



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. TUVAKO N. MANONGI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE

49TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL DEBATE ON NATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON
POPULATION MATTERS: "STRENGTHENING THE
DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE BASE FOR
THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA"

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REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE 49TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON NATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON POPULATION MATTERS: "STRENGTHENING
THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE BASE FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Madame Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China, Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

We welcome and commend the relevance of this Session's special theme on "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".

We are also mindful of the foresight of the Programme of Action adopted in 1994 by the Conference on Population and Development in Cairo among whose Principles, number 6, essentially could be speaking of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as we articulate them today; namely that, „Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future requires that the interrelationship between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized“.

As a follow up, the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the Programme of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) adopted by the 21st Session of the General Assembly, in 1999, called on „Governments, in collaboration with research institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as with the assistance of the international community, including donors, should strengthen national information systems to produce reliable statistics on a broad range of population, environment and development indicators in a timely manner.“ So in many ways this, forum this forum has been ahead of its time. What we need is action. This is the missing link!

Admittedly, monitoring the SDG agenda will require substantive improvements in national statistical capacities. As a result, collecting recurrent, quality data on the broad and varied dimensions of sustainable development also demand that we innovate and seek to modernize

statistical systems. Let us not fool ourselves; this will require investments - both financial and technical. It will also require partnerships that that will strengthen data in support of the SDG's

Madam Chair,

It can never be overemphasized that credible data can make an impressive difference. It informs government policies and provides evidence of their success or failure. It also provides for greater transparency and most importantly, accountability.

It is in this regard that the United Republic of Tanzania can only reaffirm the significance of reliable and timely demographic data collection as an invaluable tool for monitoring progress in the implementing of the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs. Data lies at the heart of our development progress, its tracking, its assessment and its review.

Tanzania is among countries with a high population growth that has resulted in unprecedented large youthful population that enters the labour market. The increase in youth population has opportunities as well as challenges. We recognize to gain from the ever-increasing youth population there is need for appropriate policies and programmes for training and skills to harness their potential. On the other hand persons aged 60 and above though are of much lower proportion, are increasing in large numbers that demand attention to their welfare particularly health.

We therefore see concrete linkages between demography and development. We know issues related to population go beyond its size. We are sensitive to the importance of the links between components of population such as age, structural composition, density, distribution and its characteristics for sustainability. In this regard, the value of demographic data to capture and reflect specific needs of marginalized population groups such as women, children, elderly, youth, and persons with disabilities is central to our efforts.

Conscious that reliable and timely data is critical for follow-up, planning and response to unforeseen problems, the Government of Tanzania, as a priority, has embarked on a programme of strengthening national statistical systems in the context of targets 17.18 and 17.19 of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we have enacted the Statistics Act of 2015 that transforms and enhances the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to be an autonomous public

office mandated to providing official statistics to the Government, business community and the public.

Furthermore, the Act authorizes the NBS to act as a co-coordinating agency within the National Statistical System (NSS) to ensure the collection of quality and reliable statistics. To this end, the legislation has strengthened the NBS through the establishment of Statistical Units in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. This is also meant to ensure open-data policy and dissemination for public-use of findings emanating from censuses, demographic surveys, civil registration and other vital statistics.

Madam Chair,

We are mindful that progress towards addressing poverty and attaining sustainable development is inhibited by lack of essential population data and modern technologies for stronger data systems. Addressing these shortfalls is critical for fulfilling the aspirations and high level of ambition of the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD Program of Action.

The Government of Tanzania recognizes that monitoring the sustainable development goal requires strong demographic evidence backed by sound population policy. In this regard, the Government has reviewed the National Population Policy (NPP) to accommodate new and valid information gathered after completion of the 2012 National Population Census. We are implementing the new policy through a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional integrated approach where by the government is collaborating with many of our partners including non-governmental actors, the private sector, communities.

The policy provides a framework for addressing population issues in an integrated manner. It recognizes linkages between population dynamics and quality of life on one hand and environmental protection and sustainable development on the other. Issues of immediate attention and solution include; unemployment among the youth, socio- economic opportunities for women and other special groups, education for all, resource ownership especially land, rural and urban development, improved health services, gender equality, food sufficiency, respect of human rights among others.

We wish to underscore the importance of developing and using innovative approaches, methodologies and technologies that support the generation, collection and use of population data, dissemination and analysis. In this regard, we support the establishment of network of data professionals from national statistical offices and acceleration of the nurturing of professionals in the sector. We see the attainment of this undertaking through education and training provided by national institutions, regional centers of excellence and public-private partnerships.

Madam Chair,

This approach constitutes the essence of the targets we have set for ourselves as a global community. The targets need to be measured to see how much progress each country and region is making towards achieving the SDGs. We must also do more. This agenda should not be about measuring progress through collecting data and plotting numbers on a graph, but should measure concrete changes in lives of women and girls, or boys and men, with each data point.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD Programme of Action call upon the full implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism as set forth in the course of Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Agenda 2030.

In Tanzania we are increasing our resource allocations for the development of national statistical systems. We are committed to improving coordination across government agencies and with local and national actors. We will also engage more with the Statistical Commission.

In conclusion, permit me to acknowledge the valuable support from our partners in strengthening our national statistical capacities – these ranges from USAid, IrishAid, UKAid, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNDP among others.

I thank you.