

**PERMANENT MISSION OF TUNISIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022**



**البعثة الدائمة للجمهورية التونسية  
لدى منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
بنيويورك**

**Statement of  
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari,  
Permanent Representative of  
The Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations  
49th Session of the Commission on Population  
and Development**

**(New York, 13 Avril 2016)**

**Madame Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me first, express to Dr. Patricia Mwaba Kasese-Bota, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Zambia and Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, all our consideration for their valuable efforts to organize the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the CPD.

My thanks also go to the Vice-Chairpersons Permanent Representatives of Iran, Romania, Mexico and Germany and particularly to the Ambassadors Permanent Representatives of Bolivia, Germany, Romania and Sierra Leone for their commendable efforts to co-facilitate the negotiations on the two draft resolutions to be submitted during this session.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like first to emphasize the importance of the special theme of our general debate "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

As we start the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is clear that we will be unable to measure any progress in the implementation without reliable, timely and accessible demographic data. The production of these data by every country is essential for the proper follow-up and review of Agenda 2030 and the definition of consistent and effective public policies for sustainable development.

In this context, I wish to highlight the remarkable and meticulous work being done by the National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia. This institute, created in 1969, coordinates the work of all the other Tunisian public statistics structures, ensures the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of the statistical information and conducts censuses and demographic, social and economic surveys.

The National Institute of Statistics has conducted a general census of population and housing in 2014. The census results are published on the National Institute of Statistics website. These data are very important to guide the national development planning.

In addition, the National Institute of Statistics publishes a monthly statistical bulletin on which data are updated and disaggregated by governorate.

The Institute is also publishing a statistical yearbook of Tunisia which is a very useful source of data.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

As we emphasize the importance of reliable and timely data, we also stress the importance of assisting developing countries through statistical capacity-building and technical assistance.

In this regard, we acknowledge the work being done by "the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post 2015 Monitoring" and we reaffirm the will of Tunisia, as a member of the mentioned Group, to continue to engage actively in its work.

We also welcome the support provided by the United Nations System to strengthen the statistical Tunisian capacities. In this regard, we emphasize particularly our collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and the United Nations Statistics Division for this purpose.

Let me mention three examples of this cooperation:

**First:** the UNDP project to strengthen national capacity in social statistics, mainly in the field of human development and multidimensional poverty for the period 2015-2019.

**Second:** The implementation by the National Institute of Statistics, with the support of UN-Women, of an extensive Gender analysis program of available data, and a periodic Gender reporting mechanism operating in conformity with the international standards, as part of the integration of the Gender approach in the production of statistical indicators and in-depth studies on the situation of women in Tunisia.

The National Gender Indicators Analysis Report 2015 has just been published on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016. It includes mainly Gender indicators on

education, health services, public life and decision making, and human rights of women and girls.

**Third:** The National Institute of Statistics, with the support of UNFPA and in partnership with various ministerial departments, academics and experts working on population issues, has prepared the Report on Population Projections from 2014 to 2044.

The report was conducted as part of the preparation of Economic and Social Development Plan for 2016-2020.

I want also to acknowledge the support of the Tunisian civil society which has actively contributed to provide statistical data of high quality to the official statistics structures thanks to their very useful presence on the ground in all Tunisian regions, their flexibility and their ability to communicate easily with all components and levels of the society. We consider the partnership with civil society on statistics more than beneficial.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Tunisia reiterates its commitment to the further implementation of the the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 Framework of Action.

In this regard, let me highlight some of our national achievements in the field of population:

- ✓ The commitment of Tunisia to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights dates from the first years of independence.
- ✓ The Family Planning Program launched in 1966 is our national pride.
- ✓ This program contributed successfully to the decline of fertility and the increase of life expectancy at birth. The total fertility rate is 2.4 children per woman whereas it was 2.9 in 1994 with an annual growth rate of 1.4 per cent instead of 1.7 in 1994.

✓ The national contraceptive prevalence rate is 62.5 per cent. Abortion is legal since 1973.

✓ The biggest beneficiaries are women as the maternity period became 7 years during an expectancy of life of nearly 77 years.

✓ Adolescents and Youth are an important focus of the Tunisian development policy. Young people constitute about 49% of the Tunisian population which was 11 million in 2014. 24% of the population is aged between 15 to 29.

✓ The school enrollment rate for girls and boys aged 6 years is 99.4%

✓ In higher education, the percentage of girls is higher than boys. It is 62.3%.

✓ The number of women graduated from high schools in 2014 is 86000 whereas the number of boys is 41000.

✓ The new Tunisian constitution of January 2014 strongly protects women's rights. Article 46 provides that "the state commits to protect women's established rights and works to strengthen and develop those rights" and guarantees "equality of opportunities between women and men to have access to all levels of responsibility and in all domains."

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

While Tunisia moves ahead successfully in its democratic transition relying on the principles of human rights, rule of law, good governance and citizen participation, we remain aware of the challenges that still lie ahead especially regarding the fight against poverty, unemployment and regional development.

We are aware that a lot still needs to be done to respond to the aspirations of the Tunisian people but we are sure that we will succeed to achieve our development goals with national efforts and with the support of the international community and the United Nations.

I thank you.