



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RAMADHAN MWINYI, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,**

**AT THE 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**

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**Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Allow me at the onset to convey congratulatory greetings from the United Republic of Tanzania for your election as the Chair of the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

My delegation aligns itself with statements delivered by South Africa and Niger on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Africa Group respectively. Tanzania reiterates its commitment to the unfinished agenda of the ICPD and supports its integration into the new sustainable development agenda.

Madame Chair,

2015 is an exciting year. The world will define and expect a consensual development agenda beyond 2015; an agenda born out of a process that has seen unprecedented global engagement of key constituencies. As we move forward, Tanzania remains committed to ensuring population issues continue to be at the fore of our development efforts. To this end, we welcome the Secretary General's Reports on integrating population issues into sustainable development; on monitoring population development programmes as well as on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the ICPD PoA. The reports offer distinct perspectives and approaches with which to situate demographic changes and ensure we deliver the demographic dividend while maintaining adequate financing levels for development.

Madame Chair,

Population development issues are an important priority for Tanzania. We are subsequently reviewing the National Population Policy with the aim of strengthening systems for vital statistics. Our efforts so far has seen significant progress in reducing under-five mortality, increasing life expectancy, improving access to health and education and are in the progress to meet gender equality targets. However, maternal mortality is still unacceptably high; we need to improve the quality in health and education; ensure access to employment opportunities for young people, in particular young girls. Tanzania places special attention on these areas.

Madame Chair,

The transition to the Post 2015 agenda coincides with the development of the second phase of the Five Years Development Plan (FYDP), as part of our efforts to implement the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 of becoming a middle income country. We expect wide-scale engagement of key stakeholders, including civil society, in its completion. As we craft this framework, we are guided with a profound understanding that women's empowerment in particular is a prerequisite in population and development. In this regard, Tanzania has intensified various economic empowerment strategies targeting women. To this effect, the plan will focus on increasing access to family planning services, including information, counseling and contraceptives; reducing maternal mortality; increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for young people; providing age appropriate sexuality education for young people; education and human rights.

Madame Chair,

Tanzania, like other countries on the African continent, is experiencing a youth bulge. 65% of the population is below 25 years, while those 10 to 24 years account 31%. This is an unique opportunity for the country and region to unlock the potential of this important human capital to reposition our economy. Delivering on the demographic dividend is thus of critical importance for my country. As we continue to gain a better understanding, we are expectant on results of the ongoing demographic health survey at the end of the year to inform the modeling and policy positions needed.

In integrating population issues into sustainable development, Tanzania is still faced with numerous challenges. Actions such as the establishment mechanisms to address gender based violence across law enforcement agencies in the country; ensuring that girls and women's empowerment continues to be a priority; fostering good governance and transparency, and ensuring we have adequate resources, will take center stage as we prepare to implement the Post 2015 agenda.

Madame Chair,

Regional cooperation will also take particular prominence for Tanzania – at the continental level and within our region. We believe contexts and aspirations are similar and opportunities are abound to share experience, knowledge and information. This would advance discussions and diversify Government actions in the Post 2015 agenda.

Madame Chair,

In conclusion, we want the future where human rights and reproductive rights will be recognized by all citizens with respect to Tanzanian's legal framework, norms and culture. Tanzania reaffirms its commitment on the implementation of the ICPD PoA and supports its integration in the Post 2015 development agenda. We shall build on the important experiences focusing on population issues as we implement the ICPD PoA and the MDGs.