



Republic of Malawi

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MRS JUDITH MSUSA**

**(Deputy Director of Youth in the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Manpower Development)**

**AT THE**

**49<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON POPULATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT**

***Agenda Item 4: Strengthening the Demographic evidence base for the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda.***

**11<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2016**

*Please check against delivery*

**Madam Chair,**

Malawi considers this session as an opportunity to advance efforts to ensure sustained economic growth and development. Being the first session of the Commission to take place after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the theme of the session which is "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda" cannot be more appropriate;

This session provides us an opportunity to reflect on the 2030 Agenda, as well as follow up and review of the ICPD beyond 2014. It is important therefore that this session advocates for the full integration of the ICPD Beyond 2014 in all processes for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

**Madam Chair,**

Achieving the vision for sustainable development articulated in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action requires that we identify, target and monitor the progress of the most vulnerable, through the articulation of policy interventions and programmes that result in the greatest improvements over the full spectrum of goals and targets; My delegation therefore supports the commitment for strengthening national statistical systems embedded in the 2030 Agenda and recognized within the context of targets 17.18 and 17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The need to support and strengthen national statistical system's capacity to generate fully disaggregated data that is reliable and of high quality on a timely basis in developing countries, particularly in African countries cannot be overemphasized; This requires national commitment and international cooperation to prioritize actions and resources aimed at the long-term development of national statistical institutions and data ecosystems so as to enable countries to consistently conduct censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, generate administrative records and other sources of data needed for evidence-based sustainable development interventions;

We acknowledge the distinct needs and importance of different types of data, including census, birth and death registration, and health sector data – all important for the implementation of ICPD PoA and the achievement of sustainable development. We also note that among these different types of data, civil registrations, especially birth and death registration, special attention should be given the implications they have for the basic human rights. Special attention should also be given to death registration by cause to death, to inform decision making about the changing burden of disease and the right interventions;

We note that in many developing countries progress towards addressing poverty, inequality and pursuing sustainable development is constrained by the lack of essential population data, the absence of strong data systems and overall weak capacity. In light of this, I am pleased to mention that with support from partners, Malawi continues to generate data for development planning. For example, we have conducted a national study on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend to Achieve Socio-Economic Development, we have consulted the youth on their aspirations through the National Youth Conference, we have recently completed data collection for the 2015 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, and preparations for the 2018 Population and Housing Census, in line with the 2020 census round are underway. All these interventions will inform the national development planning processes;

Achieving the desired level of national statistical capacity for 2020 census round will require financial mechanisms that ensure the availability of resources for both addressing existing data gaps and for investments in long-term national statistical capacity development. My delegation therefore stresses the importance of developing and using innovative approaches, methodologies and technologies that support the generation, collection and use of population data, especially for the 2020 census round, including through partnerships for the affordable generation, dissemination and analysis of census data;

In conclusion, let me emphasise that in order to build on the successes we have achieved to date, and to ensure continued integration of ICPD PoA beyond 2014 as well as Post 2015 Development Agenda in national development plans, we support the following interventions:

- The establishment of vibrant networks of data professionals, including those from national statistical offices, academia and civil society;
- The nurturing of professionals in the data management through effective education and training activities provided by national institutions, regional centres of excellence and public-private partnerships;
- Effective utilization of population data to monitor progress, identify gaps and shortfalls in the advancement towards the goals of dignity and human rights, equality, good governance and the protection of the environment, which are central to the fulfilment of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the SDGs;
- Development of regional and South-South Cooperation activities, including through centres of excellence that promote partnerships for the affordable generation, dissemination and analysis of population data in all countries;
- Strengthening of national capacities for the use of censuses and all related population data by national statistical offices, academics and civil society.

**Madam Chair, distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen,**  
I thank you very much for your attention.