



Papua New Guinea Statement
by
Honourable Julie Soso Akeke, MP
Governor of Eastern Highlands Province

to the

48th Session of the Commission on
Population and Development

14 April 2015, New York



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"Check against delivery"

Madam Chair,

My delegation congratulates you and your fellow members on your respective election to preside over the ICPD 48th session.

Madam Chair,

This meeting's theme of "integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the Post-2015 Development Agenda" underscores the clear link between the ICPD core objectives and principles and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The ICPD Program of Action rightly highlights the importance of integrating population concerns into sustainable development strategies and planning.

Madam Chair,

Papua New Guinea is pleased to share our most recent national efforts.

We recognize that to successfully achieve the next set of global sustainable development goals and deliver on the promise of the "Future We Want" requires ***leaving no-one-behind***.

This entails prioritization of population management and stabilization as a cornerstone with a clear recognition and respect for human dignity and fundamental rights.

For Papua New Guinea, our national development initiatives are based on the principle that it must be **human development-centric** within a paradigm of balance and sustainability. It recognizes that a healthy, educated population is the engine of development whilst ensuring that we do not erode environmental capital and compromise our future generation.

In February 2015 our third National Population Policy 2015 – 2024 was adopted following an inclusive stakeholder consultative process involving the State and civil society organization, faith-based organizations, development partners and the private sector.

The Population Policy is also aligned to our various national strategic development blueprints, particularly ***the 2014 National Responsible Sustainable Development Strategy***, the ***Medium Term Development Plan*** and the long-term ***Vision 2050***.

Madam Chair,

The ICPD, the MDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda are three pillars underpinning our National Population Policy.

We have identified 16 priority goals and objectives in our Population Policy that are cross-cutting along with the necessary means of implementation to attain them.

These Goals are also consistent with the proposed 17 SDGs and 169 Targets for the SDGs as well as the ICPD Program of Action. For instance, ***goal 7*** addresses poverty and hunger eradication, ***goal 9*** speaks to improving education, ***goal 11*** deals with strengthening the family unit and ***goal 16*** highlights environmental protection.

Our National Population Policy will address ***the unacceptable levels of gender based violence, increasing prevalence of teenage pregnancy and associated issues, high rates of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, youth unemployment, increased rural-urban migration and urbanization, the need for family planning and appropriate sexuality health education and youth friendly services.***

Early assessment of implementation of the Population Policy in certain areas such as on reducing maternal mortality and family planning is having positive outcomes.

We remain committed to ensuring these improvements continue but more efforts are required.

Madam Chair,

Another milestone was the launch of the National Electronic Identification Card system.

This aims to register all citizens for the purposes of strategic planning for national development and ensuring quality disaggregated population data. This system will also serve as the basis for providing basic services in the areas such as education, health care, infrastructure development, banking services and democratic elections.

This will also complement our Free Education Policy that supports MDG 2 on universal primary education. Our current Education policy has enabled more girls to be enrolled and retained in schools starting from primary to secondary schools that will improve their lives and contribute to national development.

Madam Chair,

In closing, Papua New Guinea recognizes that reproductive health care services is a core concept and therefore underpins our Population Policy.

Information and services concerning reproductive healthcare including family planning must be accessible, affordable, and available in the communities and that they are demand-driven.

We recognise the the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference Outcome and the principles of the Pacific Moana Declaration of August 2013.

Papua New Guinea appreciates the ongoing constructive partnership on ICPD with all stakeholders including the United Nations and supports population issues be integrated into the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you.