

Republic of South Sudan

Country Statement

Delivered at 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on the theme,

“Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”

11th - 15th April 2016, New York

The Republic of South Sudan wishes to take this opportunity to welcome the reports of the Secretary-General, entitled,

“Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/3)”

“Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/4)”

As well as,

“Note by the Secretariat on the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8)”

The Republic of South Sudan is pleased to have contributed to the global survey for the ICPD beyond 2014 review and the adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

1. On the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

- The Republic of South Sudan agrees that the review and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), conducted through the general debate on national implementation and the discussion of a special theme, should continue to be the centerpiece of the Commission’s work.
- We note that any contribution by the Commission to the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda should be addressed within the context of the follow-up and review of the ICPD Programme of Action. There should not be a separate agenda item in the Commission on the 2030 Agenda.

- We reiterate that the Commission should continue its practice of choosing the special theme of its annual session. The selection of the themes should reflect the breadth and scope of the ICPD Programme of Action and its key actions beyond 2014.
- In addition, the Commission's deliberation and outcome should serve to further the implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and should therefore focus on gaps and challenges in the implementation as well as lessons learned and recommendations.
- The discussions on the CPD methods of work should underscore, strengthen the regional and national dimensions of the ICPD follow up. The discussions taking place in the CPD should bring in regional perspectives.
- In this regard, South Sudan is pleased to reiterate her support expressed in the context of the Africa regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 where we joined in the adoption of the regional plan of action (The Addis Ababa Declaration 2014) for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- It may be noted that nearly two thirds of the responses to the methods of work questionnaire which was sent to member states and other stakeholders and informed the bulk of the proposals on the methods of work, favoured the idea of strengthening the technical content of the deliberations taking place in the Commission, including increase in the participation of the regional commissions and UNFPA regional and country offices.

2. On strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda

- We are aware that achieving the vision of sustainable development articulated in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action requires that every country is able to 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.
- We note 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. South Sudan stresses the need for support to 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, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries [based on Agenda 2030, Para 48, 76].
- 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 and note that among these different types of data, civil registrations, especially birth and death registration, deserve special attention given the implications they have for the basic

human rights of citizenship, identity, schooling and population projection. Special attention should also be given to death registration by cause of 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. Addressing these shortfalls and long-standing weaknesses in national statistical and data systems as a high level political priority is critical for fulfilling the aspirations and high level of ambition of the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD Beyond 2014.
- No doubt, addressing these gaps 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.
- Achieving the desired level of national statistical capacity by 2020 will require financial mechanisms that ensure the availability of resources for addressing both existing data gaps and investments in long-term national statistical capacity development.
- National ownership on data: developing national data systems, including institutional capacity to use data, is the only means to assure long-term, sustainable, locally-responsive innovations, and exercise true national ownership of the development process.
- South Sudan wishes to stress 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.
- South Sudan expresses support for the establishment of vibrant networks of data professionals, including those from national statistical offices, academia and civil society, and the acceleration of the nurturing of professionals in the sector through effective education and training activities provided by national institutions, regional centers of excellence and public-private partnerships.
- Also, South Sudan wishes to express support for the 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 fulfillment of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the SDGs, and in this light also reiterate Member States' agreement to 'take account of

population trends and projections in our national rural and urban development strategies and policies,' as part of the 2030 Agenda.

- We call for further development of regional and South-South Cooperation activities, including through centers of excellence that promote partnerships for the affordable generation, dissemination and analysis of population data in all countries, as well as for the strengthening of national capacities for the use of censuses and all related population data by national statistical offices, academics and civil society.
- The Republic of South Sudan is proud to join the international community in reaffirming support for the methods of work of the CPD as well as for the proposals presented in the reports of the Secretary-General.

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