



STATEMENT BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

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POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this important meeting which is taking place at a defining moment when the membership of the United Nations is currently engaged in intergovernmental negotiations aimed at defining the post-2015 development agenda. We hope that at the end of this session, we will have indentified strategies to revitalize implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and to ensure that its priorities are integrated into the post-2015 development agenda in a balanced manner in the context of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe affirms its commitment to manage population consistent with the desire for sustainable development. It also places population issues at the core of its development strategies and has made greater investments in its people. Post the 1994 ICPD conference, Zimbabwe developed the Population Policy in 1998. This is the primary document guiding the population agenda of the country and is aimed at addressing the socio-economic and environmental challenges related to population issues in a holistic manner. In addition to the Population Policy, there are many other

policy documents and statutory instruments supporting the population agenda in Zimbabwe. These include the National Reproductive Health Policy of 2003; the National Gender Policy of 2003; the National HIV/AIDS Policy of 1999 and 2002 and the National Health Strategy 2010 – 2015.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe would like to highlight that the following issues should be considered by the Commission as priorities that should be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda;

- **Poverty eradication** - this is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

- **Inequalities** - the persistent wealth and income inequalities within and between countries need to be addressed in the post-2015 development era by way of promoting economic policies that provide equal opportunities for all.

- **Healthier and productive lives** - it is imperative to ensure that people live longer, healthier and productive lives. We believe that

this could be done through the promotion of healthy foods and healthy eating habits, sustainable consumption patterns as well as advances in modern medicines.

- **Education** - ensuring equal access to quality education plays a key role in poverty eradication, the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth. The provision of quality education must help students to develop skills that they need to meet the demands of the job market. Zimbabwe's education motto is "educate, empower and employ".

- **Gender equality and economic empowerment of women** – this is a prerequisite for poverty eradication and sustainable development and can be achieved through the formulation and implementation of policies that increase women's access to and control over economic resources and assets such as land and property.

- **Migration** - if effectively handled, migration should contribute towards sustained and inclusive economic growth all countries.

- **Urbanization** – if not properly managed, urbanization will negatively impact the quality of life of many people around the

world. Efforts must therefore be made to promote sustainable urbanization everywhere in the world.

- **the Elderly** - While there are challenges of ensuring that sufficient resources and an effective service system are put in place for the aged people, we cannot turn our backs on the lives and needs of the aging population.

- **Protection of the Family Unit** - the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society. Strengthening families is key to the realization of national and internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs and SDGs.

- **International cooperation** - no country can single handedly meet the goals and objective of the ICPD Programme of Action. Many developing countries have not yet fully implemented the Programme of Action as they face financial constraints. In view of this, increased international cooperation as well as genuine partnerships is important.

- **National sovereignty** - the formulation and implementation of population related policies is the sovereign responsibility of each country and should be consistent with national laws, development

priorities, religious and ethical values as well as cultural backgrounds of a country's people.

I thank you.