



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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ON

*Strengthening the Demographic Evidence Base
for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

AT

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

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Check Against Delivery

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Nigeria delegation, may I congratulate and express our warm regards to you and members of the Bureau on your appointment and to pledge our support and cooperation towards the successful conduct of this session.

Nigeria aligns herself with the statements delivered by Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China and Uganda on behalf of the Africa Group.

Madam Chair,

Nigeria appreciates the importance of the theme of the Session – ***"Strengthening the Demographic Evidence Base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda"*** as it reflects the nucleus challenge of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Africa.

Nigeria further appreciates the content and contextual framework of the New Global Development Agenda structured into 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 Targets, which are not only elaborate but also very inclusive and flexible.

Nigeria takes note of the Secretary-General's Reports on the theme of this Session particularly in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and we believe it is imperative for all countries and regions to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the SDGs to achieve sustainable development.

Nigeria is aware that the SDGs unlike the Millennium Development Goals require volumes of data on several issues, disaggregated by all variables to account for small areas and sub-population groups from population censuses, sample surveys and administrative records for efficient monitoring of its implementation. This requirement has prompted a national statistical reform premised upon the importance of empowering national statistical structure and capability to sustainably produce, analyze, disaggregate and disseminate reliable, appropriate, timely, accurate, nationally acceptable and accessible data that cover traditional demographic topics and other characteristics relevant in national context to support progress at achieving sustainable development.

Nigeria further notes the striking feature of the new development agenda's sustained emphasis on "All Ages", which enjoins countries to formulate inclusive policies that de-emphasise inequality and promotes the implementation of inclusive development agenda that leaves no one behind.

Demographically, Nigeria has the largest population in Africa, currently projected at 188.9 million with base annual growth rate of 3.2 percent (National Population Commission 2011), spatially reported at state levels and further disaggregated to Local Government Areas (LGAs). The recent United Nations World Population Prospect estimates Nigeria's population will be over 400 million by 2050. Nigeria has a young population profile, with ages 0-24 constituting over 62.0 percent of the entire population, and in the next 15 years the trend will remain the same. Similarly, the working age population (age 15-64 years) constitute over 50 percent of the total population which mirrors a population structure required for achieving demographic dividend. However, what is important within the SDGs is that all population groups, irrespective of their age, sex and location, count and are accounted for during implementation.

Madam Chair

Our national experience over the last two decades on demographic data collection, compilation, analysis, dissemination and utilization has been impressive particularly in the conduct of National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) and National Education Data Surveys (EdData), which has been consistent from 2003 till date. In spite of our national challenge to conduct census at regular intervals of ten years period, Nigeria has conducted censuses during the 2000 and 2010 rounds of censuses in 1991 and 2006 respectively and is getting ready to conduct the next one during the 2020 round of census.

As the global community transits into the implementation phase of the SDGs, Nigeria has taken series of proactive actions. These include developing of a National Road Map to guide implementation, mapping of Administrative Sources of data in all government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to bench-mark the SDGs and has developed a Strategic Plan for the conduct of the next census using current innovative approach and technology. Also, Nigeria is graded among countries on the verge of finalizing its local SDG indicators, driven by existing relevant policies to aid monitoring progress at achieving the SDGs.

Currently, reports of recently conducted surveys – 2015 Education Data Survey, 2015 National Malaria Indicator Survey and the ongoing Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) aimed at strengthening the capacity of national institutions (government and CSOs) and humanitarian actors to conduct assessments on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs; as well as the 2016 RAPID III (in process) constitute a huge resource of baseline data. There are also plans to undertake periodic migration surveys. Similarly, the 2004 National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (NPP) is under review to accommodate all the emerging issues of the SDGs as well as coordinate and guide the

full implementation of the new global development agenda. In addition, some sector policies including the National Youth Policy (2009-2014) and the National Gender Policy (2008-2013) are being reviewed. Furthermore, Nigeria has developed Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NINDC) aimed at reducing its carbon intensity by 50 percent of 2005 levels by 2030, which has placed Inclusive Green Growth at the heart of its commitment to sustainable economic transformation. To harness the benefits of the SDGs, the government of Nigeria has evolved a Social Protection Policy implementation arrangement aimed at promoting employment generation, enforce financial inclusion to reduce poverty and enhance sustainable growth and development.

Madam Chair

In conclusion, Nigeria looks forward to fostering collaboration and cooperation with relevant stakeholders under un-conditional partnership arrangements and global leadership from the United Nations as the implementation of the SDGs progresses; provide sustainable support for institutional capacity development powered through innovative technology transfer that provides a robust data disaggregated at smallest units necessary for effective monitoring and evaluation of programmes targeted at achieving the SDGs.

We assure the international community of our commitment to the principles of openness and transparency that promote good governance in our data revolution processes.

Thank you.