



नेपाल NEPAL

**Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative, of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN at the 49th Session of the 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, 13 April 2016**

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Madam Chair,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau on your elections to this important Commission. I am confident that under your able leadership, we would be able to bring the Session to a successful conclusion. I pledge my delegation's full support to that end.

Nepal welcomes the reports of the Secretary-General under this agenda item as well as the theme of this session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China. In addition to that, please allow me to add following points in my national capacity:

1. Nepal subscribes the view that the projected demographic changes, as outlined in the reports of the Secretary-General, require our concerted efforts with a particular focus on women and girls, among others, in a holistic manner to improve the lives and dignity of all.
2. Nepal is fully committed to the principles, goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and reaffirms her commitment to ensuring the universal and life-long access of easily affordable gender-responsive quality health services to all including women and girls and supports global and regional efforts for its effective implementation.
3. The Government formulated its first National Population Policy 2015 based on the post-ICPD framework and existing Long-term Population Perspective Plan alongside National Health Policy to implement the Long-term Perspective Plan.
4. The national health policy, among other things, aims at improving people's lives by integrating population issues into development plan, ensuring people's reproductive health and reproductive rights as fundamental human rights and promoting gender equality and inclusion in all sustainable development strategies.

5. Nepal promulgated an inclusive and democratic Constitution last September. The Constitution brought the country's decade-long conflict to a logical end and also laid a concrete foundation for the overall development of the country and its people, ushering an era of hope and prosperity.
6. The Constitution embraces the principles of human rights, human dignity, inclusion proportional representation and gender mainstreaming in a comprehensive manner and seeks to ensure the realization of these principles through rights based approach.

Madam Chair,

7. Nepal highly values the issue of international migration and supports the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action on migration work. There is a need for concerted efforts with highest political will to promote extensive dialogues between countries of origin, transit and destination to address this issue with the participation of all stakeholders to ensure the rights and dignity of migrant workers. Nepal looks forward for the successful outcome of the high-level event on refugees and migration to be held in September this year.
8. The Government has been concerting its efforts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have prepared a Preliminary National Report on Sustainable Development Goals for 2016-2030 to integrate the Agenda into the national context including Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. The Government is focused to benefit from demographic dividend and also trying to involve youth and adolescents in the development efforts as they are key component for a transformative and sustainable future agenda.
9. Nepal made a lot of progress in the health sector. The global survey that was done in our country also shows that the considerable progress has been made. However, challenges are more pronounced to further reducing MMR, ending preventable child mortality rate, and ensuring universal reproductive health care services to the most marginalized people, particularly in the aftermath of the massive earthquakes of last year.
10. In conclusion, **Madam Chair**, Nepal reiterates its commitment to step up efforts to implement post-ICPD framework despite being a Least Developed and Landlocked country emerging from conflict and shattered by the devastating earthquakes. The development challenges we face require robust support of all stakeholders in crafting responses to these challenges. Nepal looks forward for a revitalized partnership with all our development partners and stakeholders with predictable means of implementation to implement the ambitious 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in order to leave no one behind.

Thank you Madam Chair.