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STATEMENT

BY

MARIAN W. A. KPAKPAH

AG. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL POPULATION
COUNCIL

AT THE

49TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ON

Agenda Item 4:

General Debate on National Experience in Population Matters: Strengthening the
Demographic Evidence Base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

NEW YORK, 11 - 15 APRIL, 2016

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation congratulates H.E. Dr. Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota on her election as Chair to the 49th Commission and reiterate our commitment to the leadership of the Bureau. We are confident that under her esteemed leadership this session would be a productive one.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation aligns itself to the statements made by the representatives of Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China, and Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

The Government of the Republic of Ghana strongly supports efforts by the Commission to strengthen the demographic evidence base to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Demographic measures such as population size and rates of growth, age structures, incomes, contraceptive prevalence rate, and disease burdens will be crucial to fully inform and measure results in our efforts to fulfil the 2030 Agenda.

In line with the prioritization of data for evidence-based decision-making, Ghana is currently developing a long-term development plan anchored among others, on the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals and harnessing the demographic dividend is one of the most important social development goals of this long-term agenda.

Distinguished delegates,

Bearing in mind that, timely generation of reliable and consistent data supported by a functional database, including the proper management of data is imperative to ensure effective evidence-based decision-making, the Government of Ghana has embarked on strategies to rationalise and improve data collection systems and processes in the country. Actions taken include the definition of roles and mandates of various data producing institutions including legal and institutional reforms; adoption of common definitions, methods and classifications and a national statistical master plan and the adoption of international standards and good practices, including the United Nations Principles for Official Statistics. Furthermore, capacities have been strengthened and use of ICT has been prioritized in data production, analyses and utilisation.

The Government of Ghana has also embarked on an enterprise architecture upon which an efficient ICT infrastructure is being designed. In this regard, a National Database has been constructed which presently contains data on the 4 rounds on population censuses, 54 surveys, 37,351 variables, 13 citations, and this is being updated.

All these are part of an agenda aimed at increasing demand for relevant statistics at the national, regional, district and community levels in support of the decentralized system of administration.

Madam Chairperson,

Despite these strides, there are still challenges with accessing reliable and adequate data in the country. For eg, coverage of births and deaths is low nationwide, with completeness of registration of births at 49% and deaths at 25%. The National Identification System is also fraught with challenges.

Therefore, Madam Chairperson, distinguished delegates, as we approach the new era of the Sustainable Development Goals, my delegation is in full support of the discussions of this Commission, in particular, improvements in civil registration systems and the use and integration of new approaches of data management and multiple data sources. It is important Madam Chairperson that, these systems are continuously strengthened to improve the evidence base. The challenge of strengthening national statistical systems particularly in developing countries has been recognized within the context of targets 17.18 and 17.19 of the SDGs and this must be prioritized if we are effectively to measure progress.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, Ghana would like to reiterate our commitment and support for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the ICPD-PoA which are mutually reinforcing. Ghana is ready and prepared to work with all to uphold the dignity of the human population towards enhanced quality of life for all as enshrined under the ICPD-PoA, the Maputo Plan of Action, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development Beyond 2014, among others and looks forward to the recommendations of this Commission.

Thank you.