



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

DR. SIMON MITI

**PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

TO THE

FORTY NINTH (49TH) SESSION OF

**THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM 4:
STRENGTHENING THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE
BASE FOR THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

New York
April 11, 2016

Madam Chairperson,

I wish to congratulate you and the CPD Bureau for successfully convening the 49th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). On behalf of the Zambian delegation, I wish to express my gratitude for the confidence and collaboration that member states and stakeholders have continued to show from the time Zambia assumed chairmanship of the commission through you madam Chair. I wish to assure you of the delegation's full support. I am confident that together we will come to the successful conclusion and outcomes of this session.

Zambia associates itself with the statements delivered by His Excellency Virachai Plasai Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as by His Excellency Richard Nduhura, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation acknowledges and appreciates the commitment of the Secretary General in supporting the work of this commission, and for the comprehensive reports under this special theme, which has provided greater insights into the subject matter. The report E.CN.9.2016.3 shares key information on critical aspects for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets through the use of reliable and timely demographic information.

Madam Chairperson,

Zambia wishes to underscore the need to strategically focus on improving the reliability, timeliness and accessibility of demographic data as being core to our collective effort to strengthen the national statistical systems for monitoring the realisation of

Sustainable Development Goals. The Government acknowledges the distinct needs and importance of different types of data, including census, birth and death registration, and other health data which are all vital for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development and the achievement of sustainable development.

Civil registrations, especially birth and death registration deserve special attention given the implications they have for the citizenship, identity, and schooling and more so that they provide basic statistical data for analyzing critical demographic trends such as fertility and mortality. These data can help inform decision makers about the factors that are contributing to changes in mortality and fertility rates and help Government make the right interventions.

Madam Chairperson,

You may wish to note that in Zambia, the population census has been conducted every 10 years. In the 2020 round of censuses, Zambia plans to electronically collect census data through the use of technologies such as tablets and/or Personal Data Assistants (PDA) to replace the paper questionnaire based method. Coupled with the advancement of civil registration, Zambia will continue to have multiple data sources both at national and institutional levels and this would enormously reduce the cost of conducting census as some essential statistics would have been elicited through such complimentary sources.

Madam Chairperson,

Zambia's Civil Registration System (CRS) remains underdeveloped, rendering the usage of this data to merely administrative purposes with limited statistical manipulation due to incompleteness of

registration as well as accuracy of information. Notwithstanding these limitations, Zambia sees CRS bedrock for future and stronger national statistical systems. Given this realization Zambia has initiated a number of steps aimed at strengthening CRS within the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics whose objective is to provide a holistic, coherent and comprehensive framework for improving the National Statistical System and developing official statistics in the country in a suitable manner. Given this policy framework and reinforced by timely generation of survey data, CRS will help ensure availability of data for tracking progress during the implementation of the forth coming Seventh National Development Plan and indeed the 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chairperson,

Experiences have shown that promotion of open access to data and its effective use can provide the basis for transparent measurement to track progress on implementation of SDGs as was the case with the MDGs.

Zambia has been successful in the strengthening of the demographic evidence base as she is among the countries that have managed to conduct censuses and DHS in all the rounds. The country has also been successful in conducting the Living Condition Monitoring Surveys and the Labour Force Survey that provided a number of socio-economic indicators. Further, the country with support from UNFPA conducted a national study on the Demographic Dividend whose findings will provide valuable input in the formulation of the 7th National Development Plan which is the main document for the domestication of the SDGs. Furthermore, the civil registration system is being complimented by the Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy (SAVVY) that has aided to provide mortality by cause indicators.

Zambia has been part of the 2012 African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration group which recommended strengthening planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. To this effect, a National Action Plan to reform and improve civil registration and vital statistics in Zambia was produced and is currently being implemented.

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to underscore that it is important to develop and use innovative approaches, methodologies and technologies that support the generation, collection, collation and use of population data, especially for the 2020 census round, including promotion of partnerships. This could further enhance development of regional cooperation activities, such as centers of excellence, especially in Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries.

To this effect, Zambia makes a call for partnerships with the UN agencies, multilateral institutions and cooperating partners to assist enhancing our national capacities for data revolution as well as technology facilitation.

Lastly, I wish to reiterate the call for support to the strengthening of national capacities for the use of censuses and all related population data by national statistical offices, academics and civil society. There is need to enhance the effective utilization of population data for evidence based decision making in the implementation of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

I thank you