



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

**Statement by
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At the

**49th session of the Commission on Population and
Development**

**General Debate on Agenda Item 4: National Experience in
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evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”**

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May I start by extending our congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and state that my delegation and I look forward to fruitful deliberations on the topical theme under discussion.

At the onset may I underscore that the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland takes full cognizance of the critical importance of demographic and socio-economic data and analysis towards the realization of our national development goals and aspirations and towards the common vision of collectively attaining sustainable development, as articulated in Agenda 2030. Indeed our efforts towards reducing poverty and inequalities and attaining sustainable development will not bear fruit if we lack the statistical data and information that will inform the development and implementation of responsive policies, plans and programmes that are targeted at particularly the vulnerable members of our societies. Lack of such data and information will also curtail our efforts to ascertain whether we are making progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals we are all working towards, as a global community.

May I at this juncture state that the Swaziland Government has over the years, periodically undertaken surveys and censuses in a bid to improve the demographic and socio-economic evidence base. We are currently undertaking preparatory activities for the next population census which will be conducted in 2017. It is worth underscoring that as a country we have religiously undertaken scientific population censuses every decade since 1966 which have proven to be a rich source of demographic and socio-economic data that permit the measuring of levels and trends even at small area level. The quality of the data has improved over time but there is still room for improvement and the late release of results continues to be a major challenge. However, it is worth noting that for this upcoming census, Swaziland is using modern technologies that have never been used before in the country, in a bid to improve the quality and ensure early release of the census results.

May I underscore that the Swaziland Government has developed a national data base, referred to as Swazi-Info that harnesses the power of advanced information technology to compile and disseminate development indicators. The database contains merged country level

datasets on global and local indicators obtained through national surveys and censuses and other data sources.

I wish to state that we face many challenges including the limited analysis of the demographic data that is collected due to resource constraints. It is also recognized that the available statistical information is not being optimally utilized hence action is being taken to capacitate relevant institutions to use statistical information. There is also a dearth of qualitative research related information to validate the statistical information that is available. Although such research has been undertaken, it has been to a limited scale, due to resource constraints.

The Swaziland government recognizes the need to strengthen systems, institutions, legislation and policies that relate to the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of demographic and socio-economic data. As a first step, we are working towards updating the legislation that serves as a guide for such activities. May I also state that we will, with the assistance of development partners, continue to work towards strengthening national statistical systems in an endeavour to produce reliable, timely and quality statistics as per Agenda 2030.

As a global community, we need to join hands to exchange knowledge and information in developing and adopting modern methodologies and technologies in order to improve the availability, quality and timeliness of demographic and socio-economic data, including census data. We also need to join hands and upscale collaborative efforts that foster regional cooperation and South-South cooperation.