and rights, fertility, sexuality and other issues on which there is no consensus.

Instead, this session should concentrate more on discussion issues that contribute to the overall wellbeing of the global population, without losing focus on key issues. This session should aim to formulate an inclusive, transformative and integrated MDGs successor framework and in particular, the outcome document of the Open Working Group on the SDGs, and produce a robust development template that could drive the next development agenda.

We note with concern that in spite of the progress made towards achieving the full implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and advancing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), considerable gaps still exist in realizing the world we want.

Policies that aim at reducing fertility rates should be weighed carefully against the development needs of individual States, and their capacity to absorb increased populations. In this connection, we note the highlights of ICPD+20 New Framework for population and development beyond 2014

on population dynamics. It shows Africa's population growth as the fastest in the world with the highest concentration of countries with Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of five or more and a high dependency ratio. The population of Nigeria mirrors this trend which is said to be among the highest **reproductive, productive and consumptive** country in the world.

Rather than seeing this as a challenge or a problem, the Nigeria Government sees this as an opportunity for creating sound policies to address the population's development needs. In this regard, Nigeria passed the National Health Act of 2014, a "National Strategy on Integrated Maternal Newborn and Child Health (IMNCH)", and commenced the review of its *National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (NPP)* to capture all relevant current and emerging population and development issues from the ICPD+20 and the Post-2015 proposed SDGs.

Our strategic priorities and critical success factors for the Post-2015 development agenda include-

- Prioritize birth registration as a "**Right**" of every child born in Nigeria irrespective of place of residence & every death recorded;
- Investment in free, compulsory, qualitative education of our children particularly the girls up to minimum of secondary school level;
- Strengthen health systems to provide quality and efficient care services that guarantee safety of women and children including "unrestricted" universal access to all range of life-saving commodities;
- Tackle insecurity challenges holistically;
- Create productive employment opportunities that guarantee fair and sustainable income for youth;

- Implement national strategies that focuses on economic empowerment to address extreme poverty and hunger;
- Build capacity of stakeholders to understand the premise of the ICPD+20 and Post-2015 development agenda;
- Provide for population in humanitarian need including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs);
- Develop and sustain a social security system/continuum of care for the elderly especially ageing women; and
- Promote the values of **good governance** - that is transparent, sensitive, responsive and committed to addressing the yearnings of its people.

Nigeria welcomes cooperation from all stakeholders through unconditional partnerships and global leadership of the United Nations to build her institutional capacity with innovative technology in data collection, analysis/disaggregation, dissemination, communication and management strategy for effective monitoring and evaluation of programmes for efficient integration of population issues into the proposed SDGs.

In conclusion, Nigeria notes with concern the absence of specific targets to address **“Population in humanitarian need”** & **“Adolescent Health”** in the proposed SDGs as well as vagueness of many of the targets. Maternal health, life saving commodities, mental health, and other critical health needs of populations should be given more prominence in future sessions of the CPD, and less mention should be made of issues that have not received global consensus, such as sexuality issues. We also wish to seize this opportunity to propose having a robust discussion on

funding mechanism/strategy for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda especially for Africa.

Thank you.